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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 1, 2005, at 2 p.m.

Senate

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2005

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray. Eternal Spirit, who is the same yesterday, today, and forever, we are transient creatures who long for a sense of permanence. Give us that permanence as we find in You our fixed and abiding center of faith. We praise You because You are changeless, without any variableness in Your judgment and mercy.

Strengthen our lawmakers for the challenges of our time. Keep them in the shadow of Your wings and teach them to show mercy. Use Your powerful arm to rescue our Nation from the hands of all enemies of freedom. Guide each of us on life's journey. Lord, hasten the day when people everywhere will seek and find You. Let the tranquility of Your dominion increase until the Earth is filled with the knowledge of Your love. We pray in Your glorious Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I welcome everyone back from the President's Day recess. I suspect the weather outside today makes our distinguished President pro tempore homesick for his home, Alaska.

As we communicated over the last week, today, in just a few minutes, we will begin debate on the bankruptcy bill, S. 256, the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act of 2005. The chairman and ranking member are here to begin the opening remarks. Other Members will want to speak, I am sure, this afternoon.

Our agreement provides for debate only today. Therefore, as previously announced, we will have no rollcall votes today. We do have several speakers. I don't expect a lengthy session today. I ask my colleagues to come to the Chamber to make opening statements and keep the afternoon full. I want people to make sure they have that opportunity to speak today, but do not expect a lengthy session because of the weather.

We expect to begin the amendment process on the bill tomorrow. I encourage Members to notify their respective cloakrooms if they intend to offer amendments to this bill. I had the opportunity to talk to the Democratic leader over the recess, as well, and we both agreed we would encourage our caucuses to bring those amendments forward to the ranking member and the chairman so they can be addressed in an efficient and effective way. I expect we will make progress on amendments during tomorrow's session, although it is unlikely we will vote before the policy luncheons. I ask the chairman to consider having a vote shortly after the 2:15 reconvening tomorrow if at all possible.

I understand we are just beginning today, but I encourage the amendment process to begin in the morning. Hopefully, we can debate amendments in the morning.

I thank everyone for their assistance on this snowy Monday and look forward to a very constructive legislative period over the next several weeks. I will say more on the bankruptcy bill tomorrow morning.

Let me say how pleased I am we are moving forward in considering this bill that many people have looked at for longer than 7 years. Over the last 7 years we have passed this bill, or a bill very similar to it, repeatedly, again and again, both in the House and in the Senate.

The reason we have been able to pass the bill is that both sides of the aisle recognize the current system is calling for reform. Personal bankruptcies are skyrocketing and wealthy debtors are walking away from debts they can repay. This abuse is hurting everyone, not just the creditor they owe, but it hurts all who ultimately pay higher fees in prices to cover the loss.

With that, I yield the floor as we begin debate on S. 256, the Bankruptcy

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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Abuse and Prevention Consumer Protection Act of 2005.

BANKRUPTCY ABUSE PREVENTION AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT OF 2005

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to the consideration of S. 256, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 256) to amend title 11 of the United States Code, and for other purposes.

The Senate proceeded to consider the bill which had been reported from the Committee on the Judiciary, with amendments.

(Strike the part shown in black brackets and insert the parts shown in italic.)

S. 256

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; REFERENCES; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the ''Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act of 2005''.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; references; table of contents.

TITLE I—NEEDS-BASED BANKRUPTCY

Sec. 101. Conversion.
Sec. 102. Dismissal or conversion.
Sec. 103. Sense of Congress and study.
Sec. 104. Notice of alternatives.
Sec. 105. Debtor financial management training test program.
Sec. 106. Credit counseling.
Sec. 107. Schedules of reasonable and necessary expenses.

TITLE II—ENHANCED CONSUMER PROTECTION

Subtitle A—Penalties for Abusive Creditor Practices

Sec. 201. Promotion of alternative dispute resolution.
Sec. 202. Effect of discharge.
Sec. 203. Discouraging abuse of reaffirmation agreement practices.
Sec. 204. Preservation of claims and defenses upon sale of predatory loans.
Sec. 205. GAO study and report on reaffirmation agreement process.

Subtitle B—Priority Child Support

Sec. 211. Definition of domestic support obligation.
Sec. 212. Priorities for claims for domestic support obligations.
Sec. 213. Requirements to obtain confirmation and discharge in cases involving domestic support obligations.
Sec. 214. Exceptions to automatic stay in domestic support obligation proceedings.
Sec. 215. Nondischargeability of certain debts for alimony, maintenance, and support.
Sec. 216. Continued liability of property.
Sec. 217. Protection of domestic support claims against preferential transfer motions.
Sec. 218. Disposable income defined.
Sec. 219. Collection of child support.
Sec. 220. Nondischargeability of certain educational benefits and loans.

Subtitle C—Other Consumer Protections

Sec. 221. Amendments to discourage abusive bankruptcy filings.
Sec. 222. Sense of Congress.
Sec. 223. Additional amendments to title 11, United States Code.
Sec. 224. Protection of retirement savings in bankruptcy.
Sec. 225. Protection of education savings in bankruptcy.
Sec. 226. Definitions.
Sec. 227. Restrictions on debt relief agencies.
Sec. 228. Disclosures.
Sec. 229. Requirements for debt relief agencies.
Sec. 230. GAO study.
Sec. 231. Protection of personally identifiable information.
Sec. 232. Consumer privacy ombudsman.
Sec. 233. Prohibition on disclosure of name of minor children.

TITLE III—DISCOURAGING BANKRUPTCY ABUSE

Sec. 301. Reinforcement of the fresh start.
Sec. 302. Discouraging bad faith repeat filings.
Sec. 303. Curbing abusive filings.
Sec. 304. Debtor retention of personal property security.
Sec. 305. Relief from the automatic stay when the debtor does not complete intended surrender of consumer debt collateral.
Sec. 306. Giving secured creditors fair treatment in chapter 13.
Sec. 307. Domiciliary requirements for exemptions.
Sec. 308. Reduction of homestead exemption for fraud.
Sec. 309. Protecting secured creditors in chapter 13 cases.
Sec. 310. Limitation on luxury goods.
Sec. 311. Automatic stay.
Sec. 312. Extension of period between bankruptcy discharges.
Sec. 313. Definition of household goods and antiques.
Sec. 314. Debt incurred to pay nondischargeable debts.
Sec. 315. Giving creditors fair notice in chapters 7 and 13 cases.
Sec. 316. Dismissal for failure to timely file schedules or provide required information.
Sec. 317. Adequate time to prepare for hearing on confirmation of the plan.
Sec. 318. Chapter 13 plans to have a 5-year duration in certain cases.
Sec. 319. Sense of Congress regarding expansion of rule 9011 of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure.
Sec. 320. Prompt relief from stay in individual cases.
Sec. 321. Chapter 11 cases filed by individuals.
Sec. 322. Limitations on homestead exemption.
Sec. 323. Excluding employee benefit plan participant contributions and other property from the estate.
Sec. 324. Exclusive jurisdiction in matters involving bankruptcy professionals.
Sec. 325. United States trustee program filing fee increase.
Sec. 326. Sharing of compensation.
Sec. 327. Fair valuation of collateral.
Sec. 328. Defaults based on nonmonetary obligations.
Sec. 329. Clarification of postpetition wages and benefits.
Sec. 330. Delay of discharge during pendency of certain proceedings.
Sec. 331. Limitation on retention bonuses, severance pay, and certain other payments.

TITLE IV—GENERAL AND SMALL BUSINESS BANKRUPTCY PROVISIONS

Subtitle A—General Business Bankruptcy Provisions

Sec. 401. Adequate protection for investors.
Sec. 402. Meetings of creditors and equity security holders.
Sec. 403. Protection of refinance of security interest.
Sec. 404. Executory contracts and unexpired leases.
Sec. 405. Creditors and equity security holders committees.
Sec. 406. Amendment to section 546 of title 11, United States Code.
Sec. 407. Amendments to section 330(a) of title 11, United States Code.
Sec. 408. Postpetition disclosure and solicitation.
Sec. 409. Preferences.
Sec. 410. Venue of certain proceedings.
Sec. 411. Period for filing plan under chapter 11.
Sec. 412. Fees arising from certain ownership interests.
Sec. 413. Creditor representation at first meeting of creditors.
Sec. 414. Definition of disinterested person.
Sec. 415. Factors for compensation of professional persons.
Sec. 416. Appointment of elected trustee.
Sec. 417. Utility service.
Sec. 418. Bankruptcy fees.
Sec. 419. More complete information regarding assets of the estate.

Subtitle B—Small Business Bankruptcy Provisions

Sec. 431. Flexible rules for disclosure statement and plan.
Sec. 432. Definitions.
Sec. 433. Standard form disclosure statement and plan.
Sec. 434. Uniform national reporting requirements.
Sec. 435. Uniform reporting rules and forms for small business cases.
Sec. 436. Duties in small business cases.
Sec. 437. Plan filing and confirmation deadlines.
Sec. 438. Plan confirmation deadline.
Sec. 439. Duties of the United States trustee.
Sec. 440. Scheduling conferences.
Sec. 441. Serial filer provisions.
Sec. 442. Expanded grounds for dismissal or conversion and appointment of trustee.
Sec. 443. Study of operation of title 11, United States Code, with respect to small businesses.
Sec. 444. Payment of interest.
Sec. 445. Priority for administrative expenses.
Sec. 446. Duties with respect to a debtor who is a plan administrator of an employee benefit plan.
Sec. 447. Appointment of committee of retired employees.

TITLE V—MUNICIPAL BANKRUPTCY PROVISIONS

Sec. 501. Petition and proceedings related to petition.
Sec. 502. Applicability of other sections to chapter 9.

TITLE VI—BANKRUPTCY DATA

Sec. 601. Improved bankruptcy statistics.
Sec. 602. Uniform rules for the collection of bankruptcy data.
Sec. 603. Audit procedures.
Sec. 604. Sense of Congress regarding availability of bankruptcy data.

TITLE VII—BANKRUPTCY TAX PROVISIONS

Sec. 701. Treatment of certain liens.
Sec. 702. Treatment of fuel tax claims.
Sec. 703. Notice of request for a determination of taxes.
Sec. 704. Rate of interest on tax claims.
Sec. 705. Priority of tax claims.
Sec. 706. Priority property taxes incurred.
Sec. 707. No discharge of fraudulent taxes in chapter 13.

Sec. 708. No discharge of fraudulent taxes in chapter 11.
Sec. 709. Stay of tax proceedings limited to prepetition taxes.
Sec. 710. Periodic payment of taxes in chapter 11 cases.
Sec. 711. Avoidance of statutory tax liens prohibited.
Sec. 712. Payment of taxes in the conduct of business.
Sec. 713. Tardily filed priority tax claims.
Sec. 714. Income tax returns prepared by tax authorities.
Sec. 715. Discharge of the estate's liability for unpaid taxes.
Sec. 716. Requirement to file tax returns to confirm chapter 13 plans.
Sec. 717. Standards for tax disclosure.
Sec. 718. Setoff of tax refunds.
Sec. 719. Special provisions related to the treatment of State and local taxes.
Sec. 720. Dismissal for failure to timely file tax returns.

TITLE VIII—ANCILLARY AND OTHER CROSS-BORDER CASES

Sec. 801. Amendment to add chapter 15 to title 11, United States Code.
Sec. 802. Other amendments to titles 11 and 28, United States Code.

TITLE IX—FINANCIAL CONTRACT PROVISIONS

Sec. 901. Treatment of certain agreements by conservators or receivers of insured depository institutions.
Sec. 902. Authority of the FDIC and NCUAB with respect to failed and failing institutions.
Sec. 903. Amendments relating to transfers of qualified financial contracts.
Sec. 904. Amendments relating to disaffirmance or repudiation of qualified financial contracts.
Sec. 905. Clarifying amendment relating to master agreements.
Sec. 906. Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Improvement Act of 1991.
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Sec. 908. Recordkeeping requirements.
Sec. 909. Exemptions from contemporaneous execution requirement.
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Sec. 911. SIPC stay.

TITLE X—PROTECTION OF FAMILY FARMERS AND FAMILY FISHERMEN

Sec. 1001. Permanent reenactment of chapter 12.
Sec. 1002. Debt limit increase.
Sec. 1003. Certain claims owed to governmental units.
Sec. 1004. Definition of family farmer.
Sec. 1005. Elimination of requirement that family farmer and spouse receive over 50 percent of income from farming operation in year prior to bankruptcy.
Sec. 1006. Prohibition of retroactive assessment of disposable income.
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TITLE XI—HEALTH CARE AND EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

Sec. 1101. Definitions.
Sec. 1102. Disposal of patient records.
Sec. 1103. Administrative expense claim for costs of closing a health care business and other administrative expenses.
Sec. 1104. Appointment of ombudsman to act as patient advocate.
Sec. 1105. Debtor in possession; duty of trustee to transfer patients.
Sec. 1106. Exclusion from program participation not subject to automatic stay.

TITLE XII—TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS

Sec. 1201. Definitions.
Sec. 1202. Adjustment of dollar amounts.
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Sec. 1204. Technical amendments.
Sec. 1205. Penalty for persons who negligently or fraudulently prepare bankruptcy petitions.
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Sec. 1228. Providing requested tax documents to the court.
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Sec. 1234. Involuntary cases.
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TITLE XIII—CONSUMER CREDIT DISCLOSURE

Sec. 1301. Enhanced disclosures under an open end credit plan.
Sec. 1302. Enhanced disclosure for credit extensions secured by a dwelling.
Sec. 1303. Disclosures related to "introductory rates".
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Sec. 1305. Disclosures related to late payment deadlines and penalties.
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Sec. 1308. Study of bankruptcy impact of credit extended to dependent students.
Sec. 1309. Clarification of clear and conspicuous.

TITLE XIV—PREVENTING CORPORATE BANKRUPTCY ABUSE

Sec. 1401. Employee wage and benefit priorities.
Sec. 1402. Fraudulent transfers and obligations.
Sec. 1403. Payment of insurance benefits to retired employees.
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Sec. 1405. Appointment of trustee in cases of suspected fraud.
Sec. [1404.] *1406.* Effective date; application of amendments.

TITLE XV—GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE; APPLICATION OF AMENDMENTS

Sec. 1501. Effective date; application of amendments.
Sec. 1502. Technical corrections.

TITLE I—NEEDS-BASED BANKRUPTCY

SEC. 101. CONVERSION.

Section 706(c) of title 11, United States Code, is amended by inserting "or consents to" after "requests".

SEC. 102. DISMISSAL OR CONVERSION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 707 of title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking the section heading and inserting the following:

"§ 707. Dismissal of a case or conversion to a case under chapter 11 or 13";

and

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) by inserting "(1)" after "(b)";

(B) in paragraph (1), as so redesignated by subparagraph (A) of this paragraph—

(i) in the first sentence—

(I) by striking "but not at the request or suggestion of" and inserting "trustee (or bankruptcy administrator, if any), or";

(II) by inserting ", or, with the debtor's consent, convert such a case to a case under chapter 11 or 13 of this title," after "consumer debts"; and

(III) by striking "a substantial abuse" and inserting "an abuse"; and

(ii) by striking the next to last sentence; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

"(2)(A)(i) In considering under paragraph (1) whether the granting of relief would be an abuse of the provisions of this chapter, the court shall presume abuse exists if the debtor's current monthly income reduced by the amounts determined under clauses (ii), (iii), and (iv), and multiplied by 60 is not less than the lesser of—

"(I) 25 percent of the debtor's nonpriority unsecured claims in the case, or $6,000, whichever is greater; or

"(II) $10,000.

"(ii)(I) The debtor's monthly expenses shall be the debtor's applicable monthly expense amounts specified under the National Standards and Local Standards, and the debtor's actual monthly expenses for the categories specified as Other Necessary Expenses issued by the Internal Revenue Service for the area in which the debtor resides, as in effect on the date of the order for relief, for the debtor, the dependents of the debtor, and the spouse of the debtor in a joint case, if the spouse is not otherwise a [dependent.] *dependent. Such expenses shall include reasonably necessary health insurance, disability insurance, and health savings account expenses for the debtor, the spouse of the debtor, or the dependents of the debtor.* Notwithstanding any other provision of this clause, the monthly expenses of the debtor shall not include any payments for debts. In addition, the debtor's monthly expenses shall include the debtor's reasonably necessary expenses incurred to maintain the safety of the debtor and the family of the debtor from family violence as identified under section 309 of the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act, or other applicable Federal law. The expenses included in the debtor's monthly expenses described in the preceding sentence shall be kept confidential by the court. In addition, if it is demonstrated that it is reasonable and necessary, the debtor's monthly expenses may also include an additional allowance for food and clothing of up to 5 percent of the food and clothing categories as specified by the National Standards issued by the Internal Revenue Service.

"(II) In addition, the debtor's monthly expenses may include, if applicable, the continuation of actual expenses paid by the debtor that are reasonable and necessary for care and support of an elderly, chronically ill, or disabled household member or member of the debtor's immediate family (including parents, grandparents, siblings, children, and

grandchildren of the debtor, the dependents of the debtor, and the spouse of the debtor in a joint case who is not a dependent) and who is unable to pay for such reasonable and necessary expenses.

''(III) In addition, for a debtor eligible for chapter 13, the debtor's monthly expenses may include the actual administrative expenses of administering a chapter 13 plan for the district in which the debtor resides, up to an amount of 10 percent of the projected plan payments, as determined under schedules issued by the Executive Office for United States Trustees.

''(IV) In addition, the debtor's monthly expenses may include the actual expenses for each dependent child less than 18 years of age, not to exceed $1,500 per year per child, to attend a private or public elementary or secondary school if the debtor provides documentation of such expenses and a detailed explanation of why such expenses are reasonable and necessary, and why such expenses are not already accounted for in the National Standards, Local Standards, or Other Necessary Expenses referred to in subclause (I).

''(V) In addition, the debtor's monthly expenses may include an allowance for housing and utilities, in excess of the allowance specified by the Local Standards for housing and utilities issued by the Internal Revenue Service, based on the actual expenses for home energy costs if the debtor provides documentation of such actual expenses and demonstrates that such actual expenses are reasonable and necessary.

''(iii) The debtor's average monthly payments on account of secured debts shall be calculated as the sum of—

''(I) the total of all amounts scheduled as contractually due to secured creditors in each month of the 60 months following the date of the petition; and

''(II) any additional payments to secured creditors necessary for the debtor, in filing a plan under chapter 13 of this title, to maintain possession of the debtor's primary residence, motor vehicle, or other property necessary for the support of the debtor and the debtor's dependents, that serves as collateral for secured debts;

divided by 60.

''(iv) The debtor's expenses for payment of all priority claims (including priority child support and alimony claims) shall be calculated as the total amount of debts entitled to priority, divided by 60.

''(B)(i) In any proceeding brought under this subsection, the presumption of abuse may only be rebutted by demonstrating special circumstances that justify additional expenses or adjustments of current monthly income for which there is no reasonable alternative.

''(ii) In order to establish special circumstances, the debtor shall be required to itemize each additional expense or adjustment of income and to provide—

''(I) documentation for such expense or adjustment to income; and

''(II) a detailed explanation of the special circumstances that make such expenses or adjustment to income necessary and reasonable.

''(iii) The debtor shall attest under oath to the accuracy of any information provided to demonstrate that additional expenses or adjustments to income are required.

''(iv) The presumption of abuse may only be rebutted if the additional expenses or adjustments to income referred to in clause (i) cause the product of the debtor's current monthly income reduced by the amounts determined under clauses (ii), (iii), and (iv) of subparagraph (A) when multiplied by 60 to be less than the lesser of—

''(I) 25 percent of the debtor's nonpriority unsecured claims, or $6,000, whichever is greater; or

''(II) $10,000.

''(C) As part of the schedule of current income and expenditures required under section 521, the debtor shall include a statement of the debtor's current monthly income, and the calculations that determine whether a presumption arises under subparagraph (A)(i), that show how each such amount is calculated.

''(3) In considering under paragraph (1) whether the granting of relief would be an abuse of the provisions of this chapter in a case in which the presumption in subparagraph (A)(i) of such paragraph does not arise or is rebutted, the court shall consider—

''(A) whether the debtor filed the petition in bad faith; or

''(B) the totality of the circumstances (including whether the debtor seeks to reject a personal services contract and the financial need for such rejection as sought by the debtor) of the debtor's financial situation demonstrates abuse.

''(4)(A) The court, on its own initiative or on the motion of a party in interest, in accordance with the procedures described in rule 9011 of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure, may order the attorney for the debtor to reimburse the trustee for all reasonable costs in prosecuting a motion filed under section 707(b), including reasonable attorneys' fees, if—

''(i) a trustee files a motion for dismissal or conversion under this subsection; and

''(ii) the court—

''(I) grants such motion; and

''(II) finds that the action of the attorney for the debtor in filing a case under this chapter violated rule 9011 of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure.

''(B) If the court finds that the attorney for the debtor violated rule 9011 of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure, the court, on its own initiative or on the motion of a party in interest, in accordance with such procedures, may order—

''(i) the assessment of an appropriate civil penalty against the attorney for the debtor; and

''(ii) the payment of such civil penalty to the trustee, the United States trustee (or the bankruptcy administrator, if any).

''(C) The signature of an attorney on a petition, pleading, or written motion shall constitute a certification that the attorney has—

''(i) performed a reasonable investigation into the circumstances that gave rise to the petition, pleading, or written motion; and

''(ii) determined that the petition, pleading, or written motion—

''(I) is well grounded in fact; and

''(II) is warranted by existing law or a good faith argument for the extension, modification, or reversal of existing law and does not constitute an abuse under paragraph (1).

''(D) The signature of an attorney on the petition shall constitute a certification that the attorney has no knowledge after an inquiry that the information in the schedules filed with such petition is incorrect.

''(5)(A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B) and subject to paragraph (6), the court, on its own initiative or on the motion of a party in interest, in accordance with the procedures described in rule 9011 of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure, may award a debtor all reasonable costs (including reasonable attorneys' fees) in contesting a motion filed by a party in interest (other than a trustee or United States trustee (or bankruptcy administrator, if any)) under this subsection if—

''(i) the court does not grant the motion; and

''(ii) the court finds that—

''(I) the position of the party that filed the motion violated rule 9011 of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure; or

''(II) the attorney (if any) who filed the motion did not comply with the requirements of clauses (i) and (ii) of paragraph (4)(C), and the motion was made solely for the purpose of coercing a debtor into waiving a right guaranteed to the debtor under this title.

''(B) A small business that has a claim of an aggregate amount less than $1,000 shall not be subject to subparagraph (A)(ii)(I).

''(C) For purposes of this paragraph—

''(i) the term 'small business' means an unincorporated business, partnership, corporation, association, or organization that—

''(I) has fewer than 25 full-time employees as determined on the date on which the motion is filed; and

''(II) is engaged in commercial or business activity; and

''(ii) the number of employees of a wholly owned subsidiary of a corporation includes the employees of—

''(I) a parent corporation; and

''(II) any other subsidiary corporation of the parent corporation.

''(6) Only the judge or United States trustee (or bankruptcy administrator, if any) may file a motion under section 707(b), if the current monthly income of the debtor, or in a joint case, the debtor and the debtor's spouse, as of the date of the order for relief, when multiplied by 12, is equal to or less than—

''(A) in the case of a debtor in a household of 1 person, the median family income of the applicable State for 1 earner;

''(B) in the case of a debtor in a household of 2, 3, or 4 individuals, the highest median family income of the applicable State for a family of the same number or fewer individuals; or

''(C) in the case of a debtor in a household exceeding 4 individuals, the highest median family income of the applicable State for a family of 4 or fewer individuals, plus $525 per month for each individual in excess of 4.

''(7)(A) No judge, United States trustee (or bankruptcy administrator, if any), trustee, or other party in interest may file a motion under paragraph (2) if the current monthly income of the debtor and the debtor's spouse combined, as of the date of the order for relief when multiplied by 12, is equal to or less than—

''(i) in the case of a debtor in a household of 1 person, the median family income of the applicable State for 1 earner;

''(ii) in the case of a debtor in a household of 2, 3, or 4 individuals, the highest median family income of the applicable State for a family of the same number or fewer individuals; or

''(iii) in the case of a debtor in a household exceeding 4 individuals, the highest median family income of the applicable State for a family of 4 or fewer individuals, plus $525 per month for each individual in excess of 4.

''(B) In a case that is not a joint case, current monthly income of the debtor's spouse shall not be considered for purposes of subparagraph (A) if—

''(i)(I) the debtor and the debtor's spouse are separated under applicable nonbankruptcy law; or

''(II) the debtor and the debtor's spouse are living separate and apart, other than for the purpose of evading subparagraph (A); and

''(ii) the debtor files a statement under penalty of perjury—

''(I) specifying that the debtor meets the requirement of subclause (I) or (II) of clause (i); and

''(II) disclosing the aggregate, or best estimate of the aggregate, amount of any cash

or money payments received from the debtor's spouse attributed to the debtor's current monthly income.''.

(b) DEFINITION.—Section 101 of title 11, United States Code, is amended by inserting after paragraph (10) the following:

''(10A) 'current monthly income'—

''(A) means the average monthly income from all sources that the debtor receives (or in a joint case the debtor and the debtor's spouse receive) without regard to whether such income is taxable income, derived during the 6-month period ending on—

''(i) the last day of the calendar month immediately preceding the date of the commencement of the case if the debtor files the schedule of current income required by section 521(a)(1)(B)(ii); or

''(ii) the date on which current income is determined by the court for purposes of this title if the debtor does not file the schedule of current income required by section 521(a)(1)(B)(ii); and

''(B) includes any amount paid by any entity other than the debtor (or in a joint case the debtor and the debtor's spouse), on a regular basis for the household expenses of the debtor or the debtor's dependents (and in a joint case the debtor's spouse if not otherwise a dependent), but excludes benefits received under the Social Security Act, payments to victims of war crimes or crimes against humanity on account of their status as victims of such crimes, and payments to victims of international terrorism (as defined in section 2331 of title 18) or domestic terrorism (as defined in section 2331 of title 18) on account of their status as victims of such terrorism;''.

(c) UNITED STATES TRUSTEE AND BANKRUPTCY ADMINISTRATOR DUTIES.—Section 704 of title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by inserting ''(a)'' before ''The trustee shall—''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(b)(1) With respect to a debtor who is an individual in a case under this chapter—

''(A) the United States trustee (or the bankruptcy administrator, if any) shall review all materials filed by the debtor and, not later than 10 days after the date of the first meeting of creditors, file with the court a statement as to whether the debtor's case would be presumed to be an abuse under section 707(b); and

''(B) not later than 5 days after receiving a statement under subparagraph (A), the court shall provide a copy of the statement to all creditors.

''(2) The United States trustee (or bankruptcy administrator, if any) shall, not later than 30 days after the date of filing a statement under paragraph (1), either file a motion to dismiss or convert under section 707(b) or file a statement setting forth the reasons the United States trustee (or the bankruptcy administrator, if any) does not consider such a motion to be appropriate, if the United States trustee (or the bankruptcy administrator, if any) determines that the debtor's case should be presumed to be an abuse under section 707(b) and the product of the debtor's current monthly income, multiplied by 12 is not less than—

''(A) in the case of a debtor in a household of 1 person, the median family income of the applicable State for 1 earner; or

''(B) in the case of a debtor in a household of 2 or more individuals, the highest median family income of the applicable State for a family of the same number or fewer individuals.''.

(d) NOTICE.—Section 342 of title 11, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(d) In a case under chapter 7 of this title in which the debtor is an individual and in which the presumption of abuse arises under section 707(b), the clerk shall give written notice to all creditors not later than 10 days after the date of the filing of the petition that the presumption of abuse has arisen.''.

(e) NONLIMITATION OF INFORMATION.—Nothing in this title shall limit the ability of a creditor to provide information to a judge (except for information communicated ex parte, unless otherwise permitted by applicable law), United States trustee (or bankruptcy administrator, if any), or trustee.

(f) DISMISSAL FOR CERTAIN CRIMES.—Section 707 of title 11, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(c)(1) In this subsection—

''(A) the term 'crime of violence' has the meaning given such term in section 16 of title 18; and

''(B) the term 'drug trafficking crime' has the meaning given such term in section 924(c)(2) of title 18.

''(2) Except as provided in paragraph (3), after notice and a hearing, the court, on a motion by the victim of a crime of violence or a drug trafficking crime, may when it is in the best interest of the victim dismiss a voluntary case filed under this chapter by a debtor who is an individual if such individual was convicted of such crime.

''(3) The court may not dismiss a case under paragraph (2) if the debtor establishes by a preponderance of the evidence that the filing of a case under this chapter is necessary to satisfy a claim for a domestic support obligation.''.

(g) CONFIRMATION OF PLAN.—Section 1325(a) of title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (5), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(2) in paragraph (6), by striking the period and inserting a semicolon; and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (6) the following:

''(7) the action of the debtor in filing the petition was in good faith;''.

(h) APPLICABILITY OF MEANS TEST TO CHAPTER 13.—Section 1325(b) of title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)(B), by inserting ''to unsecured creditors'' after ''to make payments''; and

(2) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

''(2) For purposes of this subsection, the term 'disposable income' means current monthly income received by the debtor (other than child support payments, foster care payments, or disability payments for a dependent child made in accordance with applicable nonbankruptcy law to the extent reasonably necessary to be expended for such child) less amounts reasonably necessary to be expended—

''(A)(i) for the maintenance or support of the debtor or a dependent of the debtor, or for a domestic support obligation, that first becomes payable after the date the petition is filed; and

''(ii) for charitable contributions (that meet the definition of 'charitable contribution' under section 548(d)(3) to a qualified religious or charitable entity or organization (as defined in section 548(d)(4)) in an amount not to exceed 15 percent of gross income of the debtor for the year in which the contributions are made; and

''(B) if the debtor is engaged in business, for the payment of expenditures necessary for the continuation, preservation, and operation of such business.

''(3) Amounts reasonably necessary to be expended under paragraph (2) shall be determined in accordance with subparagraphs (A) and (B) of section 707(b)(2), if the debtor has current monthly income, when multiplied by 12, greater than—

''(A) in the case of a debtor in a household of 1 person, the median family income of the applicable State for 1 earner;

''(B) in the case of a debtor in a household of 2, 3, or 4 individuals, the highest median family income of the applicable State for a family of the same number or fewer individuals; or

''(C) in the case of a debtor in a household exceeding 4 individuals, the highest median family income of the applicable State for a family of 4 or fewer individuals, plus $525 per month for each individual in excess of 4.''.

(i) SPECIAL ALLOWANCE FOR HEALTH INSURANCE.—Section 1329(a) of title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2) by striking ''or'' at the end;

(2) in paragraph (3) by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; or''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(4) reduce amounts to be paid under the plan by the actual amount expended by the debtor to purchase health insurance for the debtor (and for any dependent of the debtor if such dependent does not otherwise have health insurance coverage) if the debtor documents the cost of such insurance and demonstrates that—

''(A) such expenses are reasonable and necessary;

''(B)(i) if the debtor previously paid for health insurance, the amount is not materially larger than the cost the debtor previously paid or the cost necessary to maintain the lapsed policy; or

''(ii) if the debtor did not have health insurance, the amount is not materially larger than the reasonable cost that would be incurred by a debtor who purchases health insurance, who has similar income, expenses, age, and health status, and who lives in the same geographical location with the same number of dependents who do not otherwise have health insurance coverage; and

''(C) the amount is not otherwise allowed for purposes of determining disposable income under section 1325(b) of this title;

and upon request of any party in interest, files proof that a health insurance policy was purchased.''.

(j) ADJUSTMENT OF DOLLAR AMOUNTS.—Section 104(b) of title 11, United States Code, is amended by striking ''and 523(a)(2)(C)'' each place it appears and inserting ''523(a)(2)(C), 707(b), and 1325(b)(3)''.

(k) DEFINITION OF 'MEDIAN FAMILY INCOME'.—Section 101 of title 11, United States Code, is amended by inserting after paragraph (39) the following:

''(39A) 'median family income' means for any year—

''(A) the median family income both calculated and reported by the Bureau of the Census in the then most recent year; and

''(B) if not so calculated and reported in the then current year, adjusted annually after such most recent year until the next year in which median family income is both calculated and reported by the Bureau of the Census, to reflect the percentage change in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers during the period of years occurring after such most recent year and before such current year;''.

(k) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 7 of title 11, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 707 and inserting the following:

''707. Dismissal of a case or conversion to a case under chapter 11 or 13.''.

SEC. 103. SENSE OF CONGRESS AND STUDY.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the Secretary of the Treasury has the authority to alter the Internal Revenue Service standards established to set guidelines for repayment plans as needed to accommodate their use under section 707(b) of title 11, United States Code.

(b) STUDY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Executive Office for United States Trustees shall submit a report to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives containing the findings of the Director regarding the utilization of Internal Revenue Service standards for determining—

(A) the current monthly expenses of a debtor under section 707(b) of title 11, United States Code; and

(B) the impact that the application of such standards has had on debtors and on the bankruptcy courts.

(2) RECOMMENDATION.—The report under paragraph (1) may include recommendations for amendments to title 11, United States Code, that are consistent with the findings of the Director under paragraph (1).

SEC. 104. NOTICE OF ALTERNATIVES.

Section 342(b) of title 11, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''(b) Before the commencement of a case under this title by an individual whose debts are primarily consumer debts, the clerk shall give to such individual written notice containing—

''(1) a brief description of—

''(A) chapters 7, 11, 12, and 13 and the general purpose, benefits, and costs of proceeding under each of those chapters; and

''(B) the types of services available from credit counseling agencies; and

''(2) statements specifying that—

''(A) a person who knowingly and fraudulently conceals assets or makes a false oath or statement under penalty of perjury in connection with a case under this title shall be subject to fine, imprisonment, or both; and

''(B) all information supplied by a debtor in connection with a case under this title is subject to examination by the Attorney General.''.

SEC. 105. DEBTOR FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT TRAINING TEST PROGRAM.

(a) DEVELOPMENT OF FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AND TRAINING CURRICULUM AND MATERIALS.—The Director of the Executive Office for United States Trustees (in this section referred to as the ''Director'') shall consult with a wide range of individuals who are experts in the field of debtor education, including trustees who serve in cases under chapter 13 of title 11, United States Code, and who operate financial management education programs for debtors, and shall develop a financial management training curriculum and materials that can be used to educate debtors who are individuals on how to better manage their finances.

(b) TEST.—

(1) SELECTION OF DISTRICTS.—The Director shall select 6 judicial districts of the United States in which to test the effectiveness of the financial management training curriculum and materials developed under subsection (a).

(2) USE.—For an 18-month period beginning not later than 270 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, such curriculum and materials shall be, for the 6 judicial districts selected under paragraph (1), used as the instructional course concerning personal financial management for purposes of section 111 of title 11, United States Code.

(c) EVALUATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—During the 18-month period referred to in subsection (b), the Director shall evaluate the effectiveness of—

(A) the financial management training curriculum and materials developed under subsection (a); and

(B) a sample of existing consumer education programs such as those described in the Report of the National Bankruptcy Review Commission (October 20, 1997) that are representative of consumer education programs carried out by the credit industry, by trustees serving under chapter 13 of title 11, United States Code, and by consumer counseling groups.

(2) REPORT.—Not later than 3 months after concluding such evaluation, the Director shall submit a report to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President pro tempore of the Senate, for referral to the appropriate committees of the Congress, containing the findings of the Director regarding the effectiveness of such curriculum, such materials, and such programs and their costs.

SEC. 106. CREDIT COUNSELING.

(a) WHO MAY BE A DEBTOR.—Section 109 of title 11, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(h)(1) Subject to paragraphs (2) and (3), and notwithstanding any other provision of this section, an individual may not be a debtor under this title unless such individual has, during the 180-day period preceding the date of filing of the petition by such individual, received from an approved nonprofit budget and credit counseling agency described in section 111(a) an individual or group briefing (including a briefing conducted by telephone or on the Internet) that outlined the opportunities for available credit counseling and assisted such individual in performing a related budget analysis.

''(2)(A) Paragraph (1) shall not apply with respect to a debtor who resides in a district for which the United States trustee (or the bankruptcy administrator, if any) determines that the approved nonprofit budget and credit counseling agencies for such district are not reasonably able to provide adequate services to the additional individuals who would otherwise seek credit counseling from such agencies by reason of the requirements of paragraph (1).

''(B) The United States trustee (or the bankruptcy administrator, if any) who makes a determination described in subparagraph (A) shall review such determination not later than 1 year after the date of such determination, and not less frequently than annually thereafter. Notwithstanding the preceding sentence, a nonprofit budget and credit counseling agency may be disapproved by the United States trustee (or the bankruptcy administrator, if any) at any time.

''(3)(A) Subject to subparagraph (B), the requirements of paragraph (1) shall not apply with respect to a debtor who submits to the court a certification that—

''(i) describes exigent circumstances that merit a waiver of the requirements of paragraph (1);

''(ii) states that the debtor requested credit counseling services from an approved nonprofit budget and credit counseling agency, but was unable to obtain the services referred to in paragraph (1) during the 5-day period beginning on the date on which the debtor made that request; and

''(iii) is satisfactory to the court.

''(B) With respect to a debtor, an exemption under subparagraph (A) shall cease to apply to that debtor on the date on which the debtor meets the requirements of paragraph (1), but in no case may the exemption apply to that debtor after the date that is 30 days after the debtor files a petition, except that the court, for cause, may order an additional 15 days.''.

(b) CHAPTER 7 DISCHARGE.—Section 727(a) of title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (9), by striking ''or'' at the end;

(2) in paragraph (10), by striking the period and inserting ''; or''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(11) after filing the petition, the debtor failed to complete an instructional course concerning personal financial management described in section 111, except that this paragraph shall not apply with respect to a debtor who resides in a district for which the United States trustee (or the bankruptcy administrator, if any) determines that the approved instructional courses are not adequate to service the additional individuals who would otherwise be required to complete such instructional courses under this section (The United States trustee (or the bankruptcy administrator, if any) who makes a determination described in this paragraph shall review such determination not later than 1 year after the date of such determination, and not less frequently than annually thereafter.).''.

(c) CHAPTER 13 DISCHARGE.—Section 1328 of title 11, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(g)(1) The court shall not grant a discharge under this section to a debtor unless after filing a petition the debtor has completed an instructional course concerning personal financial management described in section 111.

''(2) Paragraph (1) shall not apply with respect to a debtor who resides in a district for which the United States trustee (or the bankruptcy administrator, if any) determines that the approved instructional courses are not adequate to service the additional individuals who would otherwise be required to complete such instructional course by reason of the requirements of paragraph (1).

''(3) The United States trustee (or the bankruptcy administrator, if any) who makes a determination described in paragraph (2) shall review such determination not later than 1 year after the date of such determination, and not less frequently than annually thereafter.''.

(d) DEBTOR'S DUTIES.—Section 521 of title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by inserting ''(a)'' before ''The debtor shall—''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(b) In addition to the requirements under subsection (a), a debtor who is an individual shall file with the court—

''(1) a certificate from the approved nonprofit budget and credit counseling agency that provided the debtor services under section 109(h) describing the services provided to the debtor; and

''(2) a copy of the debt repayment plan, if any, developed under section 109(h) through the approved nonprofit budget and credit counseling agency referred to in paragraph (1).''.

(e) GENERAL PROVISIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 1 of title 11, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 111. Nonprofit budget and credit counseling agencies; financial management instructional courses

''(a) The clerk shall maintain a publicly available list of—

''(1) nonprofit budget and credit counseling agencies that provide 1 or more services described in section 109(h) currently approved by the United States trustee (or the bankruptcy administrator, if any); and

''(2) instructional courses concerning personal financial management currently approved by the United States trustee (or the bankruptcy administrator, if any), as applicable.

''(b) The United States trustee (or bankruptcy administrator, if any) shall only approve a nonprofit budget and credit counseling agency or an instructional course concerning personal financial management as follows:

''(1) The United States trustee (or bankruptcy administrator, if any) shall have thoroughly reviewed the qualifications of the nonprofit budget and credit counseling agency or of the provider of the instructional course under the standards set forth in this section, and the services or instructional courses that will be offered by such agency or such provider, and may require such agency or such provider that has sought approval to provide information with respect to such review.

''(2) The United States trustee (or bankruptcy administrator, if any) shall have determined that such agency or such instructional course fully satisfies the applicable standards set forth in this section.

''(3) If a nonprofit budget and credit counseling agency or instructional course did not appear on the approved list for the district under subsection (a) immediately before approval under this section, approval under this subsection of such agency or such instructional course shall be for a probationary period not to exceed 6 months.

''(4) At the conclusion of the applicable probationary period under paragraph (3), the United States trustee (or bankruptcy administrator, if any) may only approve for an additional 1-year period, and for successive 1-year periods thereafter, an agency or instructional course that has demonstrated during the probationary or applicable subsequent period of approval that such agency or instructional course—

''(A) has met the standards set forth under this section during such period; and

''(B) can satisfy such standards in the future.

''(5) Not later than 30 days after any final decision under paragraph (4), an interested person may seek judicial review of such decision in the appropriate district court of the United States.

''(c)(1) The United States trustee (or the bankruptcy administrator, if any) shall only approve a nonprofit budget and credit counseling agency that demonstrates that it will provide qualified counselors, maintain adequate provision for safekeeping and payment of client funds, provide adequate counseling with respect to client credit problems, and deal responsibly and effectively with other matters relating to the quality, effectiveness, and financial security of the services it provides.

''(2) To be approved by the United States trustee (or the bankruptcy administrator, if any), a nonprofit budget and credit counseling agency shall, at a minimum—

''(A) have a board of directors the majority of which—

''(i) are not employed by such agency; and

''(ii) will not directly or indirectly benefit financially from the outcome of the counseling services provided by such agency;

''(B) if a fee is charged for counseling services, charge a reasonable fee, and provide services without regard to ability to pay the fee;

''(C) provide for safekeeping and payment of client funds, including an annual audit of the trust accounts and appropriate employee bonding;

''(D) provide full disclosures to a client, including funding sources, counselor qualifications, possible impact on credit reports, and any costs of such program that will be paid by such client and how such costs will be paid;

''(E) provide adequate counseling with respect to a client's credit problems that includes an analysis of such client's current financial condition, factors that caused such financial condition, and how such client can develop a plan to respond to the problems without incurring negative amortization of debt;

''(F) provide trained counselors who receive no commissions or bonuses based on the outcome of the counseling services provided by such agency, and who have adequate experience, and have been adequately trained to provide counseling services to individuals in financial difficulty, including the matters described in subparagraph (E);

''(G) demonstrate adequate experience and background in providing credit counseling; and

''(H) have adequate financial resources to provide continuing support services for budgeting plans over the life of any repayment plan.

''(d) The United States trustee (or the bankruptcy administrator, if any) shall only approve an instructional course concerning personal financial management—

''(1) for an initial probationary period under subsection (b)(3) if the course will provide at a minimum—

''(A) trained personnel with adequate experience and training in providing effective instruction and services;

''(B) learning materials and teaching methodologies designed to assist debtors in understanding personal financial management and that are consistent with stated objectives directly related to the goals of such instructional course;

''(C) adequate facilities situated in reasonably convenient locations at which such instructional course is offered, except that such facilities may include the provision of such instructional course by telephone or through the Internet, if such instructional course is effective; and

''(D) the preparation and retention of reasonable records (which shall include the debtor's bankruptcy case number) to permit evaluation of the effectiveness of such instructional course, including any evaluation of satisfaction of instructional course requirements for each debtor attending such instructional course, which shall be available for inspection and evaluation by the Executive Office for United States Trustees, the United States trustee (or the bankruptcy administrator, if any), or the chief bankruptcy judge for the district in which such instructional course is offered; and

''(2) for any 1-year period if the provider thereof has demonstrated that the course meets the standards of paragraph (1) and, in addition—

''(A) has been effective in assisting a substantial number of debtors to understand personal financial management; and

''(B) is otherwise likely to increase substantially the debtor's understanding of personal financial management.

''(e) The district court may, at any time, investigate the qualifications of a nonprofit budget and credit counseling agency referred to in subsection (a), and request production of documents to ensure the integrity and effectiveness of such agency. The district court may, at any time, remove from the approved list under subsection (a) a nonprofit budget and credit counseling agency upon finding such agency does not meet the qualifications of subsection (b).

''(f) The United States trustee (or the bankruptcy administrator, if any) shall notify the clerk that a nonprofit budget and credit counseling agency or an instructional course is no longer approved, in which case the clerk shall remove it from the list maintained under subsection (a).

''(g)(1) No nonprofit budget and credit counseling agency may provide to a credit reporting agency information concerning whether a debtor has received or sought instruction concerning personal financial management from such agency.

''(2) A nonprofit budget and credit counseling agency that willfully or negligently fails to comply with any requirement under this title with respect to a debtor shall be liable for damages in an amount equal to the sum of—

''(A) any actual damages sustained by the debtor as a result of the violation; and

''(B) any court costs or reasonable attorneys' fees (as determined by the court) incurred in an action to recover those damages.''.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 1 of title 11, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''111. Nonprofit budget and credit counseling agencies; financial management instructional courses.''.

(f) LIMITATION.—Section 362 of title 11, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(i) If a case commenced under chapter 7, 11, or 13 is dismissed due to the creation of a debt repayment plan, for purposes of subsection (c)(3), any subsequent case commenced by the debtor under any such chapter shall not be presumed to be filed not in good faith.

''(j) On request of a party in interest, the court shall issue an order under subsection (c) confirming that the automatic stay has been terminated.''.

SEC. 107. SCHEDULES OF REASONABLE AND NECESSARY EXPENSES.

For purposes of section 707(b) of title 11, United States Code, as amended by this Act, the Director of the Executive Office for United States Trustees shall, not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, issue schedules of reasonable and necessary administrative expenses of administering a chapter 13 plan for each judicial district of the United States.

TITLE II—ENHANCED CONSUMER PROTECTION

Subtitle A—Penalties for Abusive Creditor Practices

SEC. 201. PROMOTION OF ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION.

(a) REDUCTION OF CLAIM.—Section 502 of title 11, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(k)(1) The court, on the motion of the debtor and after a hearing, may reduce a claim filed under this section based in whole on an unsecured consumer debt by not more than 20 percent of the claim, if—

''(A) the claim was filed by a creditor who unreasonably refused to negotiate a reasonable alternative repayment schedule proposed on behalf of the debtor by an approved nonprofit budget and credit counseling agency described in section 111;

''(B) the offer of the debtor under subparagraph (A)—

''(i) was made at least 60 days before the date of the filing of the petition; and

''(ii) provided for payment of at least 60 percent of the amount of the debt over a period not to exceed the repayment period of the loan, or a reasonable extension thereof; and

''(C) no part of the debt under the alternative repayment schedule is nondischargeable.

''(2) The debtor shall have the burden of proving, by clear and convincing evidence, that—

''(A) the creditor unreasonably refused to consider the debtor's proposal; and

''(B) the proposed alternative repayment schedule was made prior to expiration of the 60-day period specified in paragraph (1)(B)(i).''.

(b) LIMITATION ON AVOIDABILITY.—Section 547 of title 11, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(h) The trustee may not avoid a transfer if such transfer was made as a part of an alternative repayment schedule between the debtor and any creditor of the debtor created by an approved nonprofit budget and credit counseling agency.''.

SEC. 202. EFFECT OF DISCHARGE.

Section 524 of title 11, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(i) The willful failure of a creditor to credit payments received under a plan confirmed under this title, unless the order confirming the plan is revoked, the plan is in default, or the creditor has not received payments required to be made under the plan in the manner required by the plan (including crediting the amounts required under the plan), shall constitute a violation of an injunction under subsection (a)(2) if the act of the creditor to collect and failure to credit payments in the manner required by the plan caused material injury to the debtor.

''(j) Subsection (a)(2) does not operate as an injunction against an act by a creditor that is the holder of a secured claim, if—

''(1) such creditor retains a security interest in real property that is the principal residence of the debtor;

''(2) such act is in the ordinary course of business between the creditor and the debtor; and

''(3) such act is limited to seeking or obtaining periodic payments associated with a valid security interest in lieu of pursuit of in rem relief to enforce the lien.''.

SEC. 203. DISCOURAGING ABUSE OF REAFFIRMATION AGREEMENT PRACTICES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 524 of title 11, United States Code, as amended section 202, is amended—

(1) in subsection (c), by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

''(2) the debtor received the disclosures described in subsection (k) at or before the time at which the debtor signed the agreement;''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(k)(1) The disclosures required under subsection (c)(2) shall consist of the disclosure statement described in paragraph (3), completed as required in that paragraph, together with the agreement specified in subsection (c), statement, declaration, motion and order described, respectively, in paragraphs (4) through (8), and shall be the only disclosures required in connection with entering into such agreement.

''(2) Disclosures made under paragraph (1) shall be made clearly and conspicuously and in writing. The terms 'Amount Reaffirmed' and 'Annual Percentage Rate' shall be disclosed more conspicuously than other terms, data or information provided in connection with this disclosure, except that the phrases 'Before agreeing to reaffirm a debt, review these important disclosures' and 'Summary of Reaffirmation Agreement' may be equally conspicuous. Disclosures may be made in a different order and may use terminology different from that set forth in paragraphs (2) through (8), except that the terms 'Amount Reaffirmed' and 'Annual Percentage Rate' must be used where indicated.

''(3) The disclosure statement required under this paragraph shall consist of the following:

''(A) The statement: 'Part A: Before agreeing to reaffirm a debt, review these important disclosures:';

''(B) Under the heading 'Summary of Reaffirmation Agreement', the statement: 'This Summary is made pursuant to the requirements of the Bankruptcy Code';

''(C) The 'Amount Reaffirmed', using that term, which shall be—

''(i) the total amount of debt that the debtor agrees to reaffirm by entering into an agreement of the kind specified in subsection (c), and

''(ii) the total of any fees and costs accrued as of the date of the disclosure statement, related to such total amount.

''(D) In conjunction with the disclosure of the 'Amount Reaffirmed', the statements—

''(i) 'The amount of debt you have agreed to reaffirm'; and

''(ii) 'Your credit agreement may obligate you to pay additional amounts which may come due after the date of this disclosure. Consult your credit agreement.'.

''(E) The 'Annual Percentage Rate', using that term, which shall be disclosed as—

''(i) if, at the time the petition is filed, the debt is an extension of credit under an open end credit plan, as the terms 'credit' and 'open end credit plan' are defined in section 103 of the Truth in Lending Act, then—

''(I) the annual percentage rate determined under paragraphs (5) and (6) of section 127(b) of the Truth in Lending Act, as applicable, as disclosed to the debtor in the most recent periodic statement prior to entering into an agreement of the kind specified in subsection (c) or, if no such periodic statement has been given to the debtor during the prior 6 months, the annual percentage rate as it would have been so disclosed at the time the disclosure statement is given to the debtor, or to the extent this annual percentage rate is not readily available or not applicable, then

''(II) the simple interest rate applicable to the amount reaffirmed as of the date the disclosure statement is given to the debtor, or if different simple interest rates apply to different balances, the simple interest rate applicable to each such balance, identifying the amount of each such balance included in the amount reaffirmed, or

''(III) if the entity making the disclosure elects, to disclose the annual percentage rate under subclause (I) and the simple interest rate under subclause (II); or

''(ii) if, at the time the petition is filed, the debt is an extension of credit other than under an open end credit plan, as the terms 'credit' and 'open end credit plan' are defined in section 103 of the Truth in Lending Act, then—

''(I) the annual percentage rate under section 128(a)(4) of the Truth in Lending Act, as disclosed to the debtor in the most recent disclosure statement given to the debtor prior to the entering into an agreement of the kind specified in subsection (c) with respect to the debt, or, if no such disclosure statement was given to the debtor, the annual percentage rate as it would have been so disclosed at the time the disclosure statement is given to the debtor, or to the extent this annual percentage rate is not readily available or not applicable, then

''(II) the simple interest rate applicable to the amount reaffirmed as of the date the disclosure statement is given to the debtor, or if different simple interest rates apply to different balances, the simple interest rate applicable to each such balance, identifying the amount of such balance included in the amount reaffirmed, or

''(III) if the entity making the disclosure elects, to disclose the annual percentage rate under (I) and the simple interest rate under (II).

''(F) If the underlying debt transaction was disclosed as a variable rate transaction on the most recent disclosure given under the Truth in Lending Act, by stating 'The interest rate on your loan may be a variable interest rate which changes from time to time, so that the annual percentage rate disclosed here may be higher or lower.'.

''(G) If the debt is secured by a security interest which has not been waived in whole or in part or determined to be void by a final order of the court at the time of the disclosure, by disclosing that a security interest or lien in goods or property is asserted over some or all of the debts the debtor is reaffirming and listing the items and their original purchase price that are subject to the asserted security interest, or if not a purchase-money security interest then listing by items or types and the original amount of the loan.

''(H) At the election of the creditor, a statement of the repayment schedule using 1 or a combination of the following—

''(i) by making the statement: 'Your first payment in the amount of $_____ is due on _____ but the future payment amount may be different. Consult your reaffirmation agreement or credit agreement, as applicable.', and stating the amount of the first payment and the due date of that payment in the places provided;

''(ii) by making the statement: 'Your payment schedule will be:', and describing the repayment schedule with the number, amount, and due dates or period of payments scheduled to repay the debts reaffirmed to the extent then known by the disclosing party; or

''(iii) by describing the debtor's repayment obligations with reasonable specificity to the extent then known by the disclosing party.

''(I) The following statement: 'Note: When this disclosure refers to what a creditor ''may'' do, it does not use the word ''may'' to give the creditor specific permission. The word ''may'' is used to tell you what might occur if the law permits the creditor to take the action. If you have questions about your reaffirming a debt or what the law requires, consult with the attorney who helped you negotiate this agreement reaffirming a debt. If you don't have an attorney helping you, the judge will explain the effect of your reaffirming a debt when the hearing on the reaffirmation agreement is held.'.

''(J)(i) The following additional statements:

'' 'Reaffirming a debt is a serious financial decision. The law requires you to take certain steps to make sure the decision is in your best interest. If these steps are not completed, the reaffirmation agreement is not effective, even though you have signed it.

'' '1. Read the disclosures in this Part A carefully. Consider the decision to reaffirm carefully. Then, if you want to reaffirm, sign the reaffirmation agreement in Part B (or you may use a separate agreement you and your creditor agree on).

'' '2. Complete and sign Part D and be sure you can afford to make the payments you are agreeing to make and have received a copy of the disclosure statement and a completed and signed reaffirmation agreement.

'' '3. If you were represented by an attorney during the negotiation of your reaffirmation agreement, the attorney must have signed the certification in Part C.

'' '4. If you were not represented by an attorney during the negotiation of your reaffirmation agreement, you must have completed and signed Part E.

'' '5. The original of this disclosure must be filed with the court by you or your creditor. If a separate reaffirmation agreement (other than the one in Part B) has been signed, it must be attached.

'' '6. If you were represented by an attorney during the negotiation of your reaffirmation agreement, your reaffirmation agreement becomes effective upon filing with the court unless the reaffirmation is presumed to be an undue hardship as explained in Part D.

'' '7. If you were not represented by an attorney during the negotiation of your reaffirmation agreement, it will not be effective

unless the court approves it. The court will notify you of the hearing on your reaffirmation agreement. You must attend this hearing in bankruptcy court where the judge will review your reaffirmation agreement. The bankruptcy court must approve your reaffirmation agreement as consistent with your best interests, except that no court approval is required if your reaffirmation agreement is for a consumer debt secured by a mortgage, deed of trust, security deed, or other lien on your real property, like your home.

''Your right to rescind (cancel) your reaffirmation agreement. You may rescind (cancel) your reaffirmation agreement at any time before the bankruptcy court enters a discharge order, or before the expiration of the 60-day period that begins on the date your reaffirmation agreement is filed with the court, whichever occurs later. To rescind (cancel) your reaffirmation agreement, you must notify the creditor that your reaffirmation agreement is rescinded (or canceled).

''What are your obligations if you reaffirm the debt? A reaffirmed debt remains your personal legal obligation. It is not discharged in your bankruptcy case. That means that if you default on your reaffirmed debt after your bankruptcy case is over, your creditor may be able to take your property or your wages. Otherwise, your obligations will be determined by the reaffirmation agreement which may have changed the terms of the original agreement. For example, if you are reaffirming an open end credit agreement, the creditor may be permitted by that agreement or applicable law to change the terms of that agreement in the future under certain conditions.

''Are you required to enter into a reaffirmation agreement by any law? No, you are not required to reaffirm a debt by any law. Only agree to reaffirm a debt if it is in your best interest. Be sure you can afford the payments you agree to make.

''What if your creditor has a security interest or lien? Your bankruptcy discharge does not eliminate any lien on your property. A ''lien'' is often referred to as a security interest, deed of trust, mortgage or security deed. Even if you do not reaffirm and your personal liability on the debt is discharged, because of the lien your creditor may still have the right to take the security property if you do not pay the debt or default on it. If the lien is on an item of personal property that is exempt under your State's law or that the trustee has abandoned, you may be able to redeem the item rather than reaffirm the debt. To redeem, you make a single payment to the creditor equal to the current value of the security property, as agreed by the parties or determined by the court.'.

''(ii) In the case of a reaffirmation under subsection (m)(2), numbered paragraph 6 in the disclosures required by clause (i) of this subparagraph shall read as follows:

''6. If you were represented by an attorney during the negotiation of your reaffirmation agreement, your reaffirmation agreement becomes effective upon filing with the court.'.

''(4) The form of such agreement required under this paragraph shall consist of the following:

''Part B: Reaffirmation Agreement. I (we) agree to reaffirm the debts arising under the credit agreement described below.

''Brief description of credit agreement:

''Description of any changes to the credit agreement made as part of this reaffirmation agreement:

''Signature: Date:

''Borrower:

''Co-borrower, if also reaffirming these debts:

''Accepted by creditor:

''Date of creditor acceptance:'.

''(5) The declaration shall consist of the following:

''(A) The following certification:

''Part C: Certification by Debtor's Attorney (If Any).

''I hereby certify that (1) this agreement represents a fully informed and voluntary agreement by the debtor; (2) this agreement does not impose an undue hardship on the debtor or any dependent of the debtor; and (3) I have fully advised the debtor of the legal effect and consequences of this agreement and any default under this agreement.

''Signature of Debtor's Attorney: Date:'.

''(B) If a presumption of undue hardship has been established with respect to such agreement, such certification shall state that in the opinion of the attorney, the debtor is able to make the payment.

''(C) In the case of a reaffirmation agreement under subsection (m)(2), subparagraph (B) is not applicable.

''(6)(A) The statement in support of such agreement, which the debtor shall sign and date prior to filing with the court, shall consist of the following:

''Part D: Debtor's Statement in Support of Reaffirmation Agreement.

''1. I believe this reaffirmation agreement will not impose an undue hardship on my dependents or me. I can afford to make the payments on the reaffirmed debt because my monthly income (take home pay plus any other income received) is $_____, and my actual current monthly expenses including monthly payments on post-bankruptcy debt and other reaffirmation agreements total $_____, leaving $_____ to make the required payments on this reaffirmed debt. I understand that if my income less my monthly expenses does not leave enough to make the payments, this reaffirmation agreement is presumed to be an undue hardship on me and must be reviewed by the court. However, this presumption may be overcome if I explain to the satisfaction of the court how I can afford to make the payments here: _____.

''2. I received a copy of the Reaffirmation Disclosure Statement in Part A and a completed and signed reaffirmation agreement.'.

''(B) Where the debtor is represented by an attorney and is reaffirming a debt owed to a creditor defined in section 19(b)(1)(A)(iv) of the Federal Reserve Act, the statement of support of the reaffirmation agreement, which the debtor shall sign and date prior to filing with the court, shall consist of the following:

''I believe this reaffirmation agreement is in my financial interest. I can afford to make the payments on the reaffirmed debt. I received a copy of the Reaffirmation Disclosure Statement in Part A and a completed and signed reaffirmation agreement.'.

''(7) The motion that may be used if approval of such agreement by the court is required in order for it to be effective, shall be signed and dated by the movant and shall consist of the following:

''Part E: Motion for Court Approval (To be completed only if the debtor is not represented by an attorney.). I (we), the debtor(s), affirm the following to be true and correct:

''I am not represented by an attorney in connection with this reaffirmation agreement.

''I believe this reaffirmation agreement is in my best interest based on the income and expenses I have disclosed in my Statement in Support of this reaffirmation agreement, and because (provide any additional relevant reasons the court should consider):

''Therefore, I ask the court for an order approving this reaffirmation agreement.'.

''(8) The court order, which may be used to approve such agreement, shall consist of the following:

''Court Order: The court grants the debtor's motion and approves the reaffirmation agreement described above.'.

''(l) Notwithstanding any other provision of this title the following shall apply:

''(1) A creditor may accept payments from a debtor before and after the filing of an agreement of the kind specified in subsection (c) with the court.

''(2) A creditor may accept payments from a debtor under such agreement that the creditor believes in good faith to be effective.

''(3) The requirements of subsections (c)(2) and (k) shall be satisfied if disclosures required under those subsections are given in good faith.

''(m)(1) Until 60 days after an agreement of the kind specified in subsection (c) is filed with the court (or such additional period as the court, after notice and a hearing and for cause, orders before the expiration of such period), it shall be presumed that such agreement is an undue hardship on the debtor if the debtor's monthly income less the debtor's monthly expenses as shown on the debtor's completed and signed statement in support of such agreement required under subsection (k)(6)(A) is less than the scheduled payments on the reaffirmed debt. This presumption shall be reviewed by the court. The presumption may be rebutted in writing by the debtor if the statement includes an explanation that identifies additional sources of funds to make the payments as agreed upon under the terms of such agreement. If the presumption is not rebutted to the satisfaction of the court, the court may disapprove such agreement. No agreement shall be disapproved without notice and a hearing to the debtor and creditor, and such hearing shall be concluded before the entry of the debtor's discharge.

''(2) This subsection does not apply to reaffirmation agreements where the creditor is a credit union, as defined in section 19(b)(1)(A)(iv) of the Federal Reserve Act.''.

(b) LAW ENFORCEMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 9 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 158. Designation of United States attorneys and agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation to address abusive reaffirmations of debt and materially fraudulent statements in bankruptcy schedules

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General of the United States shall designate the individuals described in subsection (b) to have primary responsibility in carrying out enforcement activities in addressing violations of section 152 or 157 relating to abusive reaffirmations of debt. In addition to addressing the violations referred to in the preceding sentence, the individuals described under subsection (b) shall address violations of section 152 or 157 relating to materially fraudulent statements in bankruptcy schedules that are intentionally false or intentionally misleading.

''(b) UNITED STATES ATTORNEYS AND AGENTS OF THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION.—The individuals referred to in subsection (a) are—

''(1) the United States attorney for each judicial district of the United States; and

''(2) an agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation for each field office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

''(c) BANKRUPTCY INVESTIGATIONS.—Each United States attorney designated under this section shall, in addition to any other responsibilities, have primary responsibility for carrying out the duties of a United States attorney under section 3057.

''(d) BANKRUPTCY PROCEDURES.—The bankruptcy courts shall establish procedures for referring any case that may contain a materially fraudulent statement in a bankruptcy

schedule to the individuals designated under this section.''.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 9 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''158. Designation of United States attorneys and agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation to address abusive reaffirmations of debt and materially fraudulent statements in bankruptcy schedules.''.

SEC. 204. PRESERVATION OF CLAIMS AND DEFENSES UPON SALE OF PREDATORY LOANS.

Section 363 of title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (o) as subsection (p), and

(2) by inserting after subsection (n) the following:

''(o) Notwithstanding subsection (f), if a person purchases any interest in a consumer credit transaction that is subject to the Truth in Lending Act or any interest in a consumer credit contract (as defined in section 433.1 of title 16 of the Code of Federal Regulations (January 1, 2004), as amended from time to time), and if such interest is purchased through a sale under this section, then such person shall remain subject to all claims and defenses that are related to such consumer credit transaction or such consumer credit contract, to the same extent as such person would be subject to such claims and defenses of the consumer had such interest been purchased at a sale not under this section.''.

SEC. 205. GAO STUDY AND REPORT ON REAFFIRMATION AGREEMENT PROCESS.

(a) STUDY.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study of the reaffirmation agreement process that occurs under title 11 of the United States Code, to determine the overall treatment of consumers within the context of such process, and shall include in such study consideration of—

(1) the policies and activities of creditors with respect to reaffirmation agreements; and

(2) whether consumers are fully, fairly, and consistently informed of their rights pursuant to such title.

(b) REPORT TO THE CONGRESS.—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives a report on the results of the study conducted under subsection (a), together with recommendations for legislation (if any) to address any abusive or coercive tactics found in connection with the reaffirmation agreement process that occurs under title 11 of the United States Code.

Subtitle B—Priority Child Support

SEC. 211. DEFINITION OF DOMESTIC SUPPORT OBLIGATION.

Section 101 of title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking paragraph (12A); and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (14) the following:

''(14A) 'domestic support obligation' means a debt that accrues before, on, or after the date of the order for relief in a case under this title, including interest that accrues on that debt as provided under applicable nonbankruptcy law notwithstanding any other provision of this title, that is—

''(A) owed to or recoverable by—

''(i) a spouse, former spouse, or child of the debtor or such child's parent, legal guardian, or responsible relative; or

''(ii) a governmental unit;

''(B) in the nature of alimony, maintenance, or support (including assistance provided by a governmental unit) of such spouse, former spouse, or child of the debtor or such child's parent, without regard to whether such debt is expressly so designated;

''(C) established or subject to establishment before, on, or after the date of the order for relief in a case under this title, by reason of applicable provisions of—

''(i) a separation agreement, divorce decree, or property settlement agreement;

''(ii) an order of a court of record; or

''(iii) a determination made in accordance with applicable nonbankruptcy law by a governmental unit; and

''(D) not assigned to a nongovernmental entity, unless that obligation is assigned voluntarily by the spouse, former spouse, child of the debtor, or such child's parent, legal guardian, or responsible relative for the purpose of collecting the debt;''.

SEC. 212. PRIORITIES FOR CLAIMS FOR DOMESTIC SUPPORT OBLIGATIONS.

Section 507(a) of title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking paragraph (7);

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (6) as paragraphs (2) through (7), respectively;

(3) in paragraph (2), as so redesignated, by striking ''First'' and inserting ''Second'';

(4) in paragraph (3), as so redesignated, by striking ''Second'' and inserting ''Third'';

(5) in paragraph (4), as so redesignated—

(A) by striking ''Third'' and inserting ''Fourth''; and

(B) by striking the semicolon at the end and inserting a period;

(6) in paragraph (5), as so redesignated, by striking ''Fourth'' and inserting ''Fifth'';

(7) in paragraph (6), as so redesignated, by striking ''Fifth'' and inserting ''Sixth'';

(8) in paragraph (7), as so redesignated, by striking ''Sixth'' and inserting ''Seventh''; and

(9) by inserting before paragraph (2), as so redesignated, the following:

''(1) First:

''(A) Allowed unsecured claims for domestic support obligations that, as of the date of the filing of the petition in a case under this title, are owed to or recoverable by a spouse, former spouse, or child of the debtor, or such child's parent, legal guardian, or responsible relative, without regard to whether the claim is filed by such person or is filed by a governmental unit on behalf of such person, on the condition that funds received under this paragraph by a governmental unit under this title after the date of the filing of the petition shall be applied and distributed in accordance with applicable nonbankruptcy law.

''(B) Subject to claims under subparagraph (A), allowed unsecured claims for domestic support obligations that, as of the date of the filing of the petition, are assigned by a spouse, former spouse, child of the debtor, or such child's parent, legal guardian, or responsible relative to a governmental unit (unless such obligation is assigned voluntarily by the spouse, former spouse, child, parent, legal guardian, or responsible relative of the child for the purpose of collecting the debt) or are owed directly to or recoverable by a governmental unit under applicable nonbankruptcy law, on the condition that funds received under this paragraph by a governmental unit under this title after the date of the filing of the petition be applied and distributed in accordance with applicable nonbankruptcy law.

''(C) If a trustee is appointed or elected under section 701, 702, 703, 1104, 1202, or 1302, the administrative expenses of the trustee allowed under paragraphs (1)(A), (2), and (6) of section 503(b) shall be paid before payment of claims under subparagraphs (A) and (B), to the extent that the trustee administers assets that are otherwise available for the payment of such claims.''.

SEC. 213. REQUIREMENTS TO OBTAIN CONFIRMATION AND DISCHARGE IN CASES INVOLVING DOMESTIC SUPPORT OBLIGATIONS.

Title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in section 1129(a), by adding at the end the following:

''(14) If the debtor is required by a judicial or administrative order, or by statute, to pay a domestic support obligation, the debtor has paid all amounts payable under such order or such statute for such obligation that first become payable after the date of the filing of the petition.'';

(2) in section 1208(c)—

(A) in paragraph (8), by striking ''or'' at the end;

(B) in paragraph (9), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(10) failure of the debtor to pay any domestic support obligation that first becomes payable after the date of the filing of the petition.'';

(3) in section 1222(a)—

(A) in paragraph (2), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(B) in paragraph (3), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(4) notwithstanding any other provision of this section, a plan may provide for less than full payment of all amounts owed for a claim entitled to priority under section 507(a)(1)(B) only if the plan provides that all of the debtor's projected disposable income for a 5-year period beginning on the date that the first payment is due under the plan will be applied to make payments under the plan.'';

(4) in section 1222(b)—

(A) in paragraph (10), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(B) by redesignating paragraph (11) as paragraph (12); and

(C) by inserting after paragraph (10) the following:

''(11) provide for the payment of interest accruing after the date of the filing of the petition on unsecured claims that are nondischargeable under section 1228(a), except that such interest may be paid only to the extent that the debtor has disposable income available to pay such interest after making provision for full payment of all allowed claims; and'';

(5) in section 1225(a)—

(A) in paragraph (5), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(B) in paragraph (6), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(7) the debtor has paid all amounts that are required to be paid under a domestic support obligation and that first become payable after the date of the filing of the petition if the debtor is required by a judicial or administrative order, or by statute, to pay such domestic support obligation.'';

(6) in section 1228(a), in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by inserting '', and in the case of a debtor who is required by a judicial or administrative order, or by statute, to pay a domestic support obligation, after such debtor certifies that all amounts payable under such order or such statute that are due on or before the date of the certification (including amounts due before the petition was filed, but only to the extent provided for by the plan) have been paid'' after ''completion by the debtor of all payments under the plan'';

(7) in section 1307(c)—

(A) in paragraph (9), by striking ''or'' at the end;

(B) in paragraph (10), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; or''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(11) failure of the debtor to pay any domestic support obligation that first becomes payable after the date of the filing of the petition.'';

(8) in section 1322(a)—

(A) in paragraph (2), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(B) in paragraph (3), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(4) notwithstanding any other provision of this section, a plan may provide for less than full payment of all amounts owed for a claim entitled to priority under section 507(a)(1)(B) only if the plan provides that all of the debtor's projected disposable income for a 5-year period beginning on the date that the first payment is due under the plan will be applied to make payments under the plan.'';

(9) in section 1322(b)—

(A) in paragraph (9), by striking ''; and'' and inserting a semicolon;

(B) by redesignating paragraph (10) as paragraph (11); and

(C) inserting after paragraph (9) the following:

''(10) provide for the payment of interest accruing after the date of the filing of the petition on unsecured claims that are nondischargeable under section 1328(a), except that such interest may be paid only to the extent that the debtor has disposable income available to pay such interest after making provision for full payment of all allowed claims; and'';

(10) in section 1325(a), as amended by section 102, by inserting after paragraph (7) the following:

''(8) the debtor has paid all amounts that are required to be paid under a domestic support obligation and that first become payable after the date of the filing of the petition if the debtor is required by a judicial or administrative order, or by statute, to pay such domestic support obligation; and'';

(11) in section 1328(a), in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by inserting '', and in the case of a debtor who is required by a judicial or administrative order, or by statute, to pay a domestic support obligation, after such debtor certifies that all amounts payable under such order or such statute that are due on or before the date of the certification (including amounts due before the petition was filed, but only to the extent provided for by the plan) have been paid'' after ''completion by the debtor of all payments under the plan''.

SEC. 214. EXCEPTIONS TO AUTOMATIC STAY IN DOMESTIC SUPPORT OBLIGATION PROCEEDINGS.

Section 362(b) of title 11, United States Code, is amended by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

''(2) under subsection (a)—

''(A) of the commencement or continuation of a civil action or proceeding—

''(i) for the establishment of paternity;

''(ii) for the establishment or modification of an order for domestic support obligations;

''(iii) concerning child custody or visitation;

''(iv) for the dissolution of a marriage, except to the extent that such proceeding seeks to determine the division of property that is property of the estate; or

''(v) regarding domestic violence;

''(B) of the collection of a domestic support obligation from property that is not property of the estate;

''(C) with respect to the withholding of income that is property of the estate or property of the debtor for payment of a domestic support obligation under a judicial or administrative order or a statute;

''(D) of the withholding, suspension, or restriction of a driver's license, a professional or occupational license, or a recreational license, under State law, as specified in section 466(a)(16) of the Social Security Act;

''(E) of the reporting of overdue support owed by a parent to any consumer reporting agency as specified in section 466(a)(7) of the Social Security Act;

''(F) of the interception of a tax refund, as specified in sections 464 and 466(a)(3) of the Social Security Act or under an analogous State law; or

''(G) of the enforcement of a medical obligation, as specified under title IV of the Social Security Act;''.

SEC. 215. NONDISCHARGEABILITY OF CERTAIN DEBTS FOR ALIMONY, MAINTENANCE, AND SUPPORT.

Section 523 of title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking paragraph (5) and inserting the following:

''(5) for a domestic support obligation;''; and

(B) by striking paragraph (18);

(2) in subsection (c), by striking ''(6), or (15)'' each place it appears and inserting ''or (6)''; and

(3) in paragraph (15), as added by Public Law 103–394 (108 Stat. 4133)—

(A) by inserting ''to a spouse, former spouse, or child of the debtor and'' before ''not of the kind'';

(B) by inserting ''or'' after ''court of record,''; and

(C) by striking ''unless—'' and all that follows through the end of the paragraph and inserting a semicolon.

SEC. 216. CONTINUED LIABILITY OF PROPERTY.

Section 522 of title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (c), by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

''(1) a debt of a kind specified in paragraph (1) or (5) of section 523(a) (in which case, notwithstanding any provision of applicable nonbankruptcy law to the contrary, such property shall be liable for a debt of a kind specified in section 523(a)(5));'';

(2) in subsection (f)(1)(A), by striking the dash and all that follows through the end of the subparagraph and inserting ''of a kind that is specified in section 523(a)(5); or''; and

(3) in subsection (g)(2), by striking ''subsection (f)(2)'' and inserting ''subsection (f)(1)(B)''.

SEC. 217. PROTECTION OF DOMESTIC SUPPORT CLAIMS AGAINST PREFERENTIAL TRANSFER MOTIONS.

Section 547(c)(7) of title 11, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''(7) to the extent such transfer was a bona fide payment of a debt for a domestic support obligation;''.

SEC. 218. DISPOSABLE INCOME DEFINED.

Section 1225(b)(2)(A) of title 11, United States Code, is amended by inserting ''or for a domestic support obligation that first becomes payable after the date of the filing of the petition'' after ''dependent of the debtor''.

SEC. 219. COLLECTION OF CHILD SUPPORT.

(a) DUTIES OF TRUSTEE UNDER CHAPTER 7.—Section 704 of title 11, United States Code, as amended by section 102, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (8), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(B) in paragraph (9), by striking the period and inserting a semicolon; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(10) if with respect to the debtor there is a claim for a domestic support obligation, provide the applicable notice specified in subsection (c); and''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(c)(1) In a case described in subsection (a)(10) to which subsection (a)(10) applies, the trustee shall—

''(A)(i) provide written notice to the holder of the claim described in subsection (a)(10) of such claim and of the right of such holder to use the services of the State child support enforcement agency established under sections 464 and 466 of the Social Security Act for the State in which such holder resides, for assistance in collecting child support during and after the case under this title;

''(ii) include in the notice provided under clause (i) the address and telephone number of such State child support enforcement agency; and

''(iii) include in the notice provided under clause (i) an explanation of the rights of such holder to payment of such claim under this chapter;

''(B)(i) provide written notice to such State child support enforcement agency of such claim; and

''(ii) include in the notice provided under clause (i) the name, address, and telephone number of such holder; and

''(C) at such time as the debtor is granted a discharge under section 727, provide written notice to such holder and to such State child support enforcement agency of—

''(i) the granting of the discharge;

''(ii) the last recent known address of the debtor;

''(iii) the last recent known name and address of the debtor's employer; and

''(iv) the name of each creditor that holds a claim that—

''(I) is not discharged under paragraph (2), (4), or (14A) of section 523(a); or

''(II) was reaffirmed by the debtor under section 524(c).

''(2)(A) The holder of a claim described in subsection (a)(10) or the State child support enforcement agency of the State in which such holder resides may request from a creditor described in paragraph (1)(C)(iv) the last known address of the debtor.

''(B) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a creditor that makes a disclosure of a last known address of a debtor in connection with a request made under subparagraph (A) shall not be liable by reason of making such disclosure.''.

(b) DUTIES OF TRUSTEE UNDER CHAPTER 11.—Section 1106 of title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (6), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(B) in paragraph (7), by striking the period and inserting ''; and''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(8) if with respect to the debtor there is a claim for a domestic support obligation, provide the applicable notice specified in subsection (c).''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(c)(1) In a case described in subsection (a)(8) to which subsection (a)(8) applies, the trustee shall—

''(A)(i) provide written notice to the holder of the claim described in subsection (a)(8) of such claim and of the right of such holder to use the services of the State child support enforcement agency established under sections 464 and 466 of the Social Security Act for the State in which such holder resides, for assistance in collecting child support during and after the case under this title; and

''(ii) include in the notice required by clause (i) the address and telephone number of such State child support enforcement agency;

''(B)(i) provide written notice to such State child support enforcement agency of such claim; and

''(ii) include in the notice required by clause (i) the name, address, and telephone number of such holder; and

''(C) at such time as the debtor is granted a discharge under section 1141, provide written notice to such holder and to such State child support enforcement agency of—

''(i) the granting of the discharge;

''(ii) the last recent known address of the debtor;

''(iii) the last recent known name and address of the debtor's employer; and

''(iv) the name of each creditor that holds a claim that—

''(I) is not discharged under paragraph (2), (4), or (14A) of section 523(a); or

''(II) was reaffirmed by the debtor under section 524(c).

''(2)(A) The holder of a claim described in subsection (a)(8) or the State child enforcement support agency of the State in which such holder resides may request from a creditor described in paragraph (1)(C)(iv) the last known address of the debtor.

''(B) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a creditor that makes a disclosure of a last known address of a debtor in connection with a request made under subparagraph (A) shall not be liable by reason of making such disclosure.''.

(c) DUTIES OF TRUSTEE UNDER CHAPTER 12.—Section 1202 of title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (4), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(B) in paragraph (5), by striking the period and inserting ''; and''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(6) if with respect to the debtor there is a claim for a domestic support obligation, provide the applicable notice specified in subsection (c).''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(c)(1) In a case described in subsection (b)(6) to which subsection (b)(6) applies, the trustee shall—

''(A)(i) provide written notice to the holder of the claim described in subsection (b)(6) of such claim and of the right of such holder to use the services of the State child support enforcement agency established under sections 464 and 466 of the Social Security Act for the State in which such holder resides, for assistance in collecting child support during and after the case under this title; and

''(ii) include in the notice provided under clause (i) the address and telephone number of such State child support enforcement agency;

''(B)(i) provide written notice to such State child support enforcement agency of such claim; and

''(ii) include in the notice provided under clause (i) the name, address, and telephone number of such holder; and

''(C) at such time as the debtor is granted a discharge under section 1228, provide written notice to such holder and to such State child support enforcement agency of—

''(i) the granting of the discharge;

''(ii) the last recent known address of the debtor;

''(iii) the last recent known name and address of the debtor's employer; and

''(iv) the name of each creditor that holds a claim that—

''(I) is not discharged under paragraph (2), (4), or (14A) of section 523(a); or

''(II) was reaffirmed by the debtor under section 524(c).

''(2)(A) The holder of a claim described in subsection (b)(6) or the State child support enforcement agency of the State in which such holder resides may request from a creditor described in paragraph (1)(C)(iv) the last known address of the debtor.

''(B) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a creditor that makes a disclosure of a last known address of a debtor in connection with a request made under subparagraph (A) shall not be liable by reason of making that disclosure.''.

(d) DUTIES OF TRUSTEE UNDER CHAPTER 13.—Section 1302 of title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (4), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(B) in paragraph (5), by striking the period and inserting ''; and''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(6) if with respect to the debtor there is a claim for a domestic support obligation, provide the applicable notice specified in subsection (d).''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(d)(1) In a case described in subsection (b)(6) to which subsection (b)(6) applies, the trustee shall—

''(A)(i) provide written notice to the holder of the claim described in subsection (b)(6) of such claim and of the right of such holder to use the services of the State child support enforcement agency established under sections 464 and 466 of the Social Security Act for the State in which such holder resides, for assistance in collecting child support during and after the case under this title; and

''(ii) include in the notice provided under clause (i) the address and telephone number of such State child support enforcement agency;

''(B)(i) provide written notice to such State child support enforcement agency of such claim; and

''(ii) include in the notice provided under clause (i) the name, address, and telephone number of such holder; and

''(C) at such time as the debtor is granted a discharge under section 1328, provide written notice to such holder and to such State child support enforcement agency of—

''(i) the granting of the discharge;

''(ii) the last recent known address of the debtor;

''(iii) the last recent known name and address of the debtor's employer; and

''(iv) the name of each creditor that holds a claim that—

''(I) is not discharged under paragraph (2) or (4) of section 523(a); or

''(II) was reaffirmed by the debtor under section 524(c).

''(2)(A) The holder of a claim described in subsection (b)(6) or the State child support enforcement agency of the State in which such holder resides may request from a creditor described in paragraph (1)(C)(iv) the last known address of the debtor.

''(B) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a creditor that makes a disclosure of a last known address of a debtor in connection with a request made under subparagraph (A) shall not be liable by reason of making that disclosure.''.

SEC. 220. NONDISCHARGEABILITY OF CERTAIN EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS AND LOANS.

Section 523(a) of title 11, United States Code, is amended by striking paragraph (8) and inserting the following:

''(8) unless excepting such debt from discharge under this paragraph would impose an undue hardship on the debtor and the debtor's dependents, for—

''(A)(i) an educational benefit overpayment or loan made, insured, or guaranteed by a governmental unit, or made under any program funded in whole or in part by a governmental unit or nonprofit institution; or

''(ii) an obligation to repay funds received as an educational benefit, scholarship, or stipend; or

''(B) any other educational loan that is a qualified education loan, as defined in section 221(d)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, incurred by a debtor who is an individual;''.

Subtitle C—Other Consumer Protections

SEC. 221. AMENDMENTS TO DISCOURAGE ABUSIVE BANKRUPTCY FILINGS.

Section 110 of title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1), by striking ''or an employee of an attorney'' and inserting ''for the debtor or an employee of such attorney under the direct supervision of such attorney'';

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by adding at the end the following: ''If a bankruptcy petition preparer is not an individual, then an officer, principal, responsible person, or partner of the bankruptcy petition preparer shall be required to—

''(A) sign the document for filing; and

''(B) print on the document the name and address of that officer, principal, responsible person, or partner.''; and

(B) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

''(2)(A) Before preparing any document for filing or accepting any fees from a debtor, the bankruptcy petition preparer shall provide to the debtor a written notice which shall be on an official form prescribed by the Judicial Conference of the United States in accordance with rule 9009 of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure.

''(B) The notice under subparagraph (A)—

''(i) shall inform the debtor in simple language that a bankruptcy petition preparer is not an attorney and may not practice law or give legal advice;

''(ii) may contain a description of examples of legal advice that a bankruptcy petition preparer is not authorized to give, in addition to any advice that the preparer may not give by reason of subsection (e)(2); and

''(iii) shall—

''(I) be signed by the debtor and, under penalty of perjury, by the bankruptcy petition preparer; and

''(II) be filed with any document for filing.'';

(3) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by striking ''(2) For purposes'' and inserting ''(2)(A) Subject to subparagraph (B), for purposes''; and

(ii) by adding at the end the following:

''(B) If a bankruptcy petition preparer is not an individual, the identifying number of the bankruptcy petition preparer shall be the Social Security account number of the officer, principal, responsible person, or partner of the bankruptcy petition preparer.''; and

(B) by striking paragraph (3);

(4) in subsection (d)—

(A) by striking ''(d)(1)'' and inserting ''(d)''; and

(B) by striking paragraph (2);

(5) in subsection (e)—

(A) by striking paragraph (2); and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(2)(A) A bankruptcy petition preparer may not offer a potential bankruptcy debtor any legal advice, including any legal advice described in subparagraph (B).

''(B) The legal advice referred to in subparagraph (A) includes advising the debtor—

''(i) whether—

''(I) to file a petition under this title; or

''(II) commencing a case under chapter 7, 11, 12, or 13 is appropriate;

''(ii) whether the debtor's debts will be discharged in a case under this title;

''(iii) whether the debtor will be able to retain the debtor's home, car, or other property after commencing a case under this title;

''(iv) concerning—

''(I) the tax consequences of a case brought under this title; or

''(II) the dischargeability of tax claims;

''(v) whether the debtor may or should promise to repay debts to a creditor or enter into a reaffirmation agreement with a creditor to reaffirm a debt;

''(vi) concerning how to characterize the nature of the debtor's interests in property or the debtor's debts; or

''(vii) concerning bankruptcy procedures and rights.'';

(6) in subsection (f)—

(A) by striking ''(f)(1)'' and inserting ''(f)''; and

(B) by striking paragraph (2);

(7) in subsection (g)—

(A) by striking ''(g)(1)'' and inserting ''(g)''; and

(B) by striking paragraph (2);

(8) in subsection (h)—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (4) as paragraphs (2) through (5), respectively;

(B) by inserting before paragraph (2), as so redesignated, the following:

''(1) The Supreme Court may promulgate rules under section 2075 of title 28, or the Judicial Conference of the United States may prescribe guidelines, for setting a maximum allowable fee chargeable by a bankruptcy petition preparer. A bankruptcy petition preparer shall notify the debtor of any such maximum amount before preparing any document for filing for a debtor or accepting any fee from the debtor.'';

(C) in paragraph (2), as so redesignated—

(i) by striking ''Within 10 days after the date of the filing of a petition, a bankruptcy petition preparer shall file a'' and inserting ''A'';

(ii) by inserting ''by the bankruptcy petition preparer shall be filed together with the petition,'' after ''perjury''; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following: ''If rules or guidelines setting a maximum fee for services have been promulgated or prescribed under paragraph (1), the declaration under this paragraph shall include a certification that the bankruptcy petition preparer complied with the notification requirement under paragraph (1).'';

(D) by striking paragraph (3), as so redesignated, and inserting the following:

''(3)(A) The court shall disallow and order the immediate turnover to the bankruptcy trustee any fee referred to in paragraph (2) found to be in excess of the value of any services—

''(i) rendered by the bankruptcy petition preparer during the 12-month period immediately preceding the date of the filing of the petition; or

''(ii) found to be in violation of any rule or guideline promulgated or prescribed under paragraph (1).

''(B) All fees charged by a bankruptcy petition preparer may be forfeited in any case in which the bankruptcy petition preparer fails to comply with this subsection or subsection (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), or (g).

''(C) An individual may exempt any funds recovered under this paragraph under section 522(b).''; and

(E) in paragraph (4), as so redesignated, by striking ''or the United States trustee'' and inserting ''the United States trustee (or the bankruptcy administrator, if any) or the court, on the initiative of the court,'';

(9) in subsection (i)(1), by striking the matter preceding subparagraph (A) and inserting the following:

''(i)(1) If a bankruptcy petition preparer violates this section or commits any act that the court finds to be fraudulent, unfair, or deceptive, on the motion of the debtor, trustee, United States trustee (or the bankruptcy administrator, if any), and after notice and a hearing, the court shall order the bankruptcy petition preparer to pay to the debtor—'';

(10) in subsection (j)—

(A) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)(i)(I), by striking ''a violation of which subjects a person to criminal penalty'';

(ii) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) by striking ''or has not paid a penalty'' and inserting ''has not paid a penalty''; and

(II) by inserting ''or failed to disgorge all fees ordered by the court'' after ''a penalty imposed under this section,'';

(B) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (4); and

(C) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

''(3) The court, as part of its contempt power, may enjoin a bankruptcy petition preparer that has failed to comply with a previous order issued under this section. The injunction under this paragraph may be issued on the motion of the court, the trustee, or the United States trustee (or the bankruptcy administrator, if any).''; and

(11) by adding at the end the following:

''(l)(1) A bankruptcy petition preparer who fails to comply with any provision of subsection (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), or (h) may be fined not more than $500 for each such failure.

''(2) The court shall triple the amount of a fine assessed under paragraph (1) in any case in which the court finds that a bankruptcy petition preparer—

''(A) advised the debtor to exclude assets or income that should have been included on applicable schedules;

''(B) advised the debtor to use a false Social Security account number;

''(C) failed to inform the debtor that the debtor was filing for relief under this title; or

''(D) prepared a document for filing in a manner that failed to disclose the identity of the bankruptcy petition preparer.

''(3) A debtor, trustee, creditor, or United States trustee (or the bankruptcy administrator, if any) may file a motion for an order imposing a fine on the bankruptcy petition preparer for any violation of this section.

''(4)(A) Fines imposed under this subsection in judicial districts served by United States trustees shall be paid to the United States trustee, who shall deposit an amount equal to such fines in a special account of the United States Trustee System Fund referred to in section 586(e)(2) of title 28. Amounts deposited under this subparagraph shall be available to fund the enforcement of this section on a national basis.

''(B) Fines imposed under this subsection in judicial districts served by bankruptcy administrators shall be deposited as offsetting receipts to the fund established under section 1931 of title 28, and shall remain available until expended to reimburse any appropriation for the amount paid out of such appropriation for expenses of the operation and maintenance of the courts of the United States.''.

SEC. 222. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that States should develop curricula relating to the subject of personal finance, designed for use in elementary and secondary schools.

SEC. 223. ADDITIONAL AMENDMENTS TO TITLE 11, UNITED STATES CODE.

Section 507(a) of title 11, United States Code, as amended by section 212, is amended by inserting after paragraph (9) the following:

''(10) Tenth, allowed claims for death or personal injury resulting from the operation of a motor vehicle or vessel if such operation was unlawful because the debtor was intoxicated from using alcohol, a drug, or another substance.''.

SEC. 224. PROTECTION OF RETIREMENT SAVINGS IN BANKRUPTCY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 522 of title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and'';

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

''(C) retirement funds to the extent that those funds are in a fund or account that is exempt from taxation under section 401, 403, 408, 408A, 414, 457, or 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.''; and

(iv) by striking ''(2)(A) any property'' and inserting:

''(3) Property listed in this paragraph is—

''(A) any property'';

(B) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting:

''(2) Property listed in this paragraph is property that is specified under subsection (d), unless the State law that is applicable to the debtor under paragraph (3)(A) specifically does not so authorize.'';

(C) by striking ''(b) Notwithstanding'' and inserting ''(b)(1) Notwithstanding'';

(D) by striking ''paragraph (2)'' each place it appears and inserting ''paragraph (3)'';

(E) by striking ''paragraph (1)'' each place it appears and inserting ''paragraph (2)'';

(F) by striking ''Such property is—''; and

(G) by adding at the end the following:

''(4) For purposes of paragraph (3)(C) and subsection (d)(12), the following shall apply:

''(A) If the retirement funds are in a retirement fund that has received a favorable determination under section 7805 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, and that determination is in effect as of the date of the filing of the petition in a case under this title, those funds shall be presumed to be exempt from the estate.

''(B) If the retirement funds are in a retirement fund that has not received a favorable determination under such section 7805, those funds are exempt from the estate if the debtor demonstrates that—

''(i) no prior determination to the contrary has been made by a court or the Internal Revenue Service; and

''(ii)(I) the retirement fund is in substantial compliance with the applicable requirements of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986; or

''(II) the retirement fund fails to be in substantial compliance with the applicable requirements of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and the debtor is not materially responsible for that failure.

''(C) A direct transfer of retirement funds from 1 fund or account that is exempt from taxation under section 401, 403, 408, 408A, 414, 457, or 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, under section 401(a)(31) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or otherwise, shall not cease to qualify for exemption under paragraph (3)(C) or subsection (d)(12) by reason of such direct transfer.

''(D)(i) Any distribution that qualifies as an eligible rollover distribution within the meaning of section 402(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 or that is described in clause (ii) shall not cease to qualify for exemption under paragraph (3)(C) or subsection (d)(12) by reason of such distribution.

''(ii) A distribution described in this clause is an amount that—

''(I) has been distributed from a fund or account that is exempt from taxation under

section 401, 403, 408, 408A, 414, 457, or 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986; and

''(II) to the extent allowed by law, is deposited in such a fund or account not later than 60 days after the distribution of such amount.''; and

(2) in subsection (d)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking ''subsection (b)(1)'' and inserting ''subsection (b)(2)''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(12) Retirement funds to the extent that those funds are in a fund or account that is exempt from taxation under section 401, 403, 408, 408A, 414, 457, or 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.''.

(b) AUTOMATIC STAY.—Section 362(b) of title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (17), by striking ''or'' at the end;

(2) in paragraph (18), by striking the period and inserting a semicolon; and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (18) the following:

''(19) under subsection (a), of withholding of income from a debtor's wages and collection of amounts withheld, under the debtor's agreement authorizing that withholding and collection for the benefit of a pension, profit-sharing, stock bonus, or other plan established under section 401, 403, 408, 408A, 414, 457, or 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, that is sponsored by the employer of the debtor, or an affiliate, successor, or predecessor of such employer—

''(A) to the extent that the amounts withheld and collected are used solely for payments relating to a loan from a plan under section 408(b)(1) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 or is subject to section 72(p) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986; or

''(B) a loan from a thrift savings plan permitted under subchapter III of chapter 84 of title 5, that satisfies the requirements of section 8433(g) of such title;

but nothing in this paragraph may be construed to provide that any loan made under a governmental plan under section 414(d), or a contract or account under section 403(b), of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 constitutes a claim or a debt under this title;''.

(c) EXCEPTIONS TO DISCHARGE.—Section 523(a) of title 11, United States Code, as amended by section 215, is amended by inserting after paragraph (17) the following:

''(18) owed to a pension, profit-sharing, stock bonus, or other plan established under section 401, 403, 408, 408A, 414, 457, or 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, under—

''(A) a loan permitted under section 408(b)(1) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, or subject to section 72(p) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986; or

''(B) a loan from a thrift savings plan permitted under subchapter III of chapter 84 of title 5, that satisfies the requirements of section 8433(g) of such title;

but nothing in this paragraph may be construed to provide that any loan made under a governmental plan under section 414(d), or a contract or account under section 403(b), of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 constitutes a claim or a debt under this title; or''.

(d) PLAN CONTENTS.—Section 1322 of title 11, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(f) A plan may not materially alter the terms of a loan described in section 362(b)(19) and any amounts required to repay such loan shall not constitute 'disposable income' under section 1325.''.

(e) ASSET LIMITATION.—

(1) LIMITATION.—Section 522 of title 11, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(n) For assets in individual retirement accounts described in section 408 or 408A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, other than a simplified employee pension under section 408(k) of such Code or a simple retirement account under section 408(p) of such Code, the aggregate value of such assets exempted under this section, without regard to amounts attributable to rollover contributions under section 402(c), 402(e)(6), 403(a)(4), 403(a)(5), and 403(b)(8) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, and earnings thereon, shall not exceed $1,000,000 in a case filed by a debtor who is an individual, except that such amount may be increased if the interests of justice so require.''.

(2) ADJUSTMENT OF DOLLAR AMOUNTS.—Paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 104(b) of title 11, United States Code, are amended by inserting ''522(n),'' after ''522(d),''.

SEC. 225. PROTECTION OF EDUCATION SAVINGS IN BANKRUPTCY.

(a) EXCLUSIONS.—Section 541 of title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (4), by striking ''or'' at the end;

(B) by redesignating paragraph (5) as paragraph (9); and

(C) by inserting after paragraph (4) the following:

''(5) funds placed in an education individual retirement account (as defined in section 530(b)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986) not later than 365 days before the date of the filing of the petition in a case under this title, but—

''(A) only if the designated beneficiary of such account was a child, stepchild, grandchild, or stepgrandchild of the debtor for the taxable year for which funds were placed in such account;

''(B) only to the extent that such funds—

''(i) are not pledged or promised to any entity in connection with any extension of credit; and

''(ii) are not excess contributions (as described in section 4973(e) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986); and

''(C) in the case of funds placed in all such accounts having the same designated beneficiary not earlier than 720 days nor later than 365 days before such date, only so much of such funds as does not exceed $5,000;

''(6) funds used to purchase a tuition credit or certificate or contributed to an account in accordance with section 529(b)(1)(A) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 under a qualified State tuition program (as defined in section 529(b)(1) of such Code) not later than 365 days before the date of the filing of the petition in a case under this title, but—

''(A) only if the designated beneficiary of the amounts paid or contributed to such tuition program was a child, stepchild, grandchild, or stepgrandchild of the debtor for the taxable year for which funds were paid or contributed;

''(B) with respect to the aggregate amount paid or contributed to such program having the same designated beneficiary, only so much of such amount as does not exceed the total contributions permitted under section 529(b)(7) of such Code with respect to such beneficiary, as adjusted beginning on the date of the filing of the petition in a case under this title by the annual increase or decrease (rounded to the nearest tenth of 1 percent) in the education expenditure category of the Consumer Price Index prepared by the Department of Labor; and

''(C) in the case of funds paid or contributed to such program having the same designated beneficiary not earlier than 720 days nor later than 365 days before such date, only so much of such funds as does not exceed $5,000;''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(e) In determining whether any of the relationships specified in paragraph (5)(A) or (6)(A) of subsection (b) exists, a legally adopted child of an individual (and a child who is a member of an individual's household, if placed with such individual by an authorized placement agency for legal adoption by such individual), or a foster child of an individual (if such child has as the child's principal place of abode the home of the debtor and is a member of the debtor's household) shall be treated as a child of such individual by blood.''.

(b) DEBTOR'S DUTIES.—Section 521 of title 11, United States Code, as amended by section 106, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(c) In addition to meeting the requirements under subsection (a), a debtor shall file with the court a record of any interest that a debtor has in an education individual retirement account (as defined in section 530(b)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986) or under a qualified State tuition program (as defined in section 529(b)(1) of such Code).''.

SEC. 226. DEFINITIONS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 101 of title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

''(3) 'assisted person' means any person whose debts consist primarily of consumer debts and the value of whose nonexempt property is less than $150,000;'';

(2) by inserting after paragraph (4) the following:

''(4A) 'bankruptcy assistance' means any goods or services sold or otherwise provided to an assisted person with the express or implied purpose of providing information, advice, counsel, document preparation, or filing, or attendance at a creditors' meeting or appearing in a case or proceeding on behalf of another or providing legal representation with respect to a case or proceeding under this title;''; and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (12) the following:

''(12A) 'debt relief agency' means any person who provides any bankruptcy assistance to an assisted person in return for the payment of money or other valuable consideration, or who is a bankruptcy petition preparer under section 110, but does not include—

''(A) any person who is an officer, director, employee, or agent of a person who provides such assistance or of the bankruptcy petition preparer;

''(B) a nonprofit organization that is exempt from taxation under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986;

''(C) a creditor of such assisted person, to the extent that the creditor is assisting such assisted person to restructure any debt owed by such assisted person to the creditor;

''(D) a depository institution (as defined in section 3 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act) or any Federal credit union or State credit union (as those terms are defined in section 101 of the Federal Credit Union Act), or any affiliate or subsidiary of such depository institution or credit union; or

''(E) an author, publisher, distributor, or seller of works subject to copyright protection under title 17, when acting in such capacity.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 104(b) of title 11, United States Code, is amended by inserting ''101(3),'' after ''sections'' each place it appears.

SEC. 227. RESTRICTIONS ON DEBT RELIEF AGENCIES.

(a) ENFORCEMENT.—Subchapter II of chapter 5 of title 11, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"§ 526. Restrictions on debt relief agencies

''(a) A debt relief agency shall not—

''(1) fail to perform any service that such agency informed an assisted person or prospective assisted person it would provide in connection with a case or proceeding under this title;

''(2) make any statement, or counsel or advise any assisted person or prospective assisted person to make a statement in a document filed in a case or proceeding under this title, that is untrue and misleading, or that upon the exercise of reasonable care, should have been known by such agency to be untrue or misleading;

''(3) misrepresent to any assisted person or prospective assisted person, directly or indirectly, affirmatively or by material omission, with respect to—

''(A) the services that such agency will provide to such person; or

''(B) the benefits and risks that may result if such person becomes a debtor in a case under this title; or

''(4) advise an assisted person or prospective assisted person to incur more debt in contemplation of such person filing a case under this title or to pay an attorney or bankruptcy petition preparer fee or charge for services performed as part of preparing for or representing a debtor in a case under this title.

''(b) Any waiver by any assisted person of any protection or right provided under this section shall not be enforceable against the debtor by any Federal or State court or any other person, but may be enforced against a debt relief agency.

''(c)(1) Any contract for bankruptcy assistance between a debt relief agency and an assisted person that does not comply with the material requirements of this section, section 527, or section 528 shall be void and may not be enforced by any Federal or State court or by any other person, other than such assisted person.

''(2) Any debt relief agency shall be liable to an assisted person in the amount of any fees or charges in connection with providing bankruptcy assistance to such person that such debt relief agency has received, for actual damages, and for reasonable attorneys' fees and costs if such agency is found, after notice and a hearing, to have—

''(A) intentionally or negligently failed to comply with any provision of this section, section 527, or section 528 with respect to a case or proceeding under this title for such assisted person;

''(B) provided bankruptcy assistance to an assisted person in a case or proceeding under this title that is dismissed or converted to a case under another chapter of this title because of such agency's intentional or negligent failure to file any required document including those specified in section 521; or

''(C) intentionally or negligently disregarded the material requirements of this title or the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure applicable to such agency.

''(3) In addition to such other remedies as are provided under State law, whenever the chief law enforcement officer of a State, or an official or agency designated by a State, has reason to believe that any person has violated or is violating this section, the State—

''(A) may bring an action to enjoin such violation;

''(B) may bring an action on behalf of its residents to recover the actual damages of assisted persons arising from such violation, including any liability under paragraph (2); and

''(C) in the case of any successful action under subparagraph (A) or (B), shall be awarded the costs of the action and reasonable attorneys' fees as determined by the court.

''(4) The district courts of the United States for districts located in the State shall have concurrent jurisdiction of any action under subparagraph (A) or (B) of paragraph (3).

''(5) Notwithstanding any other provision of Federal law and in addition to any other remedy provided under Federal or State law, if the court, on its own motion or on the motion of the United States trustee or the debtor, finds that a person intentionally violated this section, or engaged in a clear and consistent pattern or practice of violating this section, the court may—

''(A) enjoin the violation of such section; or

''(B) impose an appropriate civil penalty against such person.

''(d) No provision of this section, section 527, or section 528 shall—

''(1) annul, alter, affect, or exempt any person subject to such sections from complying with any law of any State except to the extent that such law is inconsistent with those sections, and then only to the extent of the inconsistency; or

''(2) be deemed to limit or curtail the authority or ability—

''(A) of a State or subdivision or instrumentality thereof, to determine and enforce qualifications for the practice of law under the laws of that State; or

''(B) of a Federal court to determine and enforce the qualifications for the practice of law before that court.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 5 of title 11, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 525, the following:

''526. Restrictions on debt relief agencies.''.

SEC. 228. DISCLOSURES.

(a) DISCLOSURES.—Subchapter II of chapter 5 of title 11, United States Code, as amended by section 227, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"§ 527. Disclosures

''(a) A debt relief agency providing bankruptcy assistance to an assisted person shall provide—

''(1) the written notice required under section 342(b)(1); and

''(2) to the extent not covered in the written notice described in paragraph (1), and not later than 3 business days after the first date on which a debt relief agency first offers to provide any bankruptcy assistance services to an assisted person, a clear and conspicuous written notice advising assisted persons that—

''(A) all information that the assisted person is required to provide with a petition and thereafter during a case under this title is required to be complete, accurate, and truthful;

''(B) all assets and all liabilities are required to be completely and accurately disclosed in the documents filed to commence the case, and the replacement value of each asset as defined in section 506 must be stated in those documents where requested after reasonable inquiry to establish such value;

''(C) current monthly income, the amounts specified in section 707(b)(2), and, in a case under chapter 13 of this title, disposable income (determined in accordance with section 707(b)(2)), are required to be stated after reasonable inquiry; and

''(D) information that an assisted person provides during their case may be audited pursuant to this title, and that failure to provide such information may result in dismissal of the case under this title or other sanction, including a criminal sanction.

''(b) A debt relief agency providing bankruptcy assistance to an assisted person shall provide each assisted person at the same time as the notices required under subsection (a)(1) the following statement, to the extent applicable, or one substantially similar. The statement shall be clear and conspicuous and shall be in a single document separate from other documents or notices provided to the assisted person:

''''IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT BANKRUPTCY ASSISTANCE SERVICES FROM AN ATTORNEY OR BANKRUPTCY PETITION PREPARER.

''''If you decide to seek bankruptcy relief, you can represent yourself, you can hire an attorney to represent you, or you can get help in some localities from a bankruptcy petition preparer who is not an attorney. THE LAW REQUIRES AN ATTORNEY OR BANKRUPTCY PETITION PREPARER TO GIVE YOU A WRITTEN CONTRACT SPECIFYING WHAT THE ATTORNEY OR BANKRUPTCY PETITION PREPARER WILL DO FOR YOU AND HOW MUCH IT WILL COST. Ask to see the contract before you hire anyone.

''''The following information helps you understand what must be done in a routine bankruptcy case to help you evaluate how much service you need. Although bankruptcy can be complex, many cases are routine.

''''Before filing a bankruptcy case, either you or your attorney should analyze your eligibility for different forms of debt relief available under the Bankruptcy Code and which form of relief is most likely to be beneficial for you. Be sure you understand the relief you can obtain and its limitations. To file a bankruptcy case, documents called a Petition, Schedules and Statement of Financial Affairs, as well as in some cases a Statement of Intention need to be prepared correctly and filed with the bankruptcy court. You will have to pay a filing fee to the bankruptcy court. Once your case starts, you will have to attend the required first meeting of creditors where you may be questioned by a court official called a 'trustee' and by creditors.

''''If you choose to file a chapter 7 case, you may be asked by a creditor to reaffirm a debt. You may want help deciding whether to do so. A creditor is not permitted to coerce you into reaffirming your debts.

''''If you choose to file a chapter 13 case in which you repay your creditors what you can afford over 3 to 5 years, you may also want help with preparing your chapter 13 plan and with the confirmation hearing on your plan which will be before a bankruptcy judge.

''''If you select another type of relief under the Bankruptcy Code other than chapter 7 or chapter 13, you will want to find out what should be done from someone familiar with that type of relief.

''''Your bankruptcy case may also involve litigation. You are generally permitted to represent yourself in litigation in bankruptcy court, but only attorneys, not bankruptcy petition preparers, can give you legal advice.'.

''(c) Except to the extent the debt relief agency provides the required information itself after reasonably diligent inquiry of the assisted person or others so as to obtain such information reasonably accurately for inclusion on the petition, schedules or statement of financial affairs, a debt relief agency providing bankruptcy assistance to an assisted person, to the extent permitted by nonbankruptcy law, shall provide each assisted person at the time required for the notice required under subsection (a)(1) reasonably sufficient information (which shall be provided in a clear and conspicuous writing) to the assisted person on how to provide all the information the assisted person is required to provide under this title pursuant to section 521, including—

''(1) how to value assets at replacement value, determine current monthly income, the amounts specified in section 707(b)(2) and, in a chapter 13 case, how to determine disposable income in accordance with section 707(b)(2) and related calculations;

''(2) how to complete the list of creditors, including how to determine what amount is owed and what address for the creditor should be shown; and

''(3) how to determine what property is exempt and how to value exempt property at replacement value as defined in section 506.

''(d) A debt relief agency shall maintain a copy of the notices required under subsection (a) of this section for 2 years after the date on which the notice is given the assisted person.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 5 of title 11, United States Code, as amended by section 227, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 526 the following:

''527. Disclosures.''.

SEC. 229. REQUIREMENTS FOR DEBT RELIEF AGENCIES.

(a) ENFORCEMENT.—Subchapter II of chapter 5 of title 11, United States Code, as amended by sections 227 and 228, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 528. Requirements for debt relief agencies

''(a) A debt relief agency shall—

''(1) not later than 5 business days after the first date on which such agency provides any bankruptcy assistance services to an assisted person, but prior to such assisted person's petition under this title being filed, execute a written contract with such assisted person that explains clearly and conspicuously—

''(A) the services such agency will provide to such assisted person; and

''(B) the fees or charges for such services, and the terms of payment;

''(2) provide the assisted person with a copy of the fully executed and completed contract;

''(3) clearly and conspicuously disclose in any advertisement of bankruptcy assistance services or of the benefits of bankruptcy directed to the general public (whether in general media, seminars or specific mailings, telephonic or electronic messages, or otherwise) that the services or benefits are with respect to bankruptcy relief under this title; and

''(4) clearly and conspicuously use the following statement in such advertisement: 'We are a debt relief agency. We help people file for bankruptcy relief under the Bankruptcy Code.' or a substantially similar statement.

''(b)(1) An advertisement of bankruptcy assistance services or of the benefits of bankruptcy directed to the general public includes—

''(A) descriptions of bankruptcy assistance in connection with a chapter 13 plan whether or not chapter 13 is specifically mentioned in such advertisement; and

''(B) statements such as 'federally supervised repayment plan' or 'Federal debt restructuring help' or other similar statements that could lead a reasonable consumer to believe that debt counseling was being offered when in fact the services were directed to providing bankruptcy assistance with a chapter 13 plan or other form of bankruptcy relief under this title.

''(2) An advertisement, directed to the general public, indicating that the debt relief agency provides assistance with respect to credit defaults, mortgage foreclosures, eviction proceedings, excessive debt, debt collection pressure, or inability to pay any consumer debt shall—

''(A) disclose clearly and conspicuously in such advertisement that the assistance may involve bankruptcy relief under this title; and

''(B) include the following statement: 'We are a debt relief agency. We help people file for bankruptcy relief under the Bankruptcy Code.' or a substantially similar statement.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 5 of title 11, United States Code, as amended by section 227 and 228, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 527, the following:

''528. Requirements for debt relief agencies.''.

SEC. 230. GAO STUDY.

(a) STUDY.—Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study of the feasibility, effectiveness, and cost of requiring trustees appointed under title 11, United States Code, or the bankruptcy courts, to provide to the Office of Child Support Enforcement promptly after the commencement of cases by debtors who are individuals under such title, the names and social security account numbers of such debtors for the purposes of allowing such Office to determine whether such debtors have outstanding obligations for child support (as determined on the basis of information in the Federal Case Registry or other national database).

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 300 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives a report containing the results of the study required by subsection (a).

SEC. 231. PROTECTION OF PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE INFORMATION.

(a) LIMITATION.—Section 363(b)(1) of title 11, United States Code, is amended by striking the period at the end and inserting the following:

'', except that if the debtor in connection with offering a product or a service discloses to an individual a policy prohibiting the transfer of personally identifiable information about individuals to persons that are not affiliated with the debtor and if such policy is in effect on the date of the commencement of the case, then the trustee may not sell or lease personally identifiable information to any person unless—

''(A) such sale or such lease is consistent with such policy; or

''(B) after appointment of a consumer privacy ombudsman in accordance with section 332, and after notice and a hearing, the court approves such sale or such lease—

''(i) giving due consideration to the facts, circumstances, and conditions of such sale or such lease; and

''(ii) finding that no showing was made that such sale or such lease would violate applicable nonbankruptcy law.''.

(b) DEFINITION.—Section 101 of title 11, United States Code, is amended by inserting after paragraph (41) the following:

''(41A) 'personally identifiable information' means—

''(A) if provided by an individual to the debtor in connection with obtaining a product or a service from the debtor primarily for personal, family, or household purposes—

''(i) the first name (or initial) and last name of such individual, whether given at birth or time of adoption, or resulting from a lawful change of name;

''(ii) the geographical address of a physical place of residence of such individual;

''(iii) an electronic address (including an e-mail address) of such individual;

''(iv) a telephone number dedicated to contacting such individual at such physical place of residence;

''(v) a social security account number issued to such individual; or

''(vi) the account number of a credit card issued to such individual; or

''(B) if identified in connection with 1 or more of the items of information specified in subparagraph (A)—

''(i) a birth date, the number of a certificate of birth or adoption, or a place of birth; or

''(ii) any other information concerning an identified individual that, if disclosed, will result in contacting or identifying such individual physically or electronically;''.

SEC. 232. CONSUMER PRIVACY OMBUDSMAN.

(a) CONSUMER PRIVACY OMBUDSMAN.—Title 11 of the United States Code is amended by inserting after section 331 the following:

''§ 332. Consumer privacy ombudsman

''(a) If a hearing is required under section 363(b)(1)(B), the court shall order the United States trustee to appoint, not later than 5 days before the commencement of the hearing, 1 disinterested person (other than the United States trustee) to serve as the consumer privacy ombudsman in the case and shall require that notice of such hearing be timely given to such ombudsman.

''(b) The consumer privacy ombudsman may appear and be heard at such hearing and shall provide to the court information to assist the court in its consideration of the facts, circumstances, and conditions of the proposed sale or lease of personally identifiable information under section 363(b)(1)(B). Such information may include presentation of—

''(1) the debtor's privacy policy;

''(2) the potential losses or gains of privacy to consumers if such sale or such lease is approved by the court;

''(3) the potential costs or benefits to consumers if such sale or such lease is approved by the court; and

''(4) the potential alternatives that would mitigate potential privacy losses or potential costs to consumers.

''(c) A consumer privacy ombudsman shall not disclose any personally identifiable information obtained by the ombudsman under this title.''.

(b) COMPENSATION OF CONSUMER PRIVACY OMBUDSMAN.—Section 330(a)(1) of title 11, United States Code, is amended in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting ''a consumer privacy ombudsman appointed under section 332,'' before ''an examiner''.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for subchapter II of chapter 3 of title 11, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''332. Consumer privacy ombudsman.''.

SEC. 233. PROHIBITION ON DISCLOSURE OF NAME OF MINOR CHILDREN.

(a) PROHIBITION.—Title 11 of the United States Code, as amended by section 106, is amended by inserting after section 111 the following:

''§ 112. Prohibition on disclosure of name of minor children

''The debtor may be required to provide information regarding a minor child involved in matters under this title but may not be required to disclose in the public records in the case the name of such minor child. The debtor may be required to disclose the name of such minor child in a nonpublic record that is maintained by the court and made available by the court for examination by the United States trustee, the trustee, and the auditor (if any) serving under section 586(f) of title 28, in the case. The court, the United States trustee, the trustee, and such auditor shall not disclose the name of such minor child maintained in such nonpublic record.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 1 of title 11, United States Code, as amended by section 106, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 111 the following:

''112. Prohibition on disclosure of name of minor children.''.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 107(a) of title 11, United States Code, is amended by inserting ''and subject to section 112'' after ''section''.

TITLE III —DISCOURAGING BANKRUPTCY ABUSE

SEC. 301. TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.

Section 523(a)(17) of title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking ''by a court'' and inserting ''on a prisoner by any court'';

(2) by striking ''section 1915(b) or (f)'' and inserting ''subsection (b) or (f)(2) of section 1915''; and

(3) by inserting ''(or a similar non-Federal law)'' after ''title 28'' each place it appears.

SEC. 302. DISCOURAGING BAD FAITH REPEAT FILINGS.

Section 362(c) of title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(3) if a single or joint case is filed by or against debtor who is an individual in a case under chapter 7, 11, or 13, and if a single or joint case of the debtor was pending within the preceding 1-year period but was dismissed, other than a case refiled under a chapter other than chapter 7 after dismissal under section 707(b)—

''(A) the stay under subsection (a) with respect to any action taken with respect to a debt or property securing such debt or with respect to any lease shall terminate with respect to the debtor on the 30th day after the filing of the later case;

''(B) on the motion of a party in interest for continuation of the automatic stay and upon notice and a hearing, the court may extend the stay in particular cases as to any or all creditors (subject to such conditions or limitations as the court may then impose) after notice and a hearing completed before the expiration of the 30-day period only if the party in interest demonstrates that the filing of the later case is in good faith as to the creditors to be stayed; and

''(C) for purposes of subparagraph (B), a case is presumptively filed not in good faith (but such presumption may be rebutted by clear and convincing evidence to the contrary)—

''(i) as to all creditors, if—

''(I) more than 1 previous case under any of chapters 7, 11, and 13 in which the individual was a debtor was pending within the preceding 1-year period;

''(II) a previous case under any of chapters 7, 11, and 13 in which the individual was a debtor was dismissed within such 1-year period, after the debtor failed to—

''(aa) file or amend the petition or other documents as required by this title or the court without substantial excuse (but mere inadvertence or negligence shall not be a substantial excuse unless the dismissal was caused by the negligence of the debtor's attorney);

''(bb) provide adequate protection as ordered by the court; or

''(cc) perform the terms of a plan confirmed by the court; or

''(III) there has not been a substantial change in the financial or personal affairs of the debtor since the dismissal of the next most previous case under chapter 7, 11, or 13 or any other reason to conclude that the later case will be concluded—

''(aa) if a case under chapter 7, with a discharge; or

''(bb) if a case under chapter 11 or 13, with a confirmed plan that will be fully performed; and

''(ii) as to any creditor that commenced an action under subsection (d) in a previous case in which the individual was a debtor if, as of the date of dismissal of such case, that action was still pending or had been resolved by terminating, conditioning, or limiting the stay as to actions of such creditor; and

''(4)(A)(i) if a single or joint case is filed by or against a debtor who is an individual under this title, and if 2 or more single or joint cases of the debtor were pending within the previous year but were dismissed, other than a case refiled under section 707(b), the stay under subsection (a) shall not go into effect upon the filing of the later case; and

''(ii) on request of a party in interest, the court shall promptly enter an order confirming that no stay is in effect;

''(B) if, within 30 days after the filing of the later case, a party in interest requests the court may order the stay to take effect in the case as to any or all creditors (subject to such conditions or limitations as the court may impose), after notice and a hearing, only if the party in interest demonstrates that the filing of the later case is in good faith as to the creditors to be stayed;

''(C) a stay imposed under subparagraph (B) shall be effective on the date of the entry of the order allowing the stay to go into effect; and

''(D) for purposes of subparagraph (B), a case is presumptively filed not in good faith (but such presumption may be rebutted by clear and convincing evidence to the contrary)—

''(i) as to all creditors if—

''(I) 2 or more previous cases under this title in which the individual was a debtor were pending within the 1-year period;

''(II) a previous case under this title in which the individual was a debtor was dismissed within the time period stated in this paragraph after the debtor failed to file or amend the petition or other documents as required by this title or the court without substantial excuse (but mere inadvertence or negligence shall not be substantial excuse unless the dismissal was caused by the negligence of the debtor's attorney), failed to provide adequate protection as ordered by the court, or failed to perform the terms of a plan confirmed by the court; or

''(III) there has not been a substantial change in the financial or personal affairs of the debtor since the dismissal of the next most previous case under this title, or any other reason to conclude that the later case will not be concluded, if a case under chapter 7, with a discharge, and if a case under chapter 11 or 13, with a confirmed plan that will be fully performed; or

''(ii) as to any creditor that commenced an action under subsection (d) in a previous case in which the individual was a debtor if, as of the date of dismissal of such case, such action was still pending or had been resolved by terminating, conditioning, or limiting the stay as to such action of such creditor.''.

SEC. 303. CURBING ABUSIVE FILINGS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 362(d) of title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2), by striking ''or'' at the end;

(2) in paragraph (3), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; or''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(4) with respect to a stay of an act against real property under subsection (a), by a creditor whose claim is secured by an interest in such real property, if the court finds that the filing of the petition was part of a scheme to delay, hinder, and defraud creditors that involved either—

''(A) transfer of all or part ownership of, or other interest in, such real property without the consent of the secured creditor or court approval; or

''(B) multiple bankruptcy filings affecting such real property.

If recorded in compliance with applicable State laws governing notices of interests or liens in real property, an order entered under paragraph (4) shall be binding in any other case under this title purporting to affect such real property filed not later than 2 years after the date of the entry of such order by the court, except that a debtor in a subsequent case under this title may move for relief from such order based upon changed circumstances or for good cause shown, after notice and a hearing. Any Federal, State, or local governmental unit that accepts notices of interests or liens in real property shall accept any certified copy of an order described in this subsection for indexing and recording.''.

(b) AUTOMATIC STAY.—Section 362(b) of title 11, United States Code, as amended by section 224, is amended by inserting after paragraph (19), the following:

''(20) under subsection (a), of any act to enforce any lien against or security interest in real property following entry of the order under subsection (d)(4) as to such real property in any prior case under this title, for a period of 2 years after the date of the entry of such an order, except that the debtor, in a subsequent case under this title, may move for relief from such order based upon changed circumstances or for other good cause shown, after notice and a hearing;

''(21) under subsection (a), of any act to enforce any lien against or security interest in real property—

''(A) if the debtor is ineligible under section 109(g) to be a debtor in a case under this title; or

''(B) if the case under this title was filed in violation of a bankruptcy court order in a prior case under this title prohibiting the debtor from being a debtor in another case under this title;''.

SEC. 304. DEBTOR RETENTION OF PERSONAL PROPERTY SECURITY.

Title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in section 521(a), as so designated by section 106—

(A) in paragraph (4), by striking '', and'' at the end and inserting a semicolon;

(B) in paragraph (5), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(6) in a case under chapter 7 of this title in which the debtor is an individual, not retain possession of personal property as to which a creditor has an allowed claim for the purchase price secured in whole or in part by an interest in such personal property unless the debtor, not later than 45 days after the first meeting of creditors under section 341(a), either—

''(A) enters into an agreement with the creditor pursuant to section 524(c) with respect to the claim secured by such property; or

''(B) redeems such property from the security interest pursuant to section 722.

If the debtor fails to so act within the 45-day period referred to in paragraph (6), the stay under section 362(a) is terminated with respect to the personal property of the estate or of the debtor which is affected, such property shall no longer be property of the estate, and the creditor may take whatever action as to such property as is permitted by applicable nonbankruptcy law, unless the court determines on the motion of the trustee filed before the expiration of such 45-day period, and after notice and a hearing, that such property is of consequential value or benefit to the estate, orders appropriate adequate protection of the creditor's interest, and orders the debtor to deliver any collateral in the debtor's possession to the trustee.''; and

(2) in section 722, by inserting ''in full at the time of redemption'' before the period at the end.

SEC. 305. RELIEF FROM THE AUTOMATIC STAY WHEN THE DEBTOR DOES NOT COMPLETE INTENDED SURRENDER OF CONSUMER DEBT COLLATERAL.

Title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in section 362, as amended by section 106—

(A) in subsection (c), by striking ''(e), and (f)'' and inserting ''(e), (f), and (h)'';

(B) by redesignating subsection (h) as subsection (k) and transferring such subsection so as to insert it after subsection (j) as added by section 106; and

(C) by inserting after subsection (g) the following:

''(h)(1) In a case in which the debtor is an individual, the stay provided by subsection (a) is terminated with respect to personal property of the estate or of the debtor securing in whole or in part a claim, or subject to an unexpired lease, and such personal property shall no longer be property of the estate if the debtor fails within the applicable time set by section 521(a)(2)—

''(A) to file timely any statement of intention required under section 521(a)(2) with respect to such personal property or to indicate in such statement that the debtor will either surrender such personal property or retain it and, if retaining such personal property, either redeem such personal property pursuant to section 722, enter into an agreement of the kind specified in section 524(c) applicable to the debt secured by such personal property, or assume such unexpired lease pursuant to section 365(p) if the trustee does not do so, as applicable; and

''(B) to take timely the action specified in such statement, as it may be amended before expiration of the period for taking action, unless such statement specifies the debtor's intention to reaffirm such debt on the original contract terms and the creditor refuses to agree to the reaffirmation on such terms.

''(2) Paragraph (1) does not apply if the court determines, on the motion of the trustee filed before the expiration of the applicable time set by section 521(a)(2), after notice and a hearing, that such personal property is of consequential value or benefit to the estate, and orders appropriate adequate protection of the creditor's interest, and orders the debtor to deliver any collateral in the debtor's possession to the trustee. If the court does not so determine, the stay provided by subsection (a) shall terminate upon the conclusion of the hearing on the motion.''; and

(2) in section 521, as amended by sections 106 and 225—

(A) in subsection (a)(2) by striking ''consumer'';

(B) in subsection (a)(2)(B)—

(i) by striking ''forty-five days after the filing of a notice of intent under this section'' and inserting ''30 days after the first date set for the meeting of creditors under section 341(a)''; and

(ii) by striking ''forty-five day'' and inserting ''30-day'';

(C) in subsection (a)(2)(C) by inserting '', except as provided in section 362(h)'' before the semicolon; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

''(d) If the debtor fails timely to take the action specified in subsection (a)(6) of this section, or in paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 362(h), with respect to property which a lessor or bailor owns and has leased, rented, or bailed to the debtor or as to which a creditor holds a security interest not otherwise voidable under section 522(f), 544, 545, 547, 548, or 549, nothing in this title shall prevent or limit the operation of a provision in the underlying lease or agreement that has the effect of placing the debtor in default under such lease or agreement by reason of the occurrence, pendency, or existence of a proceeding under this title or the insolvency of the debtor. Nothing in this subsection shall be deemed to justify limiting such a provision in any other circumstance.''.

SEC. 306. GIVING SECURED CREDITORS FAIR TREATMENT IN CHAPTER 13.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1325(a)(5)(B)(i) of title 11, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''(i) the plan provides that—

''(I) the holder of such claim retain the lien securing such claim until the earlier of—

''(aa) the payment of the underlying debt determined under nonbankruptcy law; or

''(bb) discharge under section 1328; and

''(II) if the case under this chapter is dismissed or converted without completion of the plan, such lien shall also be retained by such holder to the extent recognized by applicable nonbankruptcy law; and''.

(b) RESTORING THE FOUNDATION FOR SECURED CREDIT.—Section 1325(a) of title 11, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''For purposes of paragraph (5), section 506 shall not apply to a claim described in that paragraph if the creditor has a purchase money security interest securing the debt that is the subject of the claim, the debt was incurred within the 910-day preceding the date of the filing of the petition, and the collateral for that debt consists of a motor vehicle (as defined in section 30102 of title 49) acquired for the personal use of the debtor, or if collateral for that debt consists of any other thing of value, if the debt was incurred during the 1-year period preceding that filing.''.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—Section 101 of title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by inserting after paragraph (13) the following:

''(13A) 'debtor's principal residence'—

''(A) means a residential structure, including incidental property, without regard to whether that structure is attached to real property; and

''(B) includes an individual condominium or cooperative unit, a mobile or manufactured home, or trailer;''; and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (27), the following:

''(27A) 'incidental property' means, with respect to a debtor's principal residence—

''(A) property commonly conveyed with a principal residence in the area where the real property is located;

''(B) all easements, rights, appurtenances, fixtures, rents, royalties, mineral rights, oil or gas rights or profits, water rights, escrow funds, or insurance proceeds; and

''(C) all replacements or additions;''.

SEC. 307. DOMICILIARY REQUIREMENTS FOR EXEMPTIONS.

Section 522(b)(3) of title 11, United States Code, as so designated by section 106, is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A)—

(A) by striking ''180 days'' and inserting ''730 days''; and

(B) by striking '', or for a longer portion of such 180-day period than in any other place'' and inserting ''or if the debtor's domicile has not been located at a single State for such 730-day period, the place in which the debtor's domicile was located for 180 days immediately preceding the 730-day period or for a longer portion of such 180-day period than in any other place''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''If the effect of the domiciliary requirement under subparagraph (A) is to render the debtor ineligible for any exemption, the debtor may elect to exempt property that is specified under subsection (d).''.

SEC. 308. REDUCTION OF HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION FOR FRAUD.

Section 522 of title 11, United States Code, as amended by section 224, is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(3)(A), as so designated by this Act, by inserting ''subject to subsections (o) and (p),'' before ''any property''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(o) For purposes of subsection (b)(3)(A), and notwithstanding subsection (a), the value of an interest in—

''(1) real or personal property that the debtor or a dependent of the debtor uses as a residence;

''(2) a cooperative that owns property that the debtor or a dependent of the debtor uses as a residence;

''(3) a burial plot for the debtor or a dependent of the debtor; or

''(4) real or personal property that the debtor or a dependent of the debtor claims as a homestead;

shall be reduced to the extent that such value is attributable to any portion of any property that the debtor disposed of in the 10-year period ending on the date of the filing of the petition with the intent to hinder, delay, or defraud a creditor and that the debtor could not exempt, or that portion that the debtor could not exempt, under subsection (b), if on such date the debtor had held the property so disposed of.''.

SEC. 309. PROTECTING SECURED CREDITORS IN CHAPTER 13 CASES.

(a) STOPPING ABUSIVE CONVERSIONS FROM CHAPTER 13.—Section 348(f)(1) of title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (B)—

(A) by striking ''in the converted case, with allowed secured claims'' and inserting ''only in a case converted to a case under chapter 11 or 12, but not in a case converted to a case under chapter 7, with allowed secured claims in cases under chapters 11 and 12''; and

(B) by striking the period and inserting ''; and''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(C) with respect to cases converted from chapter 13—

''(i) the claim of any creditor holding security as of the date of the petition shall continue to be secured by that security unless the full amount of such claim determined under applicable nonbankruptcy law has been paid in full as of the date of conversion, notwithstanding any valuation or determination of the amount of an allowed secured claim made for the purposes of the case under chapter 13; and

''(ii) unless a prebankruptcy default has been fully cured under the plan at the time of conversion, in any proceeding under this title or otherwise, the default shall have the effect given under applicable nonbankruptcy law.''.

(b) GIVING DEBTORS THE ABILITY TO KEEP LEASED PERSONAL PROPERTY BY ASSUMPTION.—Section 365 of title 11, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(p)(1) If a lease of personal property is rejected or not timely assumed by the trustee under subsection (d), the leased property is no longer property of the estate and the stay under section 362(a) is automatically terminated.

''(2)(A) If the debtor in a case under chapter 7 is an individual, the debtor may notify the creditor in writing that the debtor desires to assume the lease. Upon being so notified, the creditor may, at its option, notify the debtor that it is willing to have the lease assumed by the debtor and may condition

such assumption on cure of any outstanding default on terms set by the contract.

''(B) If, not later than 30 days after notice is provided under subparagraph (A), the debtor notifies the lessor in writing that the lease is assumed, the liability under the lease will be assumed by the debtor and not by the estate.

''(C) The stay under section 362 and the injunction under section 524(a)(2) shall not be violated by notification of the debtor and negotiation of cure under this subsection.

''(3) In a case under chapter 11 in which the debtor is an individual and in a case under chapter 13, if the debtor is the lessee with respect to personal property and the lease is not assumed in the plan confirmed by the court, the lease is deemed rejected as of the conclusion of the hearing on confirmation. If the lease is rejected, the stay under section 362 and any stay under section 1301 is automatically terminated with respect to the property subject to the lease.''.

(c) ADEQUATE PROTECTION OF LESSORS AND PURCHASE MONEY SECURED CREDITORS.—

(1) CONFIRMATION OF PLAN.—Section 1325(a)(5)(B) of title 11, United States Code, as amended by section 306, is amended—

(A) in clause (i), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(B) in clause (ii), by striking ''or'' at the end and inserting ''and''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(iii) if—

''(I) property to be distributed pursuant to this subsection is in the form of periodic payments, such payments shall be in equal monthly amounts; and

''(II) the holder of the claim is secured by personal property, the amount of such payments shall not be less than an amount sufficient to provide to the holder of such claim adequate protection during the period of the plan; or''.

(2) PAYMENTS.—Section 1326(a) of title 11, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''(a)(1) Unless the court orders otherwise, the debtor shall commence making payments not later than 30 days after the date of the filing of the plan or the order for relief, whichever is earlier, in the amount—

''(A) proposed by the plan to the trustee;

''(B) scheduled in a lease of personal property directly to the lessor for that portion of the obligation that becomes due after the order for relief, reducing the payments under subparagraph (A) by the amount so paid and providing the trustee with evidence of such payment, including the amount and date of payment; and

''(C) that provides adequate protection directly to a creditor holding an allowed claim secured by personal property to the extent the claim is attributable to the purchase of such property by the debtor for that portion of the obligation that becomes due after the order for relief, reducing the payments under subparagraph (A) by the amount so paid and providing the trustee with evidence of such payment, including the amount and date of payment.

''(2) A payment made under paragraph (1)(A) shall be retained by the trustee until confirmation or denial of confirmation. If a plan is confirmed, the trustee shall distribute any such payment in accordance with the plan as soon as is practicable. If a plan is not confirmed, the trustee shall return any such payments not previously paid and not yet due and owing to creditors pursuant to paragraph (3) to the debtor, after deducting any unpaid claim allowed under section 503(b).

''(3) Subject to section 363, the court may, upon notice and a hearing, modify, increase, or reduce the payments required under this subsection pending confirmation of a plan.

''(4) Not later than 60 days after the date of filing of a case under this chapter, a debtor retaining possession of personal property subject to a lease or securing a claim attributable in whole or in part to the purchase price of such property shall provide the lessor or secured creditor reasonable evidence of the maintenance of any required insurance coverage with respect to the use or ownership of such property and continue to do so for so long as the debtor retains possession of such property.''.

SEC. 310. LIMITATION ON LUXURY GOODS.

Section 523(a)(2)(C) of title 11, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''(C)(i) for purposes of subparagraph (A)—

''(I) consumer debts owed to a single creditor and aggregating more than $500 for luxury goods or services incurred by an individual debtor on or within 90 days before the order for relief under this title are presumed to be nondischargeable; and

''(II) cash advances aggregating more than $750 that are extensions of consumer credit under an open end credit plan obtained by an individual debtor on or within 70 days before the order for relief under this title, are presumed to be nondischargeable; and

''(ii) for purposes of this subparagraph—

''(I) the terms 'consumer', 'credit', and 'open end credit plan' have the same meanings as in section 103 of the Truth in Lending Act; and

''(II) the term 'luxury goods or services' does not include goods or services reasonably necessary for the support or maintenance of the debtor or a dependent of the debtor.''.

SEC. 311. AUTOMATIC STAY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 362(b) of title 11, United States Code, as amended by sections 224 and 303, is amended by inserting after paragraph (21), the following:

''(22) subject to subsection (l), under subsection (a)(3), of the continuation of any eviction, unlawful detainer action, or similar proceeding by a lessor against a debtor involving residential property in which the debtor resides as a tenant under a lease or rental agreement and with respect to which the lessor has obtained before the date of the filing of the bankruptcy petition, a judgment for possession of such property against the debtor;

''(23) subject to subsection (m), under subsection (a)(3), of an eviction action that seeks possession of the residential property in which the debtor resides as a tenant under a lease or rental agreement based on endangerment of such property or the illegal use of controlled substances on such property, but only if the lessor files with the court, and serves upon the debtor, a certification under penalty of perjury that such an eviction action has been filed, or that the debtor, during the 30-day period preceding the date of the filing of the certification, has endangered property or illegally used or allowed to be used a controlled substance on the property;

''(24) under subsection (a), of any transfer that is not avoidable under section 544 and that is not avoidable under section 549;''.

(b) LIMITATIONS.—Section 362 of title 11, United States Code, as amended by sections 106 and 305, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(l)(1) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, subsection (b)(22) shall apply on the date that is 30 days after the date on which the bankruptcy petition is filed, if the debtor files with the petition and serves upon the lessor a certification under penalty of perjury that—

''(A) under nonbankruptcy law applicable in the jurisdiction, there are circumstances under which the debtor would be permitted to cure the entire monetary default that gave rise to the judgment for possession, after that judgment for possession was entered; and

''(B) the debtor (or an adult dependent of the debtor) has deposited with the clerk of the court, any rent that would become due during the 30-day period after the filing of the bankruptcy petition.

''(2) If, within the 30-day period after the filing of the bankruptcy petition, the debtor (or an adult dependent of the debtor) complies with paragraph (1) and files with the court and serves upon the lessor a further certification under penalty of perjury that the debtor (or an adult dependent of the debtor) has cured, under nonbankrupcty law applicable in the jurisdiction, the entire monetary default that gave rise to the judgment under which possession is sought by the lessor, subsection (b)(22) shall not apply, unless ordered to apply by the court under paragraph (3).

''(3)(A) If the lessor files an objection to any certification filed by the debtor under paragraph (1) or (2), and serves such objection upon the debtor, the court shall hold a hearing within 10 days after the filing and service of such objection to determine if the certification filed by the debtor under paragraph (1) or (2) is true.

''(B) If the court upholds the objection of the lessor filed under subparagraph (A)—

''(i) subsection (b)(22) shall apply immediately and relief from the stay provided under subsection (a)(3) shall not be required to enable the lessor to complete the process to recover full possession of the property; and

''(ii) the clerk of the court shall immediately serve upon the lessor and the debtor a certified copy of the court's order upholding the lessor's objection.

''(4) If a debtor, in accordance with paragraph (5), indicates on the petition that there was a judgment for possession of the residential rental property in which the debtor resides and does not file a certification under paragraph (1) or (2)—

''(A) subsection (b)(22) shall apply immediately upon failure to file such certification, and relief from the stay provided under subsection (a)(3) shall not be required to enable the lessor to complete the process to recover full possession of the property; and

''(B) the clerk of the court shall immediately serve upon the lessor and the debtor a certified copy of the docket indicating the absence of a filed certification and the applicability of the exception to the stay under subsection (b)(22).

''(5)(A) Where a judgment for possession of residential property in which the debtor resides as a tenant under a lease or rental agreement has been obtained by the lessor, the debtor shall so indicate on the bankruptcy petition and shall provide the name and address of the lessor that obtained that pre-petition judgment on the petition and on any certification filed under this subsection.

''(B) The form of certification filed with the petition, as specified in this subsection, shall provide for the debtor to certify, and the debtor shall certify—

''(i) whether a judgment for possession of residential rental housing in which the debtor resides has been obtained against the debtor before the date of the filing of the petition; and

''(ii) whether the debtor is claiming under paragraph (1) that under nonbankruptcy law applicable in the jurisdiction, there are circumstances under which the debtor would be permitted to cure the entire monetary default that gave rise to the judgment for possession, after that judgment of possession was entered, and has made the appropriate deposit with the court.

''(C) The standard forms (electronic and otherwise) used in a bankruptcy proceeding shall be amended to reflect the requirements of this subsection.

''(D) The clerk of the court shall arrange for the prompt transmittal of the rent deposited in accordance with paragraph (1)(B) to the lessor.

''(m)(1) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, subsection (b)(23) shall apply on the date that is 15 days after the date on which the lessor files and serves a certification described in subsection (b)(23).

''(2)(A) If the debtor files with the court an objection to the truth or legal sufficiency of the certification described in subsection (b)(23) and serves such objection upon the lessor, subsection (b)(23) shall not apply, unless ordered to apply by the court under this subsection.

''(B) If the debtor files and serves the objection under subparagraph (A), the court shall hold a hearing within 10 days after the filing and service of such objection to determine if the situation giving rise to the lessor's certification under paragraph (1) existed or has been remedied.

''(C) If the debtor can demonstrate to the satisfaction of the court that the situation giving rise to the lessor's certification under paragraph (1) did not exist or has been remedied, the stay provided under subsection (a)(3) shall remain in effect until the termination of the stay under this section.

''(D) If the debtor cannot demonstrate to the satisfaction of the court that the situation giving rise to the lessor's certification under paragraph (1) did not exist or has been remedied—

''(i) relief from the stay provided under subsection (a)(3) shall not be required to enable the lessor to proceed with the eviction; and

''(ii) the clerk of the court shall immediately serve upon the lessor and the debtor a certified copy of the court's order upholding the lessor's certification.

''(3) If the debtor fails to file, within 15 days, an objection under paragraph (2)(A)—

''(A) subsection (b)(23) shall apply immediately upon such failure and relief from the stay provided under subsection (a)(3) shall not be required to enable the lessor to complete the process to recover full possession of the property; and

''(B) the clerk of the court shall immediately serve upon the lessor and the debtor a certified copy of the docket indicating such failure.''.

SEC. 312. EXTENSION OF PERIOD BETWEEN BANKRUPTCY DISCHARGES.

Title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in section 727(a)(8), by striking ''six'' and inserting ''8''; and

(2) in section 1328, by inserting after subsection (e) the following:

''(f) Notwithstanding subsections (a) and (b), the court shall not grant a discharge of all debts provided for in the plan or disallowed under section 502, if the debtor has received a discharge—

''(1) in a case filed under chapter 7, 11, or 12 of this title during the 4-year period preceding the date of the order for relief under this chapter, or

''(2) in a case filed under chapter 13 of this title during the 2-year period preceding the date of such order.''.

SEC. 313. DEFINITION OF HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND ANTIQUES.

(a) DEFINITION.—Section 522(f) of title 11, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(4)(A) Subject to subparagraph (B), for purposes of paragraph (1)(B), the term 'household goods' means—

''(i) clothing;

''(ii) furniture;

''(iii) appliances;

''(iv) 1 radio;

''(v) 1 television;

''(vi) 1 VCR;

''(vii) linens;

''(viii) china;

''(ix) crockery;

''(x) kitchenware;

''(xi) educational materials and educational equipment primarily for the use of minor dependent children of the debtor;

''(xii) medical equipment and supplies;

''(xiii) furniture exclusively for the use of minor children, or elderly or disabled dependents of the debtor;

''(xiv) personal effects (including the toys and hobby equipment of minor dependent children and wedding rings) of the debtor and the dependents of the debtor; and

''(xv) 1 personal computer and related equipment.

''(B) The term 'household goods' does not include—

''(i) works of art (unless by or of the debtor, or any relative of the debtor);

''(ii) electronic entertainment equipment with a fair market value of more than $500 in the aggregate (except 1 television, 1 radio, and 1 VCR);

''(iii) items acquired as antiques with a fair market value of more than $500 in the aggregate;

''(iv) jewelry with a fair market value of more than $500 in the aggregate (except wedding rings); and

''(v) a computer (except as otherwise provided for in this section), motor vehicle (including a tractor or lawn tractor), boat, or a motorized recreational device, conveyance, vehicle, watercraft, or aircraft.''.

(b) STUDY.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Executive Office for United States Trustees shall submit a report to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives containing its findings regarding utilization of the definition of household goods, as defined in section 522(f)(4) of title 11, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), with respect to the avoidance of nonpossessory, nonpurchase money security interests in household goods under section 522(f)(1)(B) of title 11, United States Code, and the impact such section 522(f)(4) has had on debtors and on the bankruptcy courts. Such report may include recommendations for amendments to such section 522(f)(4) consistent with the Director's findings.

SEC. 314. DEBT INCURRED TO PAY NONDISCHARGEABLE DEBTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 523(a) of title 11, United States Code, is amended by inserting after paragraph (14) the following:

''(14A) incurred to pay a tax to a governmental unit, other than the United States, that would be nondischargeable under paragraph (1);''.

(b) DISCHARGE UNDER CHAPTER 13.—Section 1328(a) of title 11, United States Code, is amended by striking paragraphs (1) through (3) and inserting the following:

''(1) provided for under section 1322(b)(5);

''(2) of the kind specified in paragraph (2), (3), (4), (5), (8), or (9) of section 523(a);

''(3) for restitution, or a criminal fine, included in a sentence on the debtor's conviction of a crime; or

''(4) for restitution, or damages, awarded in a civil action against the debtor as a result of willful or malicious injury by the debtor that caused personal injury to an individual or the death of an individual.''.

SEC. 315. GIVING CREDITORS FAIR NOTICE IN CHAPTERS 7 AND 13 CASES.

(a) NOTICE.—Section 342 of title 11, United States Code, as amended by section 102, is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)—

(A) by inserting ''(1)'' after ''(c)'';

(B) by striking '', but the failure of such notice to contain such information shall not invalidate the legal effect of such notice''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(2)(A) If, within the 90 days before the commencement of a voluntary case, a creditor supplies the debtor in at least 2 communications sent to the debtor with the current account number of the debtor and the address at which such creditor requests to receive correspondence, then any notice required by this title to be sent by the debtor to such creditor shall be sent to such address and shall include such account number.

''(B) If a creditor would be in violation of applicable nonbankruptcy law by sending any such communication within such 90-day period and if such creditor supplies the debtor in the last 2 communications with the current account number of the debtor and the address at which such creditor requests to receive correspondence, then any notice required by this title to be sent by the debtor to such creditor shall be sent to such address and shall include such account number.''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(e)(1) In a case under chapter 7 or 13 of this title of a debtor who is an individual, a creditor at any time may both file with the court and serve on the debtor a notice of address to be used to provide notice in such case to such creditor.

''(2) Any notice in such case required to be provided to such creditor by the debtor or the court later than 5 days after the court and the debtor receive such creditor's notice of address, shall be provided to such address.

''(f)(1) An entity may file with any bankruptcy court a notice of address to be used by all the bankruptcy courts or by particular bankruptcy courts, as so specified by such entity at the time such notice is filed, to provide notice to such entity in all cases under chapters 7 and 13 pending in the courts with respect to which such notice is filed, in which such entity is a creditor.

''(2) In any case filed under chapter 7 or 13, any notice required to be provided by a court with respect to which a notice is filed under paragraph (1), to such entity later than 30 days after the filing of such notice under paragraph (1) shall be provided to such address unless with respect to a particular case a different address is specified in a notice filed and served in accordance with subsection (e).

''(3) A notice filed under paragraph (1) may be withdrawn by such entity.

''(g)(1) Notice provided to a creditor by the debtor or the court other than in accordance with this section (excluding this subsection) shall not be effective notice until such notice is brought to the attention of such creditor. If such creditor designates a person or an organizational subdivision of such creditor to be responsible for receiving notices under this title and establishes reasonable procedures so that such notices receivable by such creditor are to be delivered to such person or such subdivision, then a notice provided to such creditor other than in accordance with this section (excluding this subsection) shall not be considered to have been brought to the attention of such creditor until such notice is received by such person or such subdivision.

''(2) A monetary penalty may not be imposed on a creditor for a violation of a stay in effect under section 362(a) (including a monetary penalty imposed under section 362(k)) or for failure to comply with section 542 or 543 unless the conduct that is the basis of such violation or of such failure occurs after such creditor receives notice effective under this section of the order for relief.''.

(b) DEBTOR'S DUTIES.—Section 521 of title 11, United States Code, as amended by sections 106, 225, and 305, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), as so designated by section 106, by amending paragraph (1) to read as follows:

''(1) file—

''(A) a list of creditors; and

''(B) unless the court orders otherwise—

''(i) a schedule of assets and liabilities;

''(ii) a schedule of current income and current expenditures;

''(iii) a statement of the debtor's financial affairs and, if section 342(b) applies, a certificate—

''(I) of an attorney whose name is indicated on the petition as the attorney for the debtor, or a bankruptcy petition preparer signing the petition under section 110(b)(1), indicating that such attorney or the bankruptcy petition preparer delivered to the debtor the notice required by section 342(b); or

''(II) if no attorney is so indicated, and no bankruptcy petition preparer signed the petition, of the debtor that such notice was received and read by the debtor;

''(iv) copies of all payment advices or other evidence of payment received within 60 days before the date of the filing of the petition, by the debtor from any employer of the debtor;

''(v) a statement of the amount of monthly net income, itemized to show how the amount is calculated; and

''(vi) a statement disclosing any reasonably anticipated increase in income or expenditures over the 12-month period following the date of the filing of the petition;''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(e)(1) If the debtor in a case under chapter 7 or 13 is an individual and if a creditor files with the court at any time a request to receive a copy of the petition, schedules, and statement of financial affairs filed by the debtor, then the court shall make such petition, such schedules, and such statement available to such creditor.

''(2)(A) The debtor shall provide—

''(i) not later than 7 days before the date first set for the first meeting of creditors, to the trustee a copy of the Federal income tax return required under applicable law (or at the election of the debtor, a transcript of such return) for the most recent tax year ending immediately before the commencement of the case and for which a Federal income tax return was filed; and

''(ii) at the same time the debtor complies with clause (i), a copy of such return (or if elected under clause (i), such transcript) to any creditor that timely requests such copy.

''(B) If the debtor fails to comply with clause (i) or (ii) of subparagraph (A), the court shall dismiss the case unless the debtor demonstrates that the failure to so comply is due to circumstances beyond the control of the debtor.

''(C) If a creditor requests a copy of such tax return or such transcript and if the debtor fails to provide a copy of such tax return or such transcript to such creditor at the time the debtor provides such tax return or such transcript to the trustee, then the court shall dismiss the case unless the debtor demonstrates that the failure to provide a copy of such tax return or such transcript is due to circumstances beyond the control of the debtor.

''(3) If a creditor in a case under chapter 13 files with the court at any time a request to receive a copy of the plan filed by the debtor, then the court shall make available to such creditor a copy of the plan—

''(A) at a reasonable cost; and

''(B) not later than 5 days after such request is filed.

''(f) At the request of the court, the United States trustee, or any party in interest in a case under chapter 7, 11, or 13, a debtor who is an individual shall file with the court—

''(1) at the same time filed with the taxing authority, a copy of each Federal income tax return required under applicable law (or at the election of the debtor, a transcript of such tax return) with respect to each tax year of the debtor ending while the case is pending under such chapter;

''(2) at the same time filed with the taxing authority, each Federal income tax return required under applicable law (or at the election of the debtor, a transcript of such tax return) that had not been filed with such authority as of the date of the commencement of the case and that was subsequently filed for any tax year of the debtor ending in the 3-year period ending on the date of the commencement of the case;

''(3) a copy of each amendment to any Federal income tax return or transcript filed with the court under paragraph (1) or (2); and

''(4) in a case under chapter 13—

''(A) on the date that is either 90 days after the end of such tax year or 1 year after the date of the commencement of the case, whichever is later, if a plan is not confirmed before such later date; and

''(B) annually after the plan is confirmed and until the case is closed, not later than the date that is 45 days before the anniversary of the confirmation of the plan;

a statement, under penalty of perjury, of the income and expenditures of the debtor during the tax year of the debtor most recently concluded before such statement is filed under this paragraph, and of the monthly income of the debtor, that shows how income, expenditures, and monthly income are calculated.

''(g)(1) A statement referred to in subsection (f)(4) shall disclose—

''(A) the amount and sources of the income of the debtor;

''(B) the identity of any person responsible with the debtor for the support of any dependent of the debtor; and

''(C) the identity of any person who contributed, and the amount contributed, to the household in which the debtor resides.

''(2) The tax returns, amendments, and statement of income and expenditures described in subsections (e)(2)(A) and (f) shall be available to the United States trustee (or the bankruptcy administrator, if any), the trustee, and any party in interest for inspection and copying, subject to the requirements of section 315(c) of the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act of 2005.

''(h) If requested by the United States trustee or by the trustee, the debtor shall provide—

''(1) a document that establishes the identity of the debtor, including a driver's license, passport, or other document that contains a photograph of the debtor; or

''(2) such other personal identifying information relating to the debtor that establishes the identity of the debtor.''.

(c)(1) Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts shall establish procedures for safeguarding the confidentiality of any tax information required to be provided under this section.

(2) The procedures under paragraph (1) shall include restrictions on creditor access to tax information that is required to be provided under this section.

(3) Not later than 540 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts shall prepare and submit to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives a report that—

(A) assesses the effectiveness of the procedures established under paragraph (1); and

(B) if appropriate, includes proposed legislation to—

(i) further protect the confidentiality of tax information; and

(ii) provide penalties for the improper use by any person of the tax information required to be provided under this section.

SEC. 316. DISMISSAL FOR FAILURE TO TIMELY FILE SCHEDULES OR PROVIDE REQUIRED INFORMATION.

Section 521 of title 11, United States Code, as amended by sections 106, 225, 305, and 315, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(i)(1) Subject to paragraphs (2) and (4) and notwithstanding section 707(a), if an individual debtor in a voluntary case under chapter 7 or 13 fails to file all of the information required under subsection (a)(1) within 45 days after the date of the filing of the petition, the case shall be automatically dismissed effective on the 46th day after the date of the filing of the petition.

''(2) Subject to paragraph (4) and with respect to a case described in paragraph (1), any party in interest may request the court to enter an order dismissing the case. If requested, the court shall enter an order of dismissal not later than 5 days after such request.

''(3) Subject to paragraph (4) and upon request of the debtor made within 45 days after the date of the filing of the petition described in paragraph (1), the court may allow the debtor an additional period of not to exceed 45 days to file the information required under subsection (a)(1) if the court finds justification for extending the period for the filing.

''(4) Notwithstanding any other provision of this subsection, on the motion of the trustee filed before the expiration of the applicable period of time specified in paragraph (1), (2), or (3), and after notice and a hearing, the court may decline to dismiss the case if the court finds that the debtor attempted in good faith to file all the information required by subsection (a)(1)(B)(iv) and that the best interests of creditors would be served by administration of the case.''.

SEC. 317. ADEQUATE TIME TO PREPARE FOR HEARING ON CONFIRMATION OF THE PLAN.

Section 1324 of title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking ''After'' and inserting the following:

''(a) Except as provided in subsection (b) and after''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(b) The hearing on confirmation of the plan may be held not earlier than 20 days and not later than 45 days after the date of the meeting of creditors under section 341(a), unless the court determines that it would be in the best interests of the creditors and the estate to hold such hearing at an earlier date and there is no objection to such earlier date.''.

SEC. 318. CHAPTER 13 PLANS TO HAVE A 5-YEAR DURATION IN CERTAIN CASES.

Title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by amending section 1322(d) to read as follows:

''(d)(1) If the current monthly income of the debtor and the debtor's spouse combined, when multiplied by 12, is not less than—

''(A) in the case of a debtor in a household of 1 person, the median family income of the applicable State for 1 earner;

''(B) in the case of a debtor in a household of 2, 3, or 4 individuals, the highest median family income of the applicable State for a family of the same number or fewer individuals; or

''(C) in the case of a debtor in a household exceeding 4 individuals, the highest median

family income of the applicable State for a family of 4 or fewer individuals, plus $525 per month for each individual in excess of 4,

the plan may not provide for payments over a period that is longer than 5 years.

''(2) If the current monthly income of the debtor and the debtor's spouse combined, when multiplied by 12, is less than—

''(A) in the case of a debtor in a household of 1 person, the median family income of the applicable State for 1 earner;

''(B) in the case of a debtor in a household of 2, 3, or 4 individuals, the highest median family income of the applicable State for a family of the same number or fewer individuals; or

''(C) in the case of a debtor in a household exceeding 4 individuals, the highest median family income of the applicable State for a family of 4 or fewer individuals, plus $525 per month for each individual in excess of 4,

the plan may not provide for payments over a period that is longer than 3 years, unless the court, for cause, approves a longer period, but the court may not approve a period that is longer than 5 years.'';

(2) in section 1325(b)(1)(B), by striking ''three-year period'' and inserting ''applicable commitment period''; and

(3) in section 1325(b), as amended by section 102, by adding at the end the following:

''(4) For purposes of this subsection, the 'applicable commitment period'—

''(A) subject to subparagraph (B), shall be—

''(i) 3 years; or

''(ii) not less than 5 years, if the current monthly income of the debtor and the debtor's spouse combined, when multiplied by 12, is not less than—

''(I) in the case of a debtor in a household of 1 person, the median family income of the applicable State for 1 earner;

''(II) in the case of a debtor in a household of 2, 3, or 4 individuals, the highest median family income of the applicable State for a family of the same number or fewer individuals; or

''(III) in the case of a debtor in a household exceeding 4 individuals, the highest median family income of the applicable State for a family of 4 or fewer individuals, plus $525 per month for each individual in excess of 4; and

''(B) may be less than 3 or 5 years, whichever is applicable under subparagraph (A), but only if the plan provides for payment in full of all allowed unsecured claims over a shorter period.''; and

(4) in section 1329(c), by striking ''three years'' and inserting ''the applicable commitment period under section 1325(b)(1)(B)''.

SEC. 319. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING EXPANSION OF RULE 9011 OF THE FEDERAL RULES OF BANKRUPTCY PROCEDURE.

It is the sense of Congress that rule 9011 of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure (11 U.S.C. App.) should be modified to include a requirement that all documents (including schedules), signed and unsigned, submitted to the court or to a trustee by debtors who represent themselves and debtors who are represented by attorneys be submitted only after the debtors or the debtors' attorneys have made reasonable inquiry to verify that the information contained in such documents is—

(1) well grounded in fact; and

(2) warranted by existing law or a good faith argument for the extension, modification, or reversal of existing law.

SEC. 320. PROMPT RELIEF FROM STAY IN INDIVIDUAL CASES.

Section 362(e) of title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by inserting ''(1)'' after ''(e)''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), in a case under chapter 7, 11, or 13 in which the debtor is an individual, the stay under subsection (a) shall terminate on the date that is 60 days after a request is made by a party in interest under subsection (d), unless—

''(A) a final decision is rendered by the court during the 60-day period beginning on the date of the request; or

''(B) such 60-day period is extended—

''(i) by agreement of all parties in interest; or

''(ii) by the court for such specific period of time as the court finds is required for good cause, as described in findings made by the court.''.

SEC. 321. CHAPTER 11 CASES FILED BY INDIVIDUALS.

(a) PROPERTY OF THE ESTATE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter I of chapter 11 of title 11, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 1115. Property of the estate

''(a) In a case in which the debtor is an individual, property of the estate includes, in addition to the property specified in section 541—

''(1) all property of the kind specified in section 541 that the debtor acquires after the commencement of the case but before the case is closed, dismissed, or converted to a case under chapter 7, 12, or 13, whichever occurs first; and

''(2) earnings from services performed by the debtor after the commencement of the case but before the case is closed, dismissed, or converted to a case under chapter 7, 12, or 13, whichever occurs first.

''(b) Except as provided in section 1104 or a confirmed plan or order confirming a plan, the debtor shall remain in possession of all property of the estate.''.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for subchapter I of chapter 11 of title 11, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''1115. Property of the estate.''.

(b) CONTENTS OF PLAN.—Section 1123(a) of title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (6), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(2) in paragraph (7), by striking the period and inserting ''; and''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(8) in a case in which the debtor is an individual, provide for the payment to creditors under the plan of all or such portion of earnings from personal services performed by the debtor after the commencement of the case or other future income of the debtor as is necessary for the execution of the plan.''.

(c) CONFIRMATION OF PLAN.—

(1) REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO VALUE OF PROPERTY.—Section 1129(a) of title 11, United States Code, as amended by section 213, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(15) In a case in which the debtor is an individual and in which the holder of an allowed unsecured claim objects to the confirmation of the plan—

''(A) the value, as of the effective date of the plan, of the property to be distributed under the plan on account of such claim is not less than the amount of such claim; or

''(B) the value of the property to be distributed under the plan is not less than the projected disposable income of the debtor (as defined in section 1325(b)(2)) to be received during the 5-year period beginning on the date that the first payment is due under the plan, or during the period for which the plan provides payments, whichever is longer.''.

(2) REQUIREMENT RELATING TO INTERESTS IN PROPERTY.—Section 1129(b)(2)(B)(ii) of title 11, United States Code, is amended by inserting before the period at the end the following: '', except that in a case in which the debtor is an individual, the debtor may retain property included in the estate under section 1115, subject to the requirements of subsection (a)(14) of this section''.

(d) EFFECT OF CONFIRMATION.—Section 1141(d) of title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2), by striking ''The confirmation of a plan does not discharge an individual debtor'' and inserting ''A discharge under this chapter does not discharge a debtor who is an individual''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(5) In a case in which the debtor is an individual—

''(A) unless after notice and a hearing the court orders otherwise for cause, confirmation of the plan does not discharge any debt provided for in the plan until the court grants a discharge on completion of all payments under the plan;

''(B) at any time after the confirmation of the plan, and after notice and a hearing, the court may grant a discharge to the debtor who has not completed payments under the plan if—

''(i) the value, as of the effective date of the plan, of property actually distributed under the plan on account of each allowed unsecured claim is not less than the amount that would have been paid on such claim if the estate of the debtor had been liquidated under chapter 7 on such date; and

''(ii) modification of the plan under section 1127 is not practicable; and''.

(e) MODIFICATION OF PLAN.—Section 1127 of title 11, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(e) If the debtor is an individual, the plan may be modified at any time after confirmation of the plan but before the completion of payments under the plan, whether or not the plan has been substantially consummated, upon request of the debtor, the trustee, the United States trustee, or the holder of an allowed unsecured claim, to—

''(1) increase or reduce the amount of payments on claims of a particular class provided for by the plan;

''(2) extend or reduce the time period for such payments; or

''(3) alter the amount of the distribution to a creditor whose claim is provided for by the plan to the extent necessary to take account of any payment of such claim made other than under the plan.

''(f)(1) Sections 1121 through 1128 and the requirements of section 1129 apply to any modification under subsection (a).

''(2) The plan, as modified, shall become the plan only after there has been disclosure under section 1125 as the court may direct, notice and a hearing, and such modification is approved.''.

SEC. 322. LIMITATIONS ON HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION.

(a) EXEMPTIONS.—Section 522 of title 11, United States Code, as amended by sections 224 and 308, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(p)(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection and sections 544 and 548, as a result of electing under subsection (b)(3)(A) to exempt property under State or local law, a debtor may not exempt any amount of interest that was acquired by the debtor during the 1215-day period preceding the date of the filing of the petition that exceeds in the aggregate $125,000 in value in—

''(A) real or personal property that the debtor or a dependent of the debtor uses as a residence;

''(B) a cooperative that owns property that the debtor or a dependent of the debtor uses as a residence;

''(C) a burial plot for the debtor or a dependent of the debtor; or

''(D) real or personal property that the debtor or dependent of the debtor claims as a homestead.

''(2)(A) The limitation under paragraph (1) shall not apply to an exemption claimed under subsection (b)(3)(A) by a family farmer for the principal residence of such farmer.

''(B) For purposes of paragraph (1), any amount of such interest does not include any interest transferred from a debtor's previous principal residence (which was acquired prior to the beginning of such 1215-day period) into the debtor's current principal residence, if the debtor's previous and current residences are located in the same State.

''(q)(1) As a result of electing under subsection (b)(3)(A) to exempt property under State or local law, a debtor may not exempt any amount of an interest in property described in subparagraphs (A), (B), (C), and (D) of subsection (p)(1) which exceeds in the aggregate $125,000 if—

''(A) the court determines, after notice and a hearing, that the debtor has been convicted of a felony (as defined in section 3156 of title 18), which under the circumstances, demonstrates that the filing of the case was an abuse of the provisions of this title; or

''(B) the debtor owes a debt arising from—

''(i) any violation of the Federal securities laws (as defined in section 3(a)(47) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934), any State securities laws, or any regulation or order issued under Federal securities laws or State securities laws;

''(ii) fraud, deceit, or manipulation in a fiduciary capacity or in connection with the purchase or sale of any security registered under section 12 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or under section 6 of the Securities Act of 1933;

''(iii) any civil remedy under section 1964 of title 18; or

''(iv) any criminal act, intentional tort, or willful or reckless misconduct that caused serious physical injury or death to another individual in the preceding 5 years.

''(2) Paragraph (1) shall not apply to the extent the amount of an interest in property described in subparagraphs (A), (B), (C), and (D) of subsection (p)(1) is reasonably necessary for the support of the debtor and any dependent of the debtor.''.

(b) ADJUSTMENT OF DOLLAR AMOUNTS.—Paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 104(b) of title 11, United States Code, as amended by section 224, are amended by inserting ''522(p), 522(q),'' after ''522(n),''.

SEC. 323. EXCLUDING EMPLOYEE BENEFIT PLAN PARTICIPANT CONTRIBUTIONS AND OTHER PROPERTY FROM THE ESTATE.

Section 541(b) of title 11, United States Code, as amended by section 225, is amended by adding after paragraph (6), as added by section 225(a)(1)(C), the following:

''(7) any amount—

''(A) withheld by an employer from the wages of employees for payment as contributions—

''(i) to—

''(I) an employee benefit plan that is subject to title I of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 or under an employee benefit plan which is a governmental plan under section 414(d) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986;

''(II) a deferred compensation plan under section 457 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986; or

''(III) a tax-deferred annuity under section 403(b) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986;

except that such amount under this subparagraph shall not constitute disposable income as defined in section 1325(b)(2); or

''(ii) to a health insurance plan regulated by State law whether or not subject to such title; or

''(B) received by an employer from employees for payment as contributions—

''(i) to—

''(I) an employee benefit plan that is subject to title I of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 or under an employee benefit plan which is a governmental plan under section 414(d) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986;

''(II) a deferred compensation plan under section 457 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986; or

''(III) a tax-deferred annuity under section 403(b) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986;

except that such amount under this subparagraph shall not constitute disposable income, as defined in section 1325(b)(2); or

''(ii) to a health insurance plan regulated by State law whether or not subject to such title;''.

SEC. 324. EXCLUSIVE JURISDICTION IN MATTERS INVOLVING BANKRUPTCY PROFESSIONALS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1334 of title 28, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (b), by striking ''Notwithstanding'' and inserting ''Except as provided in subsection (e)(2), and notwithstanding''; and

(2) by striking subsection (e) and inserting the following:

''(e) The district court in which a case under title 11 is commenced or is pending shall have exclusive jurisdiction—

''(1) of all the property, wherever located, of the debtor as of the commencement of such case, and of property of the estate; and

''(2) over all claims or causes of action that involve construction of section 327 of title 11, United States Code, or rules relating to disclosure requirements under section 327.''.

(b) APPLICABILITY.—This section shall only apply to cases filed after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 325. UNITED STATES TRUSTEE PROGRAM FILING FEE INCREASE.

(a) ACTIONS UNDER CHAPTER 7 OR 13 OF TITLE 11, UNITED STATES CODE.—Section 1930(a) of title 28, United States Code, is amended by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

''(1) For a case commenced—

''(A) under chapter 7 of title 11, $160; or

''(B) under chapter 13 of title 11, $150.''.

(b) UNITED STATES TRUSTEE SYSTEM FUND.—Section 589a(b) of title 28, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

''(1)(A) 40.63 percent of the fees collected under section 1930(a)(1)(A) of this title in cases commenced under chapter 7 of title 11; and

''(B) 70.00 percent of the fees collected under section 1930(a)(1)(B) of this title in cases commenced under chapter 13 of title 11;'';

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking ''one-half'' and inserting ''three-fourths''; and

(3) in paragraph (4), by striking ''one-half'' and inserting ''100 percent''.

(c) COLLECTION AND DEPOSIT OF MISCELLANEOUS BANKRUPTCY FEES.—Section 406(b) of the Judiciary Appropriations Act, 1990 (28 U.S.C. 1931 note) is amended by striking ''pursuant to 28 U.S.C. section 1930(b)'' and all that follows through ''28 U.S.C. section 1931'' and inserting ''under section 1930(b) of title 28, United States Code, and 31.25 percent of the fees collected under section 1930(a)(1)(A) of that title, 30.00 percent of the fees collected under section 1930(a)(1)(B) of that title, and 25 percent of the fees collected under section 1930(a)(3) of that title shall be deposited as offsetting receipts to the fund established under section 1931 of that title''.

SEC. 326. SHARING OF COMPENSATION.

Section 504 of title 11, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(c) This section shall not apply with respect to sharing, or agreeing to share, compensation with a bona fide public service attorney referral program that operates in accordance with non-Federal law regulating attorney referral services and with rules of professional responsibility applicable to attorney acceptance of referrals.''.

SEC. 327. FAIR VALUATION OF COLLATERAL.

Section 506(a) of title 11, United States Code, is amended by—

(1) inserting ''(1)'' after ''(a)''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(2) If the debtor is an individual in a case under chapter 7 or 13, such value with respect to personal property securing an allowed claim shall be determined based on the replacement value of such property as of the date of the filing of the petition without deduction for costs of sale or marketing. With respect to property acquired for personal, family, or household purposes, replacement value shall mean the price a retail merchant would charge for property of that kind considering the age and condition of the property at the time value is determined.''.

SEC. 328. DEFAULTS BASED ON NONMONETARY OBLIGATIONS.

(a) EXECUTORY CONTRACTS AND UNEXPIRED LEASES.—Section 365 of title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1)(A), by striking the semicolon at the end and inserting the following: ''other than a default that is a breach of a provision relating to the satisfaction of any provision (other than a penalty rate or penalty provision) relating to a default arising from any failure to perform nonmonetary obligations under an unexpired lease of real property, if it is impossible for the trustee to cure such default by performing nonmonetary acts at and after the time of assumption, except that if such default arises from a failure to operate in accordance with a nonresidential real property lease, then such default shall be cured by performance at and after the time of assumption in accordance with such lease, and pecuniary losses resulting from such default shall be compensated in accordance with the provisions of this paragraph;''; and

(B) in paragraph (2)(D), by striking ''penalty rate or provision'' and inserting ''penalty rate or penalty provision'';

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (2), by inserting ''or'' at the end;

(B) in paragraph (3), by striking ''; or'' at the end and inserting a period; and

(C) by striking paragraph (4);

(3) in subsection (d)—

(A) by striking paragraphs (5) through (9); and

(B) by redesignating paragraph (10) as paragraph (5); and

(4) in subsection (f)(1) by striking ''; except that'' and all that follows through the end of the paragraph and inserting a period.

(b) IMPAIRMENT OF CLAIMS OR INTERESTS.—Section 1124(2) of title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by inserting ''or of a kind that section 365(b)(2) expressly does not require to be cured'' before the semicolon at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (C), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(3) by redesignating subparagraph (D) as subparagraph (E); and

(4) by inserting after subparagraph (C) the following:

''(D) if such claim or such interest arises from any failure to perform a nonmonetary obligation, other than a default arising from failure to operate a nonresidential real property lease subject to section 365(b)(1)(A),

compensates the holder of such claim or such interest (other than the debtor or an insider) for any actual pecuniary loss incurred by such holder as a result of such failure; and''.

SEC. 329. CLARIFICATION OF POSTPETITION WAGES AND BENEFITS.

Section 503(b)(1)(A) of title 11, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''(A) the actual, necessary costs and expenses of preserving the estate including—

''(i) wages, salaries, and commissions for services rendered after the commencement of the case; and

''(ii) wages and benefits awarded pursuant to a judicial proceeding or a proceeding of the National Labor Relations Board as back pay attributable to any period of time occurring after commencement of the case under this title, as a result of a violation of Federal or State law by the debtor, without regard to the time of the occurrence of unlawful conduct on which such award is based or to whether any services were rendered, if the court determines that payment of wages and benefits by reason of the operation of this clause will not substantially increase the probability of layoff or termination of current employees, or of nonpayment of domestic support obligations, during the case under this title;''.

SEC. 330. DELAY OF DISCHARGE DURING PENDENCY OF CERTAIN PROCEEDINGS.

(a) CHAPTER 7.—Section 727(a) of title 11, United States Code, as amended by section 106, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (10), by striking ''or'' at the end;

(2) in paragraph (11) by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; or''; and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (11) the following:

''(12) the court after notice and a hearing held not more than 10 days before the date of the entry of the order granting the discharge finds that there is reasonable cause to believe that—

''(A) section 522(q)(1) may be applicable to the debtor; and

''(B) there is pending any proceeding in which the debtor may be found guilty of a felony of the kind described in section 522(q)(1)(A) or liable for a debt of the kind described in section 522(q)(1)(B).''.

(b) CHAPTER 11.—Section 1141(d) of title 11, United States Code, as amended by section 321, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(C) unless after notice and a hearing held not more than 10 days before the date of the entry of the order granting the discharge, the court finds that there is no reasonable cause to believe that—

''(i) section 522(q)(1) may be applicable to the debtor; and

''(ii) there is pending any proceeding in which the debtor may be found guilty of a felony of the kind described in section 522(q)(1)(A) or liable for a debt of the kind described in section 522(q)(1)(B).''.

(c) CHAPTER 12.—Section 1228 of title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a) by striking ''As'' and inserting ''Subject to subsection (d), as'',

(2) in subsection (b) by striking ''At'' and inserting ''Subject to subsection (d), at'', and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(f) The court may not grant a discharge under this chapter unless the court after notice and a hearing held not more than 10 days before the date of the entry of the order granting the discharge finds that there is no reasonable cause to believe that—

''(1) section 522(q)(1) may be applicable to the debtor; and

''(2) there is pending any proceeding in which the debtor may be found guilty of a felony of the kind described in section 522(q)(1)(A) or liable for a debt of the kind described in section 522(q)(1)(B).''.

(d) CHAPTER 13.—Section 1328 of title 11, United States Code, as amended by section 106, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a) by striking ''As'' and inserting ''Subject to subsection (d), as'',

(2) in subsection (b) by striking ''At'' and inserting ''Subject to subsection (d), at'', and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(h) The court may not grant a discharge under this chapter unless the court after notice and a hearing held not more than 10 days before the date of the entry of the order granting the discharge finds that there is no reasonable cause to believe that—

''(1) section 522(q)(1) may be applicable to the debtor; and

''(2) there is pending any proceeding in which the debtor may be found guilty of a felony of the kind described in section 522(q)(1)(A) or liable for a debt of the kind described in section 522(q)(1)(B).''.

SEC. 331. LIMITATION ON RETENTION BONUSES, SEVERANCE PAY, AND CERTAIN OTHER PAYMENTS.

Section 503 of title 11, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(c) Notwithstanding subsection (b), there shall neither be allowed, nor paid—

''(1) a transfer made to, or an obligation incurred for the benefit of, an insider of the debtor for the purpose of inducing such person to remain with the debtor's business, absent a finding by the court based on evidence in the record that—

''(A) the transfer or obligation is essential to retention of the person because the individual has a bona fide job offer from another business at the same or greater rate of compensation;

''(B) the services provided by the person are essential to the survival of the business; and

''(C) either—

''(i) the amount of the transfer made to, or obligation incurred for the benefit of, the person is not greater than an amount equal to 10 times the amount of the mean transfer or obligation of a similar kind given to nonmanagement employees for any purpose during the calendar year in which the transfer is made or the obligation is incurred; or

''(ii) if no such similar transfers were made to, or obligations were incurred for the benefit of, such nonmanagement employees during such calendar year, the amount of the transfer or obligation is not greater than an amount equal to 25 percent of the amount of any similar transfer or obligation made to or incurred for the benefit of such insider for any purpose during the calendar year before the year in which such transfer is made or obligation is incurred;

''(2) a severance payment to an insider of the debtor, unless—

''(A) the payment is part of a program that is generally applicable to all full-time employees; and

''(B) the amount of the payment is not greater than 10 times the amount of the mean severance pay given to nonmanagement employees during the calendar year in which the payment is made; or

''(3) other transfers or obligations that are outside the ordinary course of business and not justified by the facts and circumstances of the case, including transfers made to, or obligations incurred for the benefit of, officers, managers, or consultants hired after the date of the filing of the petition.''.

TITLE IV—GENERAL AND SMALL BUSINESS BANKRUPTCY PROVISIONS

Subtitle A—General Business Bankruptcy Provisions

SEC. 401. ADEQUATE PROTECTION FOR INVESTORS.

(a) DEFINITION.—Section 101 of title 11, United States Code, is amended by inserting after paragraph (48) the following:

''(48A) 'securities self regulatory organization' means either a securities association registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission under section 15A of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or a national securities exchange registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission under section 6 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934;''.

(b) AUTOMATIC STAY.—Section 362(b) of title 11, United States Code, as amended by sections 224, 303, and 311, is amended by inserting after paragraph (24) the following:

''(25) under subsection (a), of—

''(A) the commencement or continuation of an investigation or action by a securities self regulatory organization to enforce such organization's regulatory power;

''(B) the enforcement of an order or decision, other than for monetary sanctions, obtained in an action by such securities self regulatory organization to enforce such organization's regulatory power; or

''(C) any act taken by such securities self regulatory organization to delist, delete, or refuse to permit quotation of any stock that does not meet applicable regulatory requirements;''.

SEC. 402. MEETINGS OF CREDITORS AND EQUITY SECURITY HOLDERS.

Section 341 of title 11, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(e) Notwithstanding subsections (a) and (b), the court, on the request of a party in interest and after notice and a hearing, for cause may order that the United States trustee not convene a meeting of creditors or equity security holders if the debtor has filed a plan as to which the debtor solicited acceptances prior to the commencement of the case.''.

SEC. 403. PROTECTION OF REFINANCE OF SECURITY INTEREST.

Subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C) of section 547(e)(2) of title 11, United States Code, are each amended by striking ''10'' each place it appears and inserting ''30''.

SEC. 404. EXECUTORY CONTRACTS AND UNEXPIRED LEASES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 365(d)(4) of title 11, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''(4)(A) Subject to subparagraph (B), an unexpired lease of nonresidential real property under which the debtor is the lessee shall be deemed rejected, and the trustee shall immediately surrender that nonresidential real property to the lessor, if the trustee does not assume or reject the unexpired lease by the earlier of—

''(i) the date that is 120 days after the date of the order for relief; or

''(ii) the date of the entry of an order confirming a plan.

''(B)(i) The court may extend the period determined under subparagraph (A), prior to the expiration of the 120-day period, for 90 days on the motion of the trustee or lessor for cause.

''(ii) If the court grants an extension under clause (i), the court may grant a subsequent extension only upon prior written consent of the lessor in each instance.''.

(b) EXCEPTION.—Section 365(f)(1) of title 11, United States Code, is amended by striking ''subsection'' the first place it appears and inserting ''subsections (b) and''.

SEC. 405. CREDITORS AND EQUITY SECURITY HOLDERS COMMITTEES.

(a) APPOINTMENT.—Section 1102(a) of title 11, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(4) On request of a party in interest and after notice and a hearing, the court may order the United States trustee to change the membership of a committee appointed under this subsection, if the court determines that the change is necessary to ensure

adequate representation of creditors or equity security holders. The court may order the United States trustee to increase the number of members of a committee to include a creditor that is a small business concern (as described in section 3(a)(1) of the Small Business Act), if the court determines that the creditor holds claims (of the kind represented by the committee) the aggregate amount of which, in comparison to the annual gross revenue of that creditor, is disproportionately large.''.

(b) INFORMATION.—Section 1102(b) of title 11, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(3) A committee appointed under subsection (a) shall—

''(A) provide access to information for creditors who—

''(i) hold claims of the kind represented by that committee; and

''(ii) are not appointed to the committee;

''(B) solicit and receive comments from the creditors described in subparagraph (A); and

''(C) be subject to a court order that compels any additional report or disclosure to be made to the creditors described in subparagraph (A).''.

SEC. 406. AMENDMENT TO SECTION 546 OF TITLE 11, UNITED STATES CODE.

Section 546 of title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating the second subsection (g) (as added by section 222(a) of Public Law 103–394) as subsection (h);

(2) in subsection (h), as so redesignated, by inserting ''and subject to the prior rights of holders of security interests in such goods or the proceeds of such goods'' after ''consent of a creditor''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(i)(1) Notwithstanding paragraphs (2) and (3) of section 545, the trustee may not avoid a warehouseman's lien for storage, transportation, or other costs incidental to the storage and handling of goods.

''(2) The prohibition under paragraph (1) shall be applied in a manner consistent with any State statute applicable to such lien that is similar to section 7–209 of the Uniform Commercial Code, as in effect on the date of enactment of the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act of 2005, or any successor to such section 7–209.''.

SEC. 407. AMENDMENTS TO SECTION 330(a) OF TITLE 11, UNITED STATES CODE.

Section 330(a) of title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (3)—

(A) by striking ''(A) In'' and inserting ''In''; and

(B) by inserting ''to an examiner, trustee under chapter 11, or professional person'' after ''awarded''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(7) In determining the amount of reasonable compensation to be awarded to a trustee, the court shall treat such compensation as a commission, based on section 326.''.

SEC. 408. POSTPETITION DISCLOSURE AND SOLICITATION.

Section 1125 of title 11, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(g) Notwithstanding subsection (b), an acceptance or rejection of the plan may be solicited from a holder of a claim or interest if such solicitation complies with applicable nonbankruptcy law and if such holder was solicited before the commencement of the case in a manner complying with applicable nonbankruptcy law.''.

SEC. 409. PREFERENCES.

Section 547(c) of title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

''(2) to the extent that such transfer was in payment of a debt incurred by the debtor in the ordinary course of business or financial affairs of the debtor and the transferee, and such transfer was—

''(A) made in the ordinary course of business or financial affairs of the debtor and the transferee; or

''(B) made according to ordinary business terms;'';

(2) in paragraph (8), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; or''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(9) if, in a case filed by a debtor whose debts are not primarily consumer debts, the aggregate value of all property that constitutes or is affected by such transfer is less than $5,000.''.

SEC. 410. VENUE OF CERTAIN PROCEEDINGS.

Section 1409(b) of title 28, United States Code, is amended by inserting '', or a debt (excluding a consumer debt) against a noninsider of less than $10,000,'' after ''$5,000''. *Section 1409(b) of title 28, United States Code, is further amended by striking ''$5,000'' and inserting ''$15,000''.*

SEC. 411. PERIOD FOR FILING PLAN UNDER CHAPTER 11.

Section 1121(d) of title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking ''On'' and inserting ''(1) Subject to paragraph (2), on''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(2)(A) The 120-day period specified in paragraph (1) may not be extended beyond a date that is 18 months after the date of the order for relief under this chapter.

''(B) The 180-day period specified in paragraph (1) may not be extended beyond a date that is 20 months after the date of the order for relief under this chapter.''.

SEC. 412. FEES ARISING FROM CERTAIN OWNERSHIP INTERESTS.

Section 523(a)(16) of title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking ''dwelling'' the first place it appears;

(2) by striking ''ownership or'' and inserting ''ownership,'';

(3) by striking ''housing'' the first place it appears; and

(4) by striking ''but only'' and all that follows through ''such period,'' and inserting ''or a lot in a homeowners association, for as long as the debtor or the trustee has a legal, equitable, or possessory ownership interest in such unit, such corporation, or such lot,''.

SEC. 413. CREDITOR REPRESENTATION AT FIRST MEETING OF CREDITORS.

Section 341(c) of title 11, United States Code, is amended by inserting at the end the following: ''Notwithstanding any local court rule, provision of a State constitution, any otherwise applicable nonbankruptcy law, or any other requirement that representation at the meeting of creditors under subsection (a) be by an attorney, a creditor holding a consumer debt or any representative of the creditor (which may include an entity or an employee of an entity and may be a representative for more than 1 creditor) shall be permitted to appear at and participate in the meeting of creditors in a case under chapter 7 or 13, either alone or in conjunction with an attorney for the creditor. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to require any creditor to be represented by an attorney at any meeting of creditors.''.

SEC. 414. DEFINITION OF DISINTERESTED PERSON.

Section 101(14) of title 11, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''(14) 'disinterested person' means a person that—

''(A) is not a creditor, an equity security holder, or an insider;

''(B) is not and was not, within 2 years before the date of the filing of the petition, a director, officer, or employee of the debtor; and

''(C) does not have an interest materially adverse to the interest of the estate or of any class of creditors or equity security holders, by reason of any direct or indirect relationship to, connection with, or interest in, the debtor, or for any other reason;''.

SEC. 415. FACTORS FOR COMPENSATION OF PROFESSIONAL PERSONS.

Section 330(a)(3) of title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (D), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(2) by redesignating subparagraph (E) as subparagraph (F); and

(3) by inserting after subparagraph (D) the following:

''(E) with respect to a professional person, whether the person is board certified or otherwise has demonstrated skill and experience in the bankruptcy field; and''.

SEC. 416. APPOINTMENT OF ELECTED TRUSTEE.

Section 1104(b) of title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by inserting ''(1)'' after ''(b)''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(2)(A) If an eligible, disinterested trustee is elected at a meeting of creditors under paragraph (1), the United States trustee shall file a report certifying that election.

''(B) Upon the filing of a report under subparagraph (A)—

''(i) the trustee elected under paragraph (1) shall be considered to have been selected and appointed for purposes of this section; and

''(ii) the service of any trustee appointed under subsection (d) shall terminate.

''(C) The court shall resolve any dispute arising out of an election described in subparagraph (A).''.

SEC. 417. UTILITY SERVICE.

Section 366 of title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking ''subsection (b)'' and inserting ''subsections (b) and (c)''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(c)(1)(A) For purposes of this subsection, the term 'assurance of payment' means—

''(i) a cash deposit;

''(ii) a letter of credit;

''(iii) a certificate of deposit;

''(iv) a surety bond;

''(v) a prepayment of utility consumption; or

''(vi) another form of security that is mutually agreed on between the utility and the debtor or the trustee.

''(B) For purposes of this subsection an administrative expense priority shall not constitute an assurance of payment.

''(2) Subject to paragraphs (3) and (4), with respect to a case filed under chapter 11, a utility referred to in subsection (a) may alter, refuse, or discontinue utility service, if during the 30-day period beginning on the date of the filing of the petition, the utility does not receive from the debtor or the trustee adequate assurance of payment for utility service that is satisfactory to the utility.

''(3)(A) On request of a party in interest and after notice and a hearing, the court may order modification of the amount of an assurance of payment under paragraph (2).

''(B) In making a determination under this paragraph whether an assurance of payment is adequate, the court may not consider—

''(i) the absence of security before the date of the filing of the petition;

''(ii) the payment by the debtor of charges for utility service in a timely manner before the date of the filing of the petition; or

''(iii) the availability of an administrative expense priority.

''(4) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, with respect to a case subject to this

subsection, a utility may recover or set off against a security deposit provided to the utility by the debtor before the date of the filing of the petition without notice or order of the court.''.

SEC. 418. BANKRUPTCY FEES.

Section 1930 of title 28, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking ''Notwithstanding section 1915 of this title, the'' and inserting ''The''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(f)(1) Under the procedures prescribed by the Judicial Conference of the United States, the district court or the bankruptcy court may waive the filing fee in a case under chapter 7 of title 11 for an individual if the court determines that such individual has income less than 150 percent of the income official poverty line (as defined by the Office of Management and Budget, and revised annually in accordance with section 673(2) of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981) applicable to a family of the size involved and is unable to pay that fee in installments. For purposes of this paragraph, the term 'filing fee' means the filing fee required by subsection (a), or any other fee prescribed by the Judicial Conference under subsections (b) and (c) that is payable to the clerk upon the commencement of a case under chapter 7.

''(2) The district court or the bankruptcy court may waive for such debtors other fees prescribed under subsections (b) and (c).

''(3) This subsection does not restrict the district court or the bankruptcy court from waiving, in accordance with Judicial Conference policy, fees prescribed under this section for other debtors and creditors.''.

SEC. 419. MORE COMPLETE INFORMATION REGARDING ASSETS OF THE ESTATE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) DISCLOSURE.—The Judicial Conference of the United States, in accordance with section 2075 of title 28 of the United States Code and after consideration of the views of the Director of the Executive Office for United States Trustees, shall propose amended Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure and in accordance with rule 9009 of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure shall prescribe official bankruptcy forms directing debtors under chapter 11 of title 11 of United States Code, to disclose the information described in paragraph (2) by filing and serving periodic financial and other reports designed to provide such information.

(2) INFORMATION.—The information referred to in paragraph (1) is the value, operations, and profitability of any closely held corporation, partnership, or of any other entity in which the debtor holds a substantial or controlling interest.

(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the rules and reports under subsection (a) shall be to assist parties in interest taking steps to ensure that the debtor's interest in any entity referred to in subsection (a)(2) is used for the payment of allowed claims against debtor.

Subtitle B—Small Business Bankruptcy Provisions

SEC. 431. FLEXIBLE RULES FOR DISCLOSURE STATEMENT AND PLAN.

Section 1125 of title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1), by inserting before the semicolon ''and in determining whether a disclosure statement provides adequate information, the court shall consider the complexity of the case, the benefit of additional information to creditors and other parties in interest, and the cost of providing additional information''; and

(2) by striking subsection (f), and inserting the following:

''(f) Notwithstanding subsection (b), in a small business case—

''(1) the court may determine that the plan itself provides adequate information and that a separate disclosure statement is not necessary;

''(2) the court may approve a disclosure statement submitted on standard forms approved by the court or adopted under section 2075 of title 28; and

''(3)(A) the court may conditionally approve a disclosure statement subject to final approval after notice and a hearing;

''(B) acceptances and rejections of a plan may be solicited based on a conditionally approved disclosure statement if the debtor provides adequate information to each holder of a claim or interest that is solicited, but a conditionally approved disclosure statement shall be mailed not later than 25 days before the date of the hearing on confirmation of the plan; and

''(C) the hearing on the disclosure statement may be combined with the hearing on confirmation of a plan.''.

SEC. 432. DEFINITIONS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 101 of title 11, United States Code, is amended by striking paragraph (51C) and inserting the following:

''(51C) 'small business case' means a case filed under chapter 11 of this title in which the debtor is a small business debtor;

''(51D) 'small business debtor'—

''(A) subject to subparagraph (B), means a person engaged in commercial or business activities (including any affiliate of such person that is also a debtor under this title and excluding a person whose primary activity is the business of owning or operating real property or activities incidental thereto) that has aggregate noncontingent liquidated secured and unsecured debts as of the date of the petition or the date of the order for relief in an amount not more than $2,000,000 (excluding debts owed to 1 or more affiliates or insiders) for a case in which the United States trustee has not appointed under section 1102(a)(1) a committee of unsecured creditors or where the court has determined that the committee of unsecured creditors is not sufficiently active and representative to provide effective oversight of the debtor; and

''(B) does not include any member of a group of affiliated debtors that has aggregate noncontingent liquidated secured and unsecured debts in an amount greater than $2,000,000 (excluding debt owed to 1 or more affiliates or insiders);''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 1102(a)(3) of title 11, United States Code, is amended by inserting ''debtor'' after ''small business''.

(c) ADJUSTMENT OF DOLLAR AMOUNTS.—Section 104(b) of title 11, United States Code, as amended by section 226, is amended by inserting ''101(51D),'' after ''101(3),'' each place it appears.

SEC. 433. STANDARD FORM DISCLOSURE STATEMENT AND PLAN.

Within a reasonable period of time after the date of enactment of this Act, the Judicial Conference of the United States shall prescribe in accordance with rule 9009 of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure official standard form disclosure statements and plans of reorganization for small business debtors (as defined in section 101 of title 11, United States Code, as amended by this Act), designed to achieve a practical balance between—

(1) the reasonable needs of the courts, the United States trustee, creditors, and other parties in interest for reasonably complete information; and

(2) economy and simplicity for debtors.

SEC. 434. UNIFORM NATIONAL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.

(a) REPORTING REQUIRED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 3 of title 11, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 307 the following:

''§ 308. Debtor reporting requirements

''(a) For purposes of this section, the term 'profitability' means, with respect to a debtor, the amount of money that the debtor has earned or lost during current and recent fiscal periods.

''(b) A small business debtor shall file periodic financial and other reports containing information including—

''(1) the debtor's profitability;

''(2) reasonable approximations of the debtor's projected cash receipts and cash disbursements over a reasonable period;

''(3) comparisons of actual cash receipts and disbursements with projections in prior reports;

''(4)(A) whether the debtor is—

''(i) in compliance in all material respects with postpetition requirements imposed by this title and the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure; and

''(ii) timely filing tax returns and other required government filings and paying taxes and other administrative expenses when due;

''(B) if the debtor is not in compliance with the requirements referred to in subparagraph (A)(i) or filing tax returns and other required government filings and making the payments referred to in subparagraph (A)(ii), what the failures are and how, at what cost, and when the debtor intends to remedy such failures; and

''(C) such other matters as are in the best interests of the debtor and creditors, and in the public interest in fair and efficient procedures under chapter 11 of this title.''.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 3 of title 11, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 307 the following:

''308. Debtor reporting requirements.''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall take effect 60 days after the date on which rules are prescribed under section 2075 of title 28, United States Code, to establish forms to be used to comply with section 308 of title 11, United States Code, as added by subsection (a).

SEC. 435. UNIFORM REPORTING RULES AND FORMS FOR SMALL BUSINESS CASES.

(a) PROPOSAL OF RULES AND FORMS.—The Judicial Conference of the United States shall propose in accordance with section 2073 of title 28 of the United States Code amended Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure, and shall prescribe in accordance with rule 9009 of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure official bankruptcy forms, directing small business debtors to file periodic financial and other reports containing information, including information relating to—

(1) the debtor's profitability;

(2) the debtor's cash receipts and disbursements; and

(3) whether the debtor is timely filing tax returns and paying taxes and other administrative expenses when due.

(b) PURPOSE.—The rules and forms proposed under subsection (a) shall be designed to achieve a practical balance among—

(1) the reasonable needs of the bankruptcy court, the United States trustee, creditors, and other parties in interest for reasonably complete information;

(2) a small business debtor's interest that required reports be easy and inexpensive to complete; and

(3) the interest of all parties that the required reports help such debtor to understand such debtor's financial condition and plan the such debtor's future.

SEC. 436. DUTIES IN SMALL BUSINESS CASES.

(a) DUTIES IN CHAPTER 11 CASES.—Subchapter I of chapter 11 of title 11, United States Code, as amended by section 321, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"§ 1116. Duties of trustee or debtor in possession in small business cases

''In a small business case, a trustee or the debtor in possession, in addition to the duties provided in this title and as otherwise required by law, shall—

''(1) append to the voluntary petition or, in an involuntary case, file not later than 7 days after the date of the order for relief—

''(A) its most recent balance sheet, statement of operations, cash-flow statement, and Federal income tax return; or

''(B) a statement made under penalty of perjury that no balance sheet, statement of operations, or cash-flow statement has been prepared and no Federal tax return has been filed;

''(2) attend, through its senior management personnel and counsel, meetings scheduled by the court or the United States trustee, including initial debtor interviews, scheduling conferences, and meetings of creditors convened under section 341 unless the court, after notice and a hearing, waives that requirement upon a finding of extraordinary and compelling circumstances;

''(3) timely file all schedules and statements of financial affairs, unless the court, after notice and a hearing, grants an extension, which shall not extend such time period to a date later than 30 days after the date of the order for relief, absent extraordinary and compelling circumstances;

''(4) file all postpetition financial and other reports required by the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure or by local rule of the district court;

''(5) subject to section 363(c)(2), maintain insurance customary and appropriate to the industry;

''(6)(A) timely file tax returns and other required government filings; and

''(B) subject to section 363(c)(2), timely pay all taxes entitled to administrative expense priority except those being contested by appropriate proceedings being diligently prosecuted; and

''(7) allow the United States trustee, or a designated representative of the United States trustee, to inspect the debtor's business premises, books, and records at reasonable times, after reasonable prior written notice, unless notice is waived by the debtor.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 11 of title 11, United States Code, as amended by section 321, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 1115 the following:

''1116. Duties of trustee or debtor in possession in small business cases.''.

SEC. 437. PLAN FILING AND CONFIRMATION DEADLINES.

Section 1121 of title 11, United States Code, is amended by striking subsection (e) and inserting the following:

''(e) In a small business case—

''(1) only the debtor may file a plan until after 180 days after the date of the order for relief, unless that period is—

''(A) extended as provided by this subsection, after notice and a hearing; or

''(B) the court, for cause, orders otherwise;

''(2) the plan and a disclosure statement (if any) shall be filed not later than 300 days after the date of the order for relief; and

''(3) the time periods specified in paragraphs (1) and (2), and the time fixed in section 1129(e) within which the plan shall be confirmed, may be extended only if—

''(A) the debtor, after providing notice to parties in interest (including the United States trustee), demonstrates by a preponderance of the evidence that it is more likely than not that the court will confirm a plan within a reasonable period of time;

''(B) a new deadline is imposed at the time the extension is granted; and

''(C) the order extending time is signed before the existing deadline has expired.''.

SEC. 438. PLAN CONFIRMATION DEADLINE.

Section 1129 of title 11, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(e) In a small business case, the court shall confirm a plan that complies with the applicable provisions of this title and that is filed in accordance with section 1121(e) not later than 45 days after the plan is filed unless the time for confirmation is extended in accordance with section 1121(e)(3).''.

SEC. 439. DUTIES OF THE UNITED STATES TRUSTEE.

Section 586(a) of title 28, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (3)—

(A) in subparagraph (G), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(B) by redesignating subparagraph (H) as subparagraph (I); and

(C) by inserting after subparagraph (G) the following:

''(H) in small business cases (as defined in section 101 of title 11), performing the additional duties specified in title 11 pertaining to such cases; and'';

(2) in paragraph (5), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(3) in paragraph (6), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

''(7) in each of such small business cases—

''(A) conduct an initial debtor interview as soon as practicable after the date of the order for relief but before the first meeting scheduled under section 341(a) of title 11, at which time the United States trustee shall—

''(i) begin to investigate the debtor's viability;

''(ii) inquire about the debtor's business plan;

''(iii) explain the debtor's obligations to file monthly operating reports and other required reports;

''(iv) attempt to develop an agreed scheduling order; and

''(v) inform the debtor of other obligations;

''(B) if determined to be appropriate and advisable, visit the appropriate business premises of the debtor, ascertain the state of the debtor's books and records, and verify that the debtor has filed its tax returns; and

''(C) review and monitor diligently the debtor's activities, to identify as promptly as possible whether the debtor will be unable to confirm a plan; and

''(8) in any case in which the United States trustee finds material grounds for any relief under section 1112 of title 11, the United States trustee shall apply promptly after making that finding to the court for relief.''.

SEC. 440. SCHEDULING CONFERENCES.

Section 105(d) of title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking '', may''; and

(2) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

''(1) shall hold such status conferences as are necessary to further the expeditious and economical resolution of the case; and''.

SEC. 441. SERIAL FILER PROVISIONS.

Section 362 of title 11, United States Code, as amended by sections 106, 305, and 311, is amended—

(1) in subsection (k), as so redesignated by section 305—

(A) by striking ''An'' and inserting ''(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), an''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(2) If such violation is based on an action taken by an entity in the good faith belief that subsection (h) applies to the debtor, the recovery under paragraph (1) of this subsection against such entity shall be limited to actual damages.''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(n)(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), subsection (a) does not apply in a case in which the debtor—

''(A) is a debtor in a small business case pending at the time the petition is filed;

''(B) was a debtor in a small business case that was dismissed for any reason by an order that became final in the 2-year period ending on the date of the order for relief entered with respect to the petition;

''(C) was a debtor in a small business case in which a plan was confirmed in the 2-year period ending on the date of the order for relief entered with respect to the petition; or

''(D) is an entity that has acquired substantially all of the assets or business of a small business debtor described in subparagraph (A), (B), or (C), unless such entity establishes by a preponderance of the evidence that such entity acquired substantially all of the assets or business of such small business debtor in good faith and not for the purpose of evading this paragraph.

''(2) Paragraph (1) does not apply—

''(A) to an involuntary case involving no collusion by the debtor with creditors; or

''(B) to the filing of a petition if—

''(i) the debtor proves by a preponderance of the evidence that the filing of the petition resulted from circumstances beyond the control of the debtor not foreseeable at the time the case then pending was filed; and

''(ii) it is more likely than not that the court will confirm a feasible plan, but not a liquidating plan, within a reasonable period of time.''.

SEC. 442. EXPANDED GROUNDS FOR DISMISSAL OR CONVERSION AND APPOINTMENT OF TRUSTEE.

(a) EXPANDED GROUNDS FOR DISMISSAL OR CONVERSION.—Section 1112 of title 11, United States Code, is amended by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following:

''(b)(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, subsection (c) of this section, and section 1104(a)(3), on request of a party in interest, and after notice and a hearing, absent unusual circumstances specifically identified by the court that establish that the requested conversion or dismissal is not in the best interests of creditors and the estate, the court shall convert a case under this chapter to a case under chapter 7 or dismiss a case under this chapter, whichever is in the best interests of creditors and the estate, if the movant establishes cause.

''(2) The relief provided in paragraph (1) shall not be granted absent unusual circumstances specifically identified by the court that establish that such relief is not in the best interests of creditors and the estate, if the debtor or another party in interest objects and establishes that—

''(A) there is a reasonable likelihood that a plan will be confirmed within the timeframes established in sections 1121(e) and 1129(e) of this title, or if such sections do not apply, within a reasonable period of time; and

''(B) the grounds for granting such relief include an act or omission of the debtor other than under paragraph (4)(A)—

''(i) for which there exists a reasonable justification for the act or omission; and

''(ii) that will be cured within a reasonable period of time fixed by the court.

''(3) The court shall commence the hearing on a motion under this subsection not later than 30 days after filing of the motion, and shall decide the motion not later than 15

days after commencement of such hearing, unless the movant expressly consents to a continuance for a specific period of time or compelling circumstances prevent the court from meeting the time limits established by this paragraph.

''(4) For purposes of this subsection, the term 'cause' includes—

''(A) substantial or continuing loss to or diminution of the estate and the absence of a reasonable likelihood of rehabilitation;

''(B) gross mismanagement of the estate;

''(C) failure to maintain appropriate insurance that poses a risk to the estate or to the public;

''(D) unauthorized use of cash collateral substantially harmful to 1 or more creditors;

''(E) failure to comply with an order of the court;

''(F) unexcused failure to satisfy timely any filing or reporting requirement established by this title or by any rule applicable to a case under this chapter;

''(G) failure to attend the meeting of creditors convened under section 341(a) or an examination ordered under rule 2004 of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure without good cause shown by the debtor;

''(H) failure timely to provide information or attend meetings reasonably requested by the United States trustee (or the bankruptcy administrator, if any);

''(I) failure timely to pay taxes owed after the date of the order for relief or to file tax returns due after the date of the order for relief;

''(J) failure to file a disclosure statement, or to file or confirm a plan, within the time fixed by this title or by order of the court;

''(K) failure to pay any fees or charges required under chapter 123 of title 28;

''(L) revocation of an order of confirmation under section 1144;

''(M) inability to effectuate substantial consummation of a confirmed plan;

''(N) material default by the debtor with respect to a confirmed plan;

''(O) termination of a confirmed plan by reason of the occurrence of a condition specified in the plan; and

''(P) failure of the debtor to pay any domestic support obligation that first becomes payable after the date of the filing of the petition.''.

(b) ADDITIONAL GROUNDS FOR APPOINTMENT OF TRUSTEE.—Section 1104(a) of title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking ''or'' at the end;

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; or''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(3) if grounds exist to convert or dismiss the case under section 1112, but the court determines that the appointment of a trustee or an examiner is in the best interests of creditors and the estate.''.

SEC. 443. STUDY OF OPERATION OF TITLE 11, UNITED STATES CODE, WITH RESPECT TO SMALL BUSINESSES.

Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Small Business Administration, in consultation with the Attorney General, the Director of the Executive Office for United States Trustees, and the Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts, shall—

(1) conduct a study to determine—

(A) the internal and external factors that cause small businesses, especially sole proprietorships, to become debtors in cases under title 11, United States Code, and that cause certain small businesses to successfully complete cases under chapter 11 of such title; and

(B) how Federal laws relating to bankruptcy may be made more effective and efficient in assisting small businesses to remain viable; and

(2) submit to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives a report summarizing that study.

SEC. 444. PAYMENT OF INTEREST.

Section 362(d)(3) of title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by inserting ''or 30 days after the court determines that the debtor is subject to this paragraph, whichever is later'' after ''90-day period)''; and

(2) by striking subparagraph (B) and inserting the following:

''(B) the debtor has commenced monthly payments that—

''(i) may, in the debtor's sole discretion, notwithstanding section 363(c)(2), be made from rents or other income generated before, on, or after the date of the commencement of the case by or from the property to each creditor whose claim is secured by such real estate (other than a claim secured by a judgment lien or by an unmatured statutory lien); and

''(ii) are in an amount equal to interest at the then applicable nondefault contract rate of interest on the value of the creditor's interest in the real estate; or''.

SEC. 445. PRIORITY FOR ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.

Section 503(b) of title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (5), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(2) in paragraph (6), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(7) with respect to a nonresidential real property lease previously assumed under section 365, and subsequently rejected, a sum equal to all monetary obligations due, excluding those arising from or relating to a failure to operate or a penalty provision, for the period of 2 years following the later of the rejection date or the date of actual turnover of the premises, without reduction or setoff for any reason whatsoever except for sums actually received or to be received from an entity other than the debtor, and the claim for remaining sums due for the balance of the term of the lease shall be a claim under section 502(b)(6);''.

SEC. 446. DUTIES WITH RESPECT TO A DEBTOR WHO IS A PLAN ADMINISTRATOR OF AN EMPLOYEE BENEFIT PLAN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 521(a) of title 11, United States Code, as amended by sections 106 and 304, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (5), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(2) in paragraph (6), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(3) by adding after paragraph (6) the following:

''(7) unless a trustee is serving in the case, continue to perform the obligations required of the administrator (as defined in section 3 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974) of an employee benefit plan if at the time of the commencement of the case the debtor (or any entity designated by the debtor) served as such administrator.''.

(b) DUTIES OF TRUSTEES.—Section 704(a) of title 11, United States Code, as amended by sections 102 and 219, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (10), by striking ''and'' at the end; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(11) if, at the time of the commencement of the case, the debtor (or any entity designated by the debtor) served as the administrator (as defined in section 3 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974) of an employee benefit plan, continue to perform the obligations required of the administrator; and''.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 1106(a)(1) of title 11, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''(1) perform the duties of the trustee, as specified in paragraphs (2), (5), (7), (8), (9), (10), and (11) of section 704;''.

SEC. 447. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE OF RETIRED EMPLOYEES.

Section 1114(d) of title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking ''appoint'' and inserting ''order the appointment of'', and

(2) by adding at the end the following: ''The United States trustee shall appoint any such committee.''.

TITLE V—MUNICIPAL BANKRUPTCY PROVISIONS

SEC. 501. PETITION AND PROCEEDINGS RELATED TO PETITION.

(a) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT RELATING TO MUNICIPALITIES.—Section 921(d) of title 11, United States Code, is amended by inserting ''notwithstanding section 301(b)'' before the period at the end.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 301 of title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by inserting ''(a)'' before ''A voluntary''; and

(2) by striking the last sentence and inserting the following:

''(b) The commencement of a voluntary case under a chapter of this title constitutes an order for relief under such chapter.''.

SEC. 502. APPLICABILITY OF OTHER SECTIONS TO CHAPTER 9.

Section 901(a) of title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by inserting ''555, 556,'' after ''553,''; and

(2) by inserting ''559, 560, 561, 562,'' after ''557,''.

TITLE VI—BANKRUPTCY DATA

SEC. 601. IMPROVED BANKRUPTCY STATISTICS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 6 of title 28, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 159. Bankruptcy statistics

''(a) The clerk of the district court, or the clerk of the bankruptcy court if one is certified pursuant to section 156(b) of this title, shall collect statistics regarding debtors who are individuals with primarily consumer debts seeking relief under chapters 7, 11, and 13 of title 11. Those statistics shall be in a standardized format prescribed by the Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts (referred to in this section as the 'Director').

''(b) The Director shall—

''(1) compile the statistics referred to in subsection (a);

''(2) make the statistics available to the public; and

''(3) not later than July 1, 2008, and annually thereafter, prepare, and submit to Congress a report concerning the information collected under subsection (a) that contains an analysis of the information.

''(c) The compilation required under subsection (b) shall—

''(1) be itemized, by chapter, with respect to title 11;

''(2) be presented in the aggregate and for each district; and

''(3) include information concerning—

''(A) the total assets and total liabilities of the debtors described in subsection (a), and in each category of assets and liabilities, as reported in the schedules prescribed pursuant to section 2075 of this title and filed by debtors;

''(B) the current monthly income, average income, and average expenses of debtors as reported on the schedules and statements that each such debtor files under sections 521 and 1322 of title 11;

''(C) the aggregate amount of debt discharged in cases filed during the reporting

period, determined as the difference between the total amount of debt and obligations of a debtor reported on the schedules and the amount of such debt reported in categories which are predominantly nondischargeable;

''(D) the average period of time between the date of the filing of the petition and the closing of the case for cases closed during the reporting period;

''(E) for cases closed during the reporting period—

''(i) the number of cases in which a reaffirmation agreement was filed; and

''(ii)(I) the total number of reaffirmation agreements filed;

''(II) of those cases in which a reaffirmation agreement was filed, the number of cases in which the debtor was not represented by an attorney; and

''(III) of those cases in which a reaffirmation agreement was filed, the number of cases in which the reaffirmation agreement was approved by the court;

''(F) with respect to cases filed under chapter 13 of title 11, for the reporting period—

''(i)(I) the number of cases in which a final order was entered determining the value of property securing a claim in an amount less than the amount of the claim; and

''(II) the number of final orders entered determining the value of property securing a claim;

''(ii) the number of cases dismissed, the number of cases dismissed for failure to make payments under the plan, the number of cases refiled after dismissal, and the number of cases in which the plan was completed, separately itemized with respect to the number of modifications made before completion of the plan, if any; and

''(iii) the number of cases in which the debtor filed another case during the 6-year period preceding the filing;

''(G) the number of cases in which creditors were fined for misconduct and any amount of punitive damages awarded by the court for creditor misconduct; and

''(H) the number of cases in which sanctions under rule 9011 of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure were imposed against debtor's attorney or damages awarded under such Rule.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 6 of title 28, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''159. Bankruptcy statistics.''.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 602. UNIFORM RULES FOR THE COLLECTION OF BANKRUPTCY DATA.

(a) AMENDMENT.—Chapter 39 of title 28, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 589b. Bankruptcy data

''(a) RULES.—The Attorney General shall, within a reasonable time after the effective date of this section, issue rules requiring uniform forms for (and from time to time thereafter to appropriately modify and approve)—

''(1) final reports by trustees in cases under chapters 7, 12, and 13 of title 11; and

''(2) periodic reports by debtors in possession or trustees in cases under chapter 11 of title 11.

''(b) REPORTS.—Each report referred to in subsection (a) shall be designed (and the requirements as to place and manner of filing shall be established) so as to facilitate compilation of data and maximum possible access of the public, both by physical inspection at one or more central filing locations, and by electronic access through the Internet or other appropriate media.

''(c) REQUIRED INFORMATION.—The information required to be filed in the reports referred to in subsection (b) shall be that which is in the best interests of debtors and creditors, and in the public interest in reasonable and adequate information to evaluate the efficiency and practicality of the Federal bankruptcy system. In issuing rules proposing the forms referred to in subsection (a), the Attorney General shall strike the best achievable practical balance between—

''(1) the reasonable needs of the public for information about the operational results of the Federal bankruptcy system;

''(2) economy, simplicity, and lack of undue burden on persons with a duty to file reports; and

''(3) appropriate privacy concerns and safeguards.

''(d) FINAL REPORTS.—The uniform forms for final reports required under subsection (a) for use by trustees under chapters 7, 12, and 13 of title 11 shall, in addition to such other matters as are required by law or as the Attorney General in the discretion of the Attorney General shall propose, include with respect to a case under such title—

''(1) information about the length of time the case was pending;

''(2) assets abandoned;

''(3) assets exempted;

''(4) receipts and disbursements of the estate;

''(5) expenses of administration, including for use under section 707(b), actual costs of administering cases under chapter 13 of title 11;

''(6) claims asserted;

''(7) claims allowed; and

''(8) distributions to claimants and claims discharged without payment,

in each case by appropriate category and, in cases under chapters 12 and 13 of title 11, date of confirmation of the plan, each modification thereto, and defaults by the debtor in performance under the plan.

''(e) PERIODIC REPORTS.—The uniform forms for periodic reports required under subsection (a) for use by trustees or debtors in possession under chapter 11 of title 11 shall, in addition to such other matters as are required by law or as the Attorney General in the discretion of the Attorney General shall propose, include—

''(1) information about the industry classification, published by the Department of Commerce, for the businesses conducted by the debtor;

''(2) length of time the case has been pending;

''(3) number of full-time employees as of the date of the order for relief and at the end of each reporting period since the case was filed;

''(4) cash receipts, cash disbursements and profitability of the debtor for the most recent period and cumulatively since the date of the order for relief;

''(5) compliance with title 11, whether or not tax returns and tax payments since the date of the order for relief have been timely filed and made;

''(6) all professional fees approved by the court in the case for the most recent period and cumulatively since the date of the order for relief (separately reported, for the professional fees incurred by or on behalf of the debtor, between those that would have been incurred absent a bankruptcy case and those not); and

''(7) plans of reorganization filed and confirmed and, with respect thereto, by class, the recoveries of the holders, expressed in aggregate dollar values and, in the case of claims, as a percentage of total claims of the class allowed.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 39 of title 28, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''589b. Bankruptcy data.''.

SEC. 603. AUDIT PROCEDURES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROCEDURES.—The Attorney General (in judicial districts served by United States trustees) and the Judicial Conference of the United States (in judicial districts served by bankruptcy administrators) shall establish procedures to determine the accuracy, veracity, and completeness of petitions, schedules, and other information that the debtor is required to provide under sections 521 and 1322 of title 11, United States Code, and, if applicable, section 111 of such title, in cases filed under chapter 7 or 13 of such title in which the debtor is an individual. Such audits shall be in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and performed by independent certified public accountants or independent licensed public accountants, provided that the Attorney General and the Judicial Conference, as appropriate, may develop alternative auditing standards not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

(2) PROCEDURES.—Those procedures required by paragraph (1) shall—

(A) establish a method of selecting appropriate qualified persons to contract to perform those audits;

(B) establish a method of randomly selecting cases to be audited, except that not less than 1 out of every 250 cases in each Federal judicial district shall be selected for audit;

(C) require audits of schedules of income and expenses that reflect greater than average variances from the statistical norm of the district in which the schedules were filed if those variances occur by reason of higher income or higher expenses than the statistical norm of the district in which the schedules were filed; and

(D) establish procedures for providing, not less frequently than annually, public information concerning the aggregate results of such audits including the percentage of cases, by district, in which a material misstatement of income or expenditures is reported.

(b) AMENDMENTS.—Section 586 of title 28, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking paragraph (6) and inserting the following:

''(6) make such reports as the Attorney General directs, including the results of audits performed under section 603(a) of the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act of 2005;''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(f)(1) The United States trustee for each district is authorized to contract with auditors to perform audits in cases designated by the United States trustee, in accordance with the procedures established under section 603(a) of the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act of 2005.

''(2)(A) The report of each audit referred to in paragraph (1) shall be filed with the court and transmitted to the United States trustee. Each report shall clearly and conspicuously specify any material misstatement of income or expenditures or of assets identified by the person performing the audit. In any case in which a material misstatement of income or expenditures or of assets has been reported, the clerk of the district court (or the clerk of the bankruptcy court if one is certified under section 156(b) of this title) shall give notice of the misstatement to the creditors in the case.

''(B) If a material misstatement of income or expenditures or of assets is reported, the United States trustee shall—

''(i) report the material misstatement, if appropriate, to the United States Attorney pursuant to section 3057 of title 18; and

''(ii) if advisable, take appropriate action, including but not limited to commencing an adversary proceeding to revoke the debtor's discharge pursuant to section 727(d) of title 11.''.

(c) AMENDMENTS TO SECTION 521 OF TITLE 11, U.S.C.—Section 521(a) of title 11, United States Code, as so designated by section 106, is amended in each of paragraphs (3) and (4) by inserting ''or an auditor serving under section 586(f) of title 28'' after ''serving in the case''.

(d) AMENDMENTS TO SECTION 727 OF TITLE 11, U.S.C.—Section 727(d) of title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2), by striking ''or'' at the end;

(2) in paragraph (3), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; or''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(4) the debtor has failed to explain satisfactorily—

''(A) a material misstatement in an audit referred to in section 586(f) of title 28; or

''(B) a failure to make available for inspection all necessary accounts, papers, documents, financial records, files, and all other papers, things, or property belonging to the debtor that are requested for an audit referred to in section 586(f) of title 28.''.

(e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 604. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING AVAILABILITY OF BANKRUPTCY DATA.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the national policy of the United States should be that all data held by bankruptcy clerks in electronic form, to the extent such data reflects only public records (as defined in section 107 of title 11, United States Code), should be released in a usable electronic form in bulk to the public, subject to such appropriate privacy concerns and safeguards as Congress and the Judicial Conference of the United States may determine; and

(2) there should be established a bankruptcy data system in which—

(A) a single set of data definitions and forms are used to collect data nationwide; and

(B) data for any particular bankruptcy case are aggregated in the same electronic record.

TITLE VII—BANKRUPTCY TAX PROVISIONS

SEC. 701. TREATMENT OF CERTAIN LIENS.

(a) TREATMENT OF CERTAIN LIENS.—Section 724 of title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (b), in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by inserting ''(other than to the extent that there is a properly perfected unavoidable tax lien arising in connection with an ad valorem tax on real or personal property of the estate)'' after ''under this title'';

(2) in subsection (b)(2), by inserting ''(except that such expenses, other than claims for wages, salaries, or commissions that arise after the date of the filing of the petition, shall be limited to expenses incurred under chapter 7 of this title and shall not include expenses incurred under chapter 11 of this title)'' after ''507(a)(1)''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(e) Before subordinating a tax lien on real or personal property of the estate, the trustee shall—

''(1) exhaust the unencumbered assets of the estate; and

''(2) in a manner consistent with section 506(c), recover from property securing an allowed secured claim the reasonable, necessary costs and expenses of preserving or disposing of such property.

''(f) Notwithstanding the exclusion of ad valorem tax liens under this section and subject to the requirements of subsection (e), the following may be paid from property of the estate which secures a tax lien, or the proceeds of such property:

''(1) Claims for wages, salaries, and commissions that are entitled to priority under section 507(a)(4).

''(2) Claims for contributions to an employee benefit plan entitled to priority under section 507(a)(5).''.

(b) DETERMINATION OF TAX LIABILITY.—Section 505(a)(2) of title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''or'' at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (B), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; or''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(C) the amount or legality of any amount arising in connection with an ad valorem tax on real or personal property of the estate, if the applicable period for contesting or redetermining that amount under any law (other than a bankruptcy law) has expired.''.

SEC. 702. TREATMENT OF FUEL TAX CLAIMS.

Section 501 of title 11, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(e) A claim arising from the liability of a debtor for fuel use tax assessed consistent with the requirements of section 31705 of title 49 may be filed by the base jurisdiction designated pursuant to the International Fuel Tax Agreement (as defined in section 31701 of title 49) and, if so filed, shall be allowed as a single claim.''.

SEC. 703. NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR A DETERMINATION OF TAXES.

Section 505(b) of title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the first sentence, by inserting ''at the address and in the manner designated in paragraph (1)'' after ''determination of such tax'';

(2) by striking ''(1) upon payment'' and inserting ''(A) upon payment'';

(3) by striking ''(A) such governmental unit'' and inserting ''(i) such governmental unit'';

(4) by striking ''(B) such governmental unit'' and inserting ''(ii) such governmental unit'';

(5) by striking ''(2) upon payment'' and inserting ''(B) upon payment'';

(6) by striking ''(3) upon payment'' and inserting ''(C) upon payment'';

(7) by striking ''(b)'' and inserting ''(2)''; and

(8) by inserting before paragraph (2), as so designated, the following:

''(b)(1)(A) The clerk shall maintain a list under which a Federal, State, or local governmental unit responsible for the collection of taxes within the district may—

''(i) designate an address for service of requests under this subsection; and

''(ii) describe where further information concerning additional requirements for filing such requests may be found.

''(B) If such governmental unit does not designate an address and provide such address to the clerk under subparagraph (A), any request made under this subsection may be served at the address for the filing of a tax return or protest with the appropriate taxing authority of such governmental unit.''.

SEC. 704. RATE OF INTEREST ON TAX CLAIMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter I of chapter 5 of title 11, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 511. Rate of interest on tax claims

''(a) If any provision of this title requires the payment of interest on a tax claim or on an administrative expense tax, or the payment of interest to enable a creditor to receive the present value of the allowed amount of a tax claim, the rate of interest shall be the rate determined under applicable nonbankruptcy law.

''(b) In the case of taxes paid under a confirmed plan under this title, the rate of interest shall be determined as of the calendar month in which the plan is confirmed.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for subchapter I of chapter 5 of title 11, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''511. Rate of interest on tax claims.''.

SEC. 705. PRIORITY OF TAX CLAIMS.

Section 507(a)(8) of title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A)—

(A) in the matter preceding clause (i), by inserting ''for a taxable year ending on or before the date of the filing of the petition'' after ''gross receipts'';

(B) in clause (i), by striking ''for a taxable year ending on or before the date of the filing of the petition''; and

(C) by striking clause (ii) and inserting the following:

''(ii) assessed within 240 days before the date of the filing of the petition, exclusive of—

''(I) any time during which an offer in compromise with respect to that tax was pending or in effect during that 240-day period, plus 30 days; and

''(II) any time during which a stay of proceedings against collections was in effect in a prior case under this title during that 240-day period, plus 90 days.''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''An otherwise applicable time period specified in this paragraph shall be suspended for any period during which a governmental unit is prohibited under applicable nonbankruptcy law from collecting a tax as a result of a request by the debtor for a hearing and an appeal of any collection action taken or proposed against the debtor, plus 90 days; plus any time during which the stay of proceedings was in effect in a prior case under this title or during which collection was precluded by the existence of 1 or more confirmed plans under this title, plus 90 days.''.

SEC. 706. PRIORITY PROPERTY TAXES INCURRED.

Section 507(a)(8)(B) of title 11, United States Code, is amended by striking ''assessed'' and inserting ''incurred''.

SEC. 707. NO DISCHARGE OF FRAUDULENT TAXES IN CHAPTER 13.

Section 1328(a)(2) of title 11, United States Code, as amended by section 314, is amended by striking ''paragraph'' and inserting ''section 507(a)(8)(C) or in paragraph (1)(B), (1)(C),''.

SEC. 708. NO DISCHARGE OF FRAUDULENT TAXES IN CHAPTER 11.

Section 1141(d) of title 11, United States Code, as amended by sections 321 and 330, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(6) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), the confirmation of a plan does not discharge a debtor that is a corporation from any debt—

''(A) of a kind specified in paragraph (2)(A) or (2)(B) of section 523(a) that is owed to a domestic governmental unit, or owed to a person as the result of an action filed under subchapter III of chapter 37 of title 31 or any similar State statute; or

''(B) for a tax or customs duty with respect to which the debtor—

''(i) made a fraudulent return; or

''(ii) willfully attempted in any manner to evade or to defeat such tax or such customs duty.''.

SEC. 709. STAY OF TAX PROCEEDINGS LIMITED TO PREPETITION TAXES.

Section 362(a)(8) of title 11, United States Code, is amended by striking ''the debtor''

and inserting ''a corporate debtor's tax liability for a taxable period the bankruptcy court may determine or concerning the tax liability of a debtor who is an individual for a taxable period ending before the date of the order for relief under this title''.

SEC. 710. PERIODIC PAYMENT OF TAXES IN CHAPTER 11 CASES.

Section 1129(a)(9) of title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (C), by striking ''deferred cash payments,'' and all that follows through the end of the subparagraph, and inserting ''regular installment payments in cash—

''(i) of a total value, as of the effective date of the plan, equal to the allowed amount of such claim;

''(ii) over a period ending not later than 5 years after the date of the order for relief under section 301, 302, or 303; and

''(iii) in a manner not less favorable than the most favored nonpriority unsecured claim provided for by the plan (other than cash payments made to a class of creditors under section 1122(b)); and''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(D) with respect to a secured claim which would otherwise meet the description of an unsecured claim of a governmental unit under section 507(a)(8), but for the secured status of that claim, the holder of that claim will receive on account of that claim, cash payments, in the same manner and over the same period, as prescribed in subparagraph (C).''.

SEC. 711. AVOIDANCE OF STATUTORY TAX LIENS PROHIBITED.

Section 545(2) of title 11, United States Code, is amended by inserting before the semicolon at the end the following: '', except in any case in which a purchaser is a purchaser described in section 6323 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or in any other similar provision of State or local law''.

SEC. 712. PAYMENT OF TAXES IN THE CONDUCT OF BUSINESS.

(a) PAYMENT OF TAXES REQUIRED.—Section 960 of title 28, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by inserting ''(a)'' before ''Any''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(b) A tax under subsection (a) shall be paid on or before the due date of the tax under applicable nonbankruptcy law, unless—

''(1) the tax is a property tax secured by a lien against property that is abandoned under section 554 of title 11, within a reasonable period of time after the lien attaches, by the trustee in a case under title 11; or

''(2) payment of the tax is excused under a specific provision of title 11.

''(c) In a case pending under chapter 7 of title 11, payment of a tax may be deferred until final distribution is made under section 726 of title 11, if—

''(1) the tax was not incurred by a trustee duly appointed or elected under chapter 7 of title 11; or

''(2) before the due date of the tax, an order of the court makes a finding of probable insufficiency of funds of the estate to pay in full the administrative expenses allowed under section 503(b) of title 11 that have the same priority in distribution under section 726(b) of title 11 as the priority of that tax.''.

(b) PAYMENT OF AD VALOREM TAXES REQUIRED.—Section 503(b)(1)(B)(i) of title 11, United States Code, is amended by inserting ''whether secured or unsecured, including property taxes for which liability is in rem, in personam, or both,'' before ''except''.

(c) REQUEST FOR PAYMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSE TAXES ELIMINATED.—Section 503(b)(1) of title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (C), by adding ''and'' at the end; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(D) notwithstanding the requirements of subsection (a), a governmental unit shall not be required to file a request for the payment of an expense described in subparagraph (B) or (C), as a condition of its being an allowed administrative expense;''.

(d) PAYMENT OF TAXES AND FEES AS SECURED CLAIMS.—Section 506 of title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (b), by inserting ''or State statute'' after ''agreement''; and

(2) in subsection (c), by inserting '', including the payment of all ad valorem property taxes with respect to the property'' before the period at the end.

SEC. 713. TARDILY FILED PRIORITY TAX CLAIMS.

Section 726(a)(1) of title 11, United States Code, is amended by striking ''before the date on which the trustee commences distribution under this section;'' and inserting the following: ''on or before the earlier of—

''(A) the date that is 10 days after the mailing to creditors of the summary of the trustee's final report; or

''(B) the date on which the trustee commences final distribution under this section;''.

SEC. 714. INCOME TAX RETURNS PREPARED BY TAX AUTHORITIES.

Section 523(a) of title 11, United States Code, as amended by sections 215 and 224, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)(B)—

(A) in the matter preceding clause (i), by inserting ''or equivalent report or notice,'' after ''a return,'';

(B) in clause (i), by inserting ''or given'' after ''filed''; and

(C) in clause (ii)—

(i) by inserting ''or given'' after ''filed''; and

(ii) by inserting '', report, or notice'' after ''return''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''For purposes of this subsection, the term 'return' means a return that satisfies the requirements of applicable nonbankruptcy law (including applicable filing requirements). Such term includes a return prepared pursuant to section 6020(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or similar State or local law, or a written stipulation to a judgment or a final order entered by a nonbankruptcy tribunal, but does not include a return made pursuant to section 6020(b) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or a similar State or local law.''.

SEC. 715. DISCHARGE OF THE ESTATE'S LIABILITY FOR UNPAID TAXES.

Section 505(b)(2) of title 11, United States Code, as amended by section 703, is amended by inserting ''the estate,'' after ''misrepresentation,''.

SEC. 716. REQUIREMENT TO FILE TAX RETURNS TO CONFIRM CHAPTER 13 PLANS.

(a) FILING OF PREPETITION TAX RETURNS REQUIRED FOR PLAN CONFIRMATION.—Section 1325(a) of title 11, United States Code, as amended by sections 102, 213, and 306, is amended by inserting after paragraph (8) the following:

''(9) the debtor has filed all applicable Federal, State, and local tax returns as required by section 1308.''.

(b) ADDITIONAL TIME PERMITTED FOR FILING TAX RETURNS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter I of chapter 13 of title 11, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 1308. Filing of prepetition tax returns

''(a) Not later than the day before the date on which the meeting of the creditors is first scheduled to be held under section 341(a), if the debtor was required to file a tax return under applicable nonbankruptcy law, the debtor shall file with appropriate tax authorities all tax returns for all taxable periods ending during the 4-year period ending on the date of the filing of the petition.

''(b)(1) Subject to paragraph (2), if the tax returns required by subsection (a) have not been filed by the date on which the meeting of creditors is first scheduled to be held under section 341(a), the trustee may hold open that meeting for a reasonable period of time to allow the debtor an additional period of time to file any unfiled returns, but such additional period of time shall not extend beyond—

''(A) for any return that is past due as of the date of the filing of the petition, the date that is 120 days after the date of that meeting; or

''(B) for any return that is not past due as of the date of the filing of the petition, the later of—

''(i) the date that is 120 days after the date of that meeting; or

''(ii) the date on which the return is due under the last automatic extension of time for filing that return to which the debtor is entitled, and for which request is timely made, in accordance with applicable nonbankruptcy law.

''(2) After notice and a hearing, and order entered before the tolling of any applicable filing period determined under this subsection, if the debtor demonstrates by a preponderance of the evidence that the failure to file a return as required under this subsection is attributable to circumstances beyond the control of the debtor, the court may extend the filing period established by the trustee under this subsection for—

''(A) a period of not more than 30 days for returns described in paragraph (1); and

''(B) a period not to extend after the applicable extended due date for a return described in paragraph (2).

''(c) For purposes of this section, the term 'return' includes a return prepared pursuant to subsection (a) or (b) of section 6020 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or a similar State or local law, or a written stipulation to a judgment or a final order entered by a nonbankruptcy tribunal.''.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for subchapter I of chapter 13 of title 11, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''1308. Filing of prepetition tax returns.''.

(c) DISMISSAL OR CONVERSION ON FAILURE TO COMPLY.—Section 1307 of title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (e) and (f) as subsections (f) and (g), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subsection (d) the following:

''(e) Upon the failure of the debtor to file a tax return under section 1308, on request of a party in interest or the United States trustee and after notice and a hearing, the court shall dismiss a case or convert a case under this chapter to a case under chapter 7 of this title, whichever is in the best interest of the creditors and the estate.''.

(d) TIMELY FILED CLAIMS.—Section 502(b)(9) of title 11, United States Code, is amended by inserting before the period at the end the following: '', and except that in a case under chapter 13, a claim of a governmental unit for a tax with respect to a return filed under section 1308 shall be timely if the claim is filed on or before the date that is 60 days after the date on which such return was filed as required''.

(e) RULES FOR OBJECTIONS TO CLAIMS AND TO CONFIRMATION.—It is the sense of Congress that the Judicial Conference of the United States should, as soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, propose amended Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure that provide—

(1) notwithstanding the provisions of Rule 3015(f), in cases under chapter 13 of title 11, United States Code, that an objection to the confirmation of a plan filed by a governmental unit on or before the date that is 60 days after the date on which the debtor files all tax returns required under sections 1308 and 1325(a)(7) of title 11, United States Code, shall be treated for all purposes as if such objection had been timely filed before such confirmation; and

(2) in addition to the provisions of Rule 3007, in a case under chapter 13 of title 11, United States Code, that no objection to a claim for a tax with respect to which a return is required to be filed under section 1308 of title 11, United States Code, shall be filed until such return has been filed as required.

SEC. 717. STANDARDS FOR TAX DISCLOSURE.

Section 1125(a)(1) of title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by inserting ''including a discussion of the potential material Federal tax consequences of the plan to the debtor, any successor to the debtor, and a hypothetical investor typical of the holders of claims or interests in the case,'' after ''records,''; and

(2) by striking ''a hypothetical reasonable investor typical of holders of claims or interests'' and inserting ''such a hypothetical investor''.

SEC. 718. SETOFF OF TAX REFUNDS.

Section 362(b) of title 11, United States Code, as amended by sections 224, 303, 311, and 401, is amended by inserting after paragraph (25) the following:

''(26) under subsection (a), of the setoff under applicable nonbankruptcy law of an income tax refund, by a governmental unit, with respect to a taxable period that ended before the date of the order for relief against an income tax liability for a taxable period that also ended before the date of the order for relief, except that in any case in which the setoff of an income tax refund is not permitted under applicable nonbankruptcy law because of a pending action to determine the amount or legality of a tax liability, the governmental unit may hold the refund pending the resolution of the action, unless the court, on the motion of the trustee and after notice and a hearing, grants the taxing authority adequate protection (within the meaning of section 361) for the secured claim of such authority in the setoff under section 506(a);''.

SEC. 719. SPECIAL PROVISIONS RELATED TO THE TREATMENT OF STATE AND LOCAL TAXES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) SPECIAL PROVISIONS.—Section 346 of title 11, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''§ 346. Special provisions related to the treatment of State and local taxes

''(a) Whenever the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 provides that a separate taxable estate or entity is created in a case concerning a debtor under this title, and the income, gain, loss, deductions, and credits of such estate shall be taxed to or claimed by the estate, a separate taxable estate is also created for purposes of any State and local law imposing a tax on or measured by income and such income, gain, loss, deductions, and credits shall be taxed to or claimed by the estate and may not be taxed to or claimed by the debtor. The preceding sentence shall not apply if the case is dismissed. The trustee shall make tax returns of income required under any such State or local law.

''(b) Whenever the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 provides that no separate taxable estate shall be created in a case concerning a debtor under this title, and the income, gain, loss, deductions, and credits of an estate shall be taxed to or claimed by the debtor, such income, gain, loss, deductions, and credits shall be taxed to or claimed by the debtor under a State or local law imposing a tax on or measured by income and may not be taxed to or claimed by the estate. The trustee shall make such tax returns of income of corporations and of partnerships as are required under any State or local law, but with respect to partnerships, shall make such returns only to the extent such returns are also required to be made under such Code. The estate shall be liable for any tax imposed on such corporation or partnership, but not for any tax imposed on partners or members.

''(c) With respect to a partnership or any entity treated as a partnership under a State or local law imposing a tax on or measured by income that is a debtor in a case under this title, any gain or loss resulting from a distribution of property from such partnership, or any distributive share of any income, gain, loss, deduction, or credit of a partner or member that is distributed, or considered distributed, from such partnership, after the commencement of the case, is gain, loss, income, deduction, or credit, as the case may be, of the partner or member, and if such partner or member is a debtor in a case under this title, shall be subject to tax in accordance with subsection (a) or (b).

''(d) For purposes of any State or local law imposing a tax on or measured by income, the taxable period of a debtor in a case under this title shall terminate only if and to the extent that the taxable period of such debtor terminates under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

''(e) The estate in any case described in subsection (a) shall use the same accounting method as the debtor used immediately before the commencement of the case, if such method of accounting complies with applicable nonbankruptcy tax law.

''(f) For purposes of any State or local law imposing a tax on or measured by income, a transfer of property from the debtor to the estate or from the estate to the debtor shall not be treated as a disposition for purposes of any provision assigning tax consequences to a disposition, except to the extent that such transfer is treated as a disposition under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

''(g) Whenever a tax is imposed pursuant to a State or local law imposing a tax on or measured by income pursuant to subsection (a) or (b), such tax shall be imposed at rates generally applicable to the same types of entities under such State or local law.

''(h) The trustee shall withhold from any payment of claims for wages, salaries, commissions, dividends, interest, or other payments, or collect, any amount required to be withheld or collected under applicable State or local tax law, and shall pay such withheld or collected amount to the appropriate governmental unit at the time and in the manner required by such tax law, and with the same priority as the claim from which such amount was withheld or collected was paid.

''(i)(1) To the extent that any State or local law imposing a tax on or measured by income provides for the carryover of any tax attribute from one taxable period to a subsequent taxable period, the estate shall succeed to such tax attribute in any case in which such estate is subject to tax under subsection (a).

''(2) After such a case is closed or dismissed, the debtor shall succeed to any tax attribute to which the estate succeeded under paragraph (1) to the extent consistent with the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

''(3) The estate may carry back any loss or tax attribute to a taxable period of the debtor that ended before the date of the order for relief under this title to the extent that—

''(A) applicable State or local tax law provides for a carryback in the case of the debtor; and

''(B) the same or a similar tax attribute may be carried back by the estate to such a taxable period of the debtor under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

''(j)(1) For purposes of any State or local law imposing a tax on or measured by income, income is not realized by the estate, the debtor, or a successor to the debtor by reason of discharge of indebtedness in a case under this title, except to the extent, if any, that such income is subject to tax under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

''(2) Whenever the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 provides that the amount excluded from gross income in respect of the discharge of indebtedness in a case under this title shall be applied to reduce the tax attributes of the debtor or the estate, a similar reduction shall be made under any State or local law imposing a tax on or measured by income to the extent such State or local law recognizes such attributes. Such State or local law may also provide for the reduction of other attributes to the extent that the full amount of income from the discharge of indebtedness has not been applied.

''(k)(1) Except as provided in this section and section 505, the time and manner of filing tax returns and the items of income, gain, loss, deduction, and credit of any taxpayer shall be determined under applicable nonbankruptcy law.

''(2) For Federal tax purposes, the provisions of this section are subject to the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and other applicable Federal nonbankruptcy law.''.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 3 of title 11, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 346 and inserting the following:

''346. Special provisions related to the treatment of State and local taxes.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Title 11 of the United States Code is amended—

(1) by striking section 728;

(2) in the table of sections for chapter 7 by striking the item relating to section 728;

(3) in section 1146—

(A) by striking subsections (a) and (b); and

(B) by redesignating subsections (c) and (d) as subsections (a) and (b), respectively; and

(4) in section 1231—

(A) by striking subsections (a) and (b); and

(B) by redesignating subsections (c) and (d) as subsections (a) and (b), respectively.

SEC. 720. DISMISSAL FOR FAILURE TO TIMELY FILE TAX RETURNS.

Section 521 of title 11, United States Code, as amended by sections 106, 225, 305, 315, and 316, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(j)(1) Notwithstanding any other provision of this title, if the debtor fails to file a tax return that becomes due after the commencement of the case or to properly obtain an extension of the due date for filing such return, the taxing authority may request that the court enter an order converting or dismissing the case.

''(2) If the debtor does not file the required return or obtain the extension referred to in paragraph (1) within 90 days after a request is filed by the taxing authority under that paragraph, the court shall convert or dismiss the case, whichever is in the best interests of creditors and the estate.''.

TITLE VIII—ANCILLARY AND OTHER CROSS-BORDER CASES

SEC. 801. AMENDMENT TO ADD CHAPTER 15 TO TITLE 11, UNITED STATES CODE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title 11, United States Code, is amended by inserting after chapter 13 the following:

"CHAPTER 15—ANCILLARY AND OTHER CROSS-BORDER CASES

''Sec.
''1501. Purpose and scope of application.
''SUBCHAPTER I—GENERAL PROVISIONS
''1502. Definitions.
''1503. International obligations of the United States.
''1504. Commencement of ancillary case.
''1505. Authorization to act in a foreign country.
''1506. Public policy exception.
''1507. Additional assistance.
''1508. Interpretation.
''SUBCHAPTER II—ACCESS OF FOREIGN REPRESENTATIVES AND CREDITORS TO THE COURT
''1509. Right of direct access.
''1510. Limited jurisdiction.
''1511. Commencement of case under section 301 or 303.
''1512. Participation of a foreign representative in a case under this title.
''1513. Access of foreign creditors to a case under this title.
''1514. Notification to foreign creditors concerning a case under this title.
''SUBCHAPTER III—RECOGNITION OF A FOREIGN PROCEEDING AND RELIEF
''1515. Application for recognition.
''1516. Presumptions concerning recognition.
''1517. Order granting recognition.
''1518. Subsequent information.
''1519. Relief that may be granted upon filing petition for recognition.
''1520. Effects of recognition of a foreign main proceeding.
''1521. Relief that may be granted upon recognition.
''1522. Protection of creditors and other interested persons.
''1523. Actions to avoid acts detrimental to creditors.
''1524. Intervention by a foreign representative.
''SUBCHAPTER IV—COOPERATION WITH FOREIGN COURTS AND FOREIGN REPRESENTATIVES
''1525. Cooperation and direct communication between the court and foreign courts or foreign representatives.
''1526. Cooperation and direct communication between the trustee and foreign courts or foreign representatives.
''1527. Forms of cooperation.
''SUBCHAPTER V—CONCURRENT PROCEEDINGS
''1528. Commencement of a case under this title after recognition of a foreign main proceeding.
''1529. Coordination of a case under this title and a foreign proceeding.
''1530. Coordination of more than 1 foreign proceeding.
''1531. Presumption of insolvency based on recognition of a foreign main proceeding.
''1532. Rule of payment in concurrent proceedings.

"§ 1501. Purpose and scope of application

''(a) The purpose of this chapter is to incorporate the Model Law on Cross-Border Insolvency so as to provide effective mechanisms for dealing with cases of cross-border insolvency with the objectives of—

''(1) cooperation between—

''(A) courts of the United States, United States trustees, trustees, examiners, debtors, and debtors in possession; and

''(B) the courts and other competent authorities of foreign countries involved in cross-border insolvency cases;

''(2) greater legal certainty for trade and investment;

''(3) fair and efficient administration of cross-border insolvencies that protects the interests of all creditors, and other interested entities, including the debtor;

''(4) protection and maximization of the value of the debtor's assets; and

''(5) facilitation of the rescue of financially troubled businesses, thereby protecting investment and preserving employment.

''(b) This chapter applies where—

''(1) assistance is sought in the United States by a foreign court or a foreign representative in connection with a foreign proceeding;

''(2) assistance is sought in a foreign country in connection with a case under this title;

''(3) a foreign proceeding and a case under this title with respect to the same debtor are pending concurrently; or

''(4) creditors or other interested persons in a foreign country have an interest in requesting the commencement of, or participating in, a case or proceeding under this title.

''(c) This chapter does not apply to—

''(1) a proceeding concerning an entity, other than a foreign insurance company, identified by exclusion in section 109(b);

''(2) an individual, or to an individual and such individual's spouse, who have debts within the limits specified in section 109(e) and who are citizens of the United States or aliens lawfully admitted for permanent residence in the United States; or

''(3) an entity subject to a proceeding under the Securities Investor Protection Act of 1970, a stockbroker subject to subchapter III of chapter 7 of this title, or a commodity broker subject to subchapter IV of chapter 7 of this title.

''(d) The court may not grant relief under this chapter with respect to any deposit, escrow, trust fund, or other security required or permitted under any applicable State insurance law or regulation for the benefit of claim holders in the United States.

''SUBCHAPTER I—GENERAL PROVISIONS

"§ 1502. Definitions

''For the purposes of this chapter, the term—

''(1) 'debtor' means an entity that is the subject of a foreign proceeding;

''(2) 'establishment' means any place of operations where the debtor carries out a nontransitory economic activity;

''(3) 'foreign court' means a judicial or other authority competent to control or supervise a foreign proceeding;

''(4) 'foreign main proceeding' means a foreign proceeding pending in the country where the debtor has the center of its main interests;

''(5) 'foreign nonmain proceeding' means a foreign proceeding, other than a foreign main proceeding, pending in a country where the debtor has an establishment;

''(6) 'trustee' includes a trustee, a debtor in possession in a case under any chapter of this title, or a debtor under chapter 9 of this title;

''(7) 'recognition' means the entry of an order granting recognition of a foreign main proceeding or foreign nonmain proceeding under this chapter; and

''(8) 'within the territorial jurisdiction of the United States', when used with reference to property of a debtor, refers to tangible property located within the territory of the United States and intangible property deemed under applicable nonbankruptcy law to be located within that territory, including any property subject to attachment or garnishment that may properly be seized or garnished by an action in a Federal or State court in the United States.

"§ 1503. International obligations of the United States

''To the extent that this chapter conflicts with an obligation of the United States arising out of any treaty or other form of agreement to which it is a party with one or more other countries, the requirements of the treaty or agreement prevail.

"§ 1504. Commencement of ancillary case

''A case under this chapter is commenced by the filing of a petition for recognition of a foreign proceeding under section 1515.

"§ 1505. Authorization to act in a foreign country

''A trustee or another entity (including an examiner) may be authorized by the court to act in a foreign country on behalf of an estate created under section 541. An entity authorized to act under this section may act in any way permitted by the applicable foreign law.

"§ 1506. Public policy exception

''Nothing in this chapter prevents the court from refusing to take an action governed by this chapter if the action would be manifestly contrary to the public policy of the United States.

"§ 1507. Additional assistance

''(a) Subject to the specific limitations stated elsewhere in this chapter the court, if recognition is granted, may provide additional assistance to a foreign representative under this title or under other laws of the United States.

''(b) In determining whether to provide additional assistance under this title or under other laws of the United States, the court shall consider whether such additional assistance, consistent with the principles of comity, will reasonably assure—

''(1) just treatment of all holders of claims against or interests in the debtor's property;

''(2) protection of claim holders in the United States against prejudice and inconvenience in the processing of claims in such foreign proceeding;

''(3) prevention of preferential or fraudulent dispositions of property of the debtor;

''(4) distribution of proceeds of the debtor's property substantially in accordance with the order prescribed by this title; and

''(5) if appropriate, the provision of an opportunity for a fresh start for the individual that such foreign proceeding concerns.

"§ 1508. Interpretation

''In interpreting this chapter, the court shall consider its international origin, and the need to promote an application of this chapter that is consistent with the application of similar statutes adopted by foreign jurisdictions.

''SUBCHAPTER II—ACCESS OF FOREIGN REPRESENTATIVES AND CREDITORS TO THE COURT

"§ 1509. Right of direct access

''(a) A foreign representative may commence a case under section 1504 by filing directly with the court a petition for recognition of a foreign proceeding under section 1515.

''(b) If the court grants recognition under section 1517, and subject to any limitations that the court may impose consistent with the policy of this chapter—

''(1) the foreign representative has the capacity to sue and be sued in a court in the United States;

''(2) the foreign representative may apply directly to a court in the United States for appropriate relief in that court; and

''(3) a court in the United States shall grant comity or cooperation to the foreign representative.

''(c) A request for comity or cooperation by a foreign representative in a court in the United States other than the court which granted recognition shall be accompanied by a certified copy of an order granting recognition under section 1517.

''(d) If the court denies recognition under this chapter, the court may issue any appropriate order necessary to prevent the foreign representative from obtaining comity or cooperation from courts in the United States.

''(e) Whether or not the court grants recognition, and subject to sections 306 and 1510, a foreign representative is subject to applicable nonbankruptcy law.

''(f) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, the failure of a foreign representative to commence a case or to obtain recognition under this chapter does not affect any right the foreign representative may have to sue in a court in the United States to collect or recover a claim which is the property of the debtor.

''§ 1510. Limited jurisdiction

''The sole fact that a foreign representative files a petition under section 1515 does not subject the foreign representative to the jurisdiction of any court in the United States for any other purpose.

''§ 1511. Commencement of case under section 301 or 303

''(a) Upon recognition, a foreign representative may commence—

''(1) an involuntary case under section 303; or

''(2) a voluntary case under section 301 or 302, if the foreign proceeding is a foreign main proceeding.

''(b) The petition commencing a case under subsection (a) must be accompanied by a certified copy of an order granting recognition. The court where the petition for recognition has been filed must be advised of the foreign representative's intent to commence a case under subsection (a) prior to such commencement.

''§ 1512. Participation of a foreign representative in a case under this title

''Upon recognition of a foreign proceeding, the foreign representative in the recognized proceeding is entitled to participate as a party in interest in a case regarding the debtor under this title.

''§ 1513. Access of foreign creditors to a case under this title

''(a) Foreign creditors have the same rights regarding the commencement of, and participation in, a case under this title as domestic creditors.

''(b)(1) Subsection (a) does not change or codify present law as to the priority of claims under section 507 or 726, except that the claim of a foreign creditor under those sections shall not be given a lower priority than that of general unsecured claims without priority solely because the holder of such claim is a foreign creditor.

''(2)(A) Subsection (a) and paragraph (1) do not change or codify present law as to the allowability of foreign revenue claims or other foreign public law claims in a proceeding under this title.

''(B) Allowance and priority as to a foreign tax claim or other foreign public law claim shall be governed by any applicable tax treaty of the United States, under the conditions and circumstances specified therein.

''§ 1514. Notification to foreign creditors concerning a case under this title

''(a) Whenever in a case under this title notice is to be given to creditors generally or to any class or category of creditors, such notice shall also be given to the known creditors generally, or to creditors in the notified class or category, that do not have addresses in the United States. The court may order that appropriate steps be taken with a view to notifying any creditor whose address is not yet known.

''(b) Such notification to creditors with foreign addresses described in subsection (a) shall be given individually, unless the court considers that, under the circumstances, some other form of notification would be more appropriate. No letter or other formality is required.

''(c) When a notification of commencement of a case is to be given to foreign creditors, such notification shall—

''(1) indicate the time period for filing proofs of claim and specify the place for filing such proofs of claim;

''(2) indicate whether secured creditors need to file proofs of claim; and

''(3) contain any other information required to be included in such notification to creditors under this title and the orders of the court.

''(d) Any rule of procedure or order of the court as to notice or the filing of a proof of claim shall provide such additional time to creditors with foreign addresses as is reasonable under the circumstances.

''SUBCHAPTER III—RECOGNITION OF A FOREIGN PROCEEDING AND RELIEF

''§ 1515. Application for recognition

''(a) A foreign representative applies to the court for recognition of a foreign proceeding in which the foreign representative has been appointed by filing a petition for recognition.

''(b) A petition for recognition shall be accompanied by—

''(1) a certified copy of the decision commencing such foreign proceeding and appointing the foreign representative;

''(2) a certificate from the foreign court affirming the existence of such foreign proceeding and of the appointment of the foreign representative; or

''(3) in the absence of evidence referred to in paragraphs (1) and (2), any other evidence acceptable to the court of the existence of such foreign proceeding and of the appointment of the foreign representative.

''(c) A petition for recognition shall also be accompanied by a statement identifying all foreign proceedings with respect to the debtor that are known to the foreign representative.

''(d) The documents referred to in paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (b) shall be translated into English. The court may require a translation into English of additional documents.

''§ 1516. Presumptions concerning recognition

''(a) If the decision or certificate referred to in section 1515(b) indicates that the foreign proceeding is a foreign proceeding and that the person or body is a foreign representative, the court is entitled to so presume.

''(b) The court is entitled to presume that documents submitted in support of the petition for recognition are authentic, whether or not they have been legalized.

''(c) In the absence of evidence to the contrary, the debtor's registered office, or habitual residence in the case of an individual, is presumed to be the center of the debtor's main interests.

''§ 1517. Order granting recognition

''(a) Subject to section 1506, after notice and a hearing, an order recognizing a foreign proceeding shall be entered if—

''(1) such foreign proceeding for which recognition is sought is a foreign main proceeding or foreign nonmain proceeding within the meaning of section 1502;

''(2) the foreign representative applying for recognition is a person or body; and

''(3) the petition meets the requirements of section 1515.

''(b) Such foreign proceeding shall be recognized—

''(1) as a foreign main proceeding if it is pending in the country where the debtor has the center of its main interests; or

''(2) as a foreign nonmain proceeding if the debtor has an establishment within the meaning of section 1502 in the foreign country where the proceeding is pending.

''(c) A petition for recognition of a foreign proceeding shall be decided upon at the earliest possible time. Entry of an order recognizing a foreign proceeding constitutes recognition under this chapter.

''(d) The provisions of this subchapter do not prevent modification or termination of recognition if it is shown that the grounds for granting it were fully or partially lacking or have ceased to exist, but in considering such action the court shall give due weight to possible prejudice to parties that have relied upon the order granting recognition. A case under this chapter may be closed in the manner prescribed under section 350.

''§ 1518. Subsequent information

''From the time of filing the petition for recognition of a foreign proceeding, the foreign representative shall file with the court promptly a notice of change of status concerning—

''(1) any substantial change in the status of such foreign proceeding or the status of the foreign representative's appointment; and

''(2) any other foreign proceeding regarding the debtor that becomes known to the foreign representative.

''§ 1519. Relief that may be granted upon filing petition for recognition

''(a) From the time of filing a petition for recognition until the court rules on the petition, the court may, at the request of the foreign representative, where relief is urgently needed to protect the assets of the debtor or the interests of the creditors, grant relief of a provisional nature, including—

''(1) staying execution against the debtor's assets;

''(2) entrusting the administration or realization of all or part of the debtor's assets located in the United States to the foreign representative or another person authorized by the court, including an examiner, in order to protect and preserve the value of assets that, by their nature or because of other circumstances, are perishable, susceptible to devaluation or otherwise in jeopardy; and

''(3) any relief referred to in paragraph (3), (4), or (7) of section 1521(a).

''(b) Unless extended under section 1521(a)(6), the relief granted under this section terminates when the petition for recognition is granted.

''(c) It is a ground for denial of relief under this section that such relief would interfere with the administration of a foreign main proceeding.

''(d) The court may not enjoin a police or regulatory act of a governmental unit, including a criminal action or proceeding, under this section.

''(e) The standards, procedures, and limitations applicable to an injunction shall apply to relief under this section.

''(f) The exercise of rights not subject to the stay arising under section 362(a) pursuant to paragraph (6), (7), (17), or (27) of section 362(b) or pursuant to section 362(n) shall not be stayed by any order of a court or administrative agency in any proceeding under this chapter.

"§ 1520. Effects of recognition of a foreign main proceeding

''(a) Upon recognition of a foreign proceeding that is a foreign main proceeding—

''(1) sections 361 and 362 apply with respect to the debtor and the property of the debtor that is within the territorial jurisdiction of the United States;

''(2) sections 363, 549, and 552 apply to a transfer of an interest of the debtor in property that is within the territorial jurisdiction of the United States to the same extent that the sections would apply to property of an estate;

''(3) unless the court orders otherwise, the foreign representative may operate the debtor's business and may exercise the rights and powers of a trustee under and to the extent provided by sections 363 and 552; and

''(4) section 552 applies to property of the debtor that is within the territorial jurisdiction of the United States.

''(b) Subsection (a) does not affect the right to commence an individual action or proceeding in a foreign country to the extent necessary to preserve a claim against the debtor.

''(c) Subsection (a) does not affect the right of a foreign representative or an entity to file a petition commencing a case under this title or the right of any party to file claims or take other proper actions in such a case.

"§ 1521. Relief that may be granted upon recognition

''(a) Upon recognition of a foreign proceeding, whether main or nonmain, where necessary to effectuate the purpose of this chapter and to protect the assets of the debtor or the interests of the creditors, the court may, at the request of the foreign representative, grant any appropriate relief, including—

''(1) staying the commencement or continuation of an individual action or proceeding concerning the debtor's assets, rights, obligations or liabilities to the extent they have not been stayed under section 1520(a);

''(2) staying execution against the debtor's assets to the extent it has not been stayed under section 1520(a);

''(3) suspending the right to transfer, encumber or otherwise dispose of any assets of the debtor to the extent this right has not been suspended under section 1520(a);

''(4) providing for the examination of witnesses, the taking of evidence or the delivery of information concerning the debtor's assets, affairs, rights, obligations or liabilities;

''(5) entrusting the administration or realization of all or part of the debtor's assets within the territorial jurisdiction of the United States to the foreign representative or another person, including an examiner, authorized by the court;

''(6) extending relief granted under section 1519(a); and

''(7) granting any additional relief that may be available to a trustee, except for relief available under sections 522, 544, 545, 547, 548, 550, and 724(a).

''(b) Upon recognition of a foreign proceeding, whether main or nonmain, the court may, at the request of the foreign representative, entrust the distribution of all or part of the debtor's assets located in the United States to the foreign representative or another person, including an examiner, authorized by the court, provided that the court is satisfied that the interests of creditors in the United States are sufficiently protected.

''(c) In granting relief under this section to a representative of a foreign nonmain proceeding, the court must be satisfied that the relief relates to assets that, under the law of the United States, should be administered in the foreign nonmain proceeding or concerns information required in that proceeding.

''(d) The court may not enjoin a police or regulatory act of a governmental unit, including a criminal action or proceeding, under this section.

''(e) The standards, procedures, and limitations applicable to an injunction shall apply to relief under paragraphs (1), (2), (3), and (6) of subsection (a).

''(f) The exercise of rights not subject to the stay arising under section 362(a) pursuant to paragraph (6), (7), (17), or (27) of section 362(b) or pursuant to section 362(n) shall not be stayed by any order of a court or administrative agency in any proceeding under this chapter.

"§ 1522. Protection of creditors and other interested persons

''(a) The court may grant relief under section 1519 or 1521, or may modify or terminate relief under subsection (c), only if the interests of the creditors and other interested entities, including the debtor, are sufficiently protected.

''(b) The court may subject relief granted under section 1519 or 1521, or the operation of the debtor's business under section 1520(a)(3), to conditions it considers appropriate, including the giving of security or the filing of a bond.

''(c) The court may, at the request of the foreign representative or an entity affected by relief granted under section 1519 or 1521, or at its own motion, modify or terminate such relief.

''(d) Section 1104(d) shall apply to the appointment of an examiner under this chapter. Any examiner shall comply with the qualification requirements imposed on a trustee by section 322.

"§ 1523. Actions to avoid acts detrimental to creditors

''(a) Upon recognition of a foreign proceeding, the foreign representative has standing in a case concerning the debtor pending under another chapter of this title to initiate actions under sections 522, 544, 545, 547, 548, 550, 553, and 724(a).

''(b) When a foreign proceeding is a foreign nonmain proceeding, the court must be satisfied that an action under subsection (a) relates to assets that, under United States law, should be administered in the foreign nonmain proceeding.

"§ 1524. Intervention by a foreign representative

''Upon recognition of a foreign proceeding, the foreign representative may intervene in any proceedings in a State or Federal court in the United States in which the debtor is a party.

''SUBCHAPTER IV—COOPERATION WITH FOREIGN COURTS AND FOREIGN REPRESENTATIVES

"§ 1525. Cooperation and direct communication between the court and foreign courts or foreign representatives

''(a) Consistent with section 1501, the court shall cooperate to the maximum extent possible with a foreign court or a foreign representative, either directly or through the trustee.

''(b) The court is entitled to communicate directly with, or to request information or assistance directly from, a foreign court or a foreign representative, subject to the rights of a party in interest to notice and participation.

"§ 1526. Cooperation and direct communication between the trustee and foreign courts or foreign representatives

''(a) Consistent with section 1501, the trustee or other person, including an examiner, authorized by the court, shall, subject to the supervision of the court, cooperate to the maximum extent possible with a foreign court or a foreign representative.

''(b) The trustee or other person, including an examiner, authorized by the court is entitled, subject to the supervision of the court, to communicate directly with a foreign court or a foreign representative.

"§ 1527. Forms of cooperation

''Cooperation referred to in sections 1525 and 1526 may be implemented by any appropriate means, including—

''(1) appointment of a person or body, including an examiner, to act at the direction of the court;

''(2) communication of information by any means considered appropriate by the court;

''(3) coordination of the administration and supervision of the debtor's assets and affairs;

''(4) approval or implementation of agreements concerning the coordination of proceedings; and

''(5) coordination of concurrent proceedings regarding the same debtor.

''SUBCHAPTER V—CONCURRENT PROCEEDINGS

"§ 1528. Commencement of a case under this title after recognition of a foreign main proceeding

''After recognition of a foreign main proceeding, a case under another chapter of this title may be commenced only if the debtor has assets in the United States. The effects of such case shall be restricted to the assets of the debtor that are within the territorial jurisdiction of the United States and, to the extent necessary to implement cooperation and coordination under sections 1525, 1526, and 1527, to other assets of the debtor that are within the jurisdiction of the court under sections 541(a) of this title, and 1334(e) of title 28, to the extent that such other assets are not subject to the jurisdiction and control of a foreign proceeding that has been recognized under this chapter.

"§ 1529. Coordination of a case under this title and a foreign proceeding

''If a foreign proceeding and a case under another chapter of this title are pending concurrently regarding the same debtor, the court shall seek cooperation and coordination under sections 1525, 1526, and 1527, and the following shall apply:

''(1) If the case in the United States pending at the time the petition for recognition of such foreign proceeding is filed—

''(A) any relief granted under section 1519 or 1521 must be consistent with the relief granted in the case in the United States; and

''(B) section 1520 does not apply even if such foreign proceeding is recognized as a foreign main proceeding.

''(2) If a case in the United States under this title commences after recognition, or after the date of the filing of the petition for recognition, of such foreign proceeding—

''(A) any relief in effect under section 1519 or 1521 shall be reviewed by the court and shall be modified or terminated if inconsistent with the case in the United States; and

''(B) if such foreign proceeding is a foreign main proceeding, the stay and suspension referred to in section 1520(a) shall be modified or terminated if inconsistent with the relief granted in the case in the United States.

''(3) In granting, extending, or modifying relief granted to a representative of a foreign nonmain proceeding, the court must be satisfied that the relief relates to assets that, under the laws of the United States, should be administered in the foreign nonmain proceeding or concerns information required in that proceeding.

''(4) In achieving cooperation and coordination under sections 1528 and 1529, the court

may grant any of the relief authorized under section 305.

"§ 1530. Coordination of more than 1 foreign proceeding

''In matters referred to in section 1501, with respect to more than 1 foreign proceeding regarding the debtor, the court shall seek cooperation and coordination under sections 1525, 1526, and 1527, and the following shall apply:

''(1) Any relief granted under section 1519 or 1521 to a representative of a foreign nonmain proceeding after recognition of a foreign main proceeding must be consistent with the foreign main proceeding.

''(2) If a foreign main proceeding is recognized after recognition, or after the filing of a petition for recognition, of a foreign nonmain proceeding, any relief in effect under section 1519 or 1521 shall be reviewed by the court and shall be modified or terminated if inconsistent with the foreign main proceeding.

''(3) If, after recognition of a foreign nonmain proceeding, another foreign nonmain proceeding is recognized, the court shall grant, modify, or terminate relief for the purpose of facilitating coordination of the proceedings.

"§ 1531. Presumption of insolvency based on recognition of a foreign main proceeding

''In the absence of evidence to the contrary, recognition of a foreign main proceeding is, for the purpose of commencing a proceeding under section 303, proof that the debtor is generally not paying its debts as such debts become due.

"§ 1532. Rule of payment in concurrent proceedings

''Without prejudice to secured claims or rights in rem, a creditor who has received payment with respect to its claim in a foreign proceeding pursuant to a law relating to insolvency may not receive a payment for the same claim in a case under any other chapter of this title regarding the debtor, so long as the payment to other creditors of the same class is proportionately less than the payment the creditor has already received.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of chapters for title 11, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to chapter 13 the following:

"15. Ancillary and Other Cross-Border Cases ..... 1501".

SEC. 802. OTHER AMENDMENTS TO TITLES 11 AND 28, UNITED STATES CODE.

(a) APPLICABILITY OF CHAPTERS.—Section 103 of title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by inserting before the period the following: '', and this chapter, sections 307, 362(n), 555 through 557, and 559 through 562 apply in a case under chapter 15''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(k) Chapter 15 applies only in a case under such chapter, except that—

''(1) sections 1505, 1513, and 1514 apply in all cases under this title; and

''(2) section 1509 applies whether or not a case under this title is pending.''.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—Section 101 of title 11, United States Code, is amended by striking paragraphs (23) and (24) and inserting the following:

''(23) 'foreign proceeding' means a collective judicial or administrative proceeding in a foreign country, including an interim proceeding, under a law relating to insolvency or adjustment of debt in which proceeding the assets and affairs of the debtor are subject to control or supervision by a foreign court, for the purpose of reorganization or liquidation;

''(24) 'foreign representative' means a person or body, including a person or body appointed on an interim basis, authorized in a foreign proceeding to administer the reorganization or the liquidation of the debtor's assets or affairs or to act as a representative of such foreign proceeding;''.

(c) AMENDMENTS TO TITLE 28, UNITED STATES CODE.—

(1) PROCEDURES.—Section 157(b)(2) of title 28, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in subparagraph (N), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(B) in subparagraph (O), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(P) recognition of foreign proceedings and other matters under chapter 15 of title 11.''.

(2) BANKRUPTCY CASES AND PROCEEDINGS.—Section 1334(c) of title 28, United States Code, is amended by striking ''Nothing in'' and inserting ''Except with respect to a case under chapter 15 of title 11, nothing in''.

(3) DUTIES OF TRUSTEES.—Section 586(a)(3) of title 28, United States Code, is amended by striking ''or 13'' and inserting ''13, or 15''.

(4) VENUE OF CASES ANCILLARY TO FOREIGN PROCEEDINGS.—Section 1410 of title 28, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

"§ 1410. Venue of cases ancillary to foreign proceedings

''A case under chapter 15 of title 11 may be commenced in the district court of the United States for the district—

''(1) in which the debtor has its principal place of business or principal assets in the United States;

''(2) if the debtor does not have a place of business or assets in the United States, in which there is pending against the debtor an action or proceeding in a Federal or State court; or

''(3) in a case other than those specified in paragraph (1) or (2), in which venue will be consistent with the interests of justice and the convenience of the parties, having regard to the relief sought by the foreign representative.''.

(d) OTHER SECTIONS OF TITLE 11.—Title 11 of the United States Code is amended—

(1) in section 109(b), by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the following:

''(3)(A) a foreign insurance company, engaged in such business in the United States; or

''(B) a foreign bank, savings bank, cooperative bank, savings and loan association, building and loan association, or credit union, that has a branch or agency (as defined in section 1(b) of the International Banking Act of 1978 in the United States.'';

(2) in section 303, by striking subsection (k);

(3) by striking section 304;

(4) in the table of sections for chapter 3 by striking the item relating to section 304;

(5) in section 306 by striking '', 304,'' each place it appears;

(6) in section 305(a) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

''(2)(A) a petition under section 1515 for recognition of a foreign proceeding has been granted; and

''(B) the purposes of chapter 15 of this title would be best served by such dismissal or suspension.''; and

(7) in section 508—

(A) by striking subsection (a); and

(B) in subsection (b), by striking ''(b)''.

TITLE IX—FINANCIAL CONTRACT PROVISIONS

SEC. 901. TREATMENT OF CERTAIN AGREEMENTS BY CONSERVATORS OR RECEIVERS OF INSURED DEPOSITORY INSTITUTIONS.

(a) DEFINITION OF QUALIFIED FINANCIAL CONTRACT.—

(1) FDIC-INSURED DEPOSITORY INSTITUTIONS.—Section 11(e)(8)(D) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1821(e)(8)(D)) is amended—

(A) by striking ''subsection—'' and inserting ''subsection, the following definitions shall apply:''; and

(B) in clause (i), by inserting '', resolution, or order'' after ''any similar agreement that the Corporation determines by regulation''.

(2) INSURED CREDIT UNIONS.—Section 207(c)(8)(D) of the Federal Credit Union Act (12 U.S.C. 1787(c)(8)(D)) is amended—

(A) by striking ''subsection—'' and inserting ''subsection, the following definitions shall apply:''; and

(B) in clause (i), by inserting '', resolution, or order'' after ''any similar agreement that the Board determines by regulation''.

(b) DEFINITION OF SECURITIES CONTRACT.—

(1) FDIC-INSURED DEPOSITORY INSTITUTIONS.—Section 11(e)(8)(D)(ii) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1821(e)(8)(D)(ii)) is amended to read as follows:

''(ii) SECURITIES CONTRACT.—The term 'securities contract'—

''(I) means a contract for the purchase, sale, or loan of a security, a certificate of deposit, a mortgage loan, or any interest in a mortgage loan, a group or index of securities, certificates of deposit, or mortgage loans or interests therein (including any interest therein or based on the value thereof) or any option on any of the foregoing, including any option to purchase or sell any such security, certificate of deposit, mortgage loan, interest, group or index, or option, and including any repurchase or reverse repurchase transaction on any such security, certificate of deposit, mortgage loan, interest, group or index, or option;

''(II) does not include any purchase, sale, or repurchase obligation under a participation in a commercial mortgage loan unless the Corporation determines by regulation, resolution, or order to include any such agreement within the meaning of such term;

''(III) means any option entered into on a national securities exchange relating to foreign currencies;

''(IV) means the guarantee by or to any securities clearing agency of any settlement of cash, securities, certificates of deposit, mortgage loans or interests therein, group or index of securities, certificates of deposit, or mortgage loans or interests therein (including any interest therein or based on the value thereof) or option on any of the foregoing, including any option to purchase or sell any such security, certificate of deposit, mortgage loan, interest, group or index, or option;

''(V) means any margin loan;

''(VI) means any other agreement or transaction that is similar to any agreement or transaction referred to in this clause;

''(VII) means any combination of the agreements or transactions referred to in this clause;

''(VIII) means any option to enter into any agreement or transaction referred to in this clause;

''(IX) means a master agreement that provides for an agreement or transaction referred to in subclause (I), (III), (IV), (V), (VI), (VII), or (VIII), together with all supplements to any such master agreement, without regard to whether the master agreement provides for an agreement or transaction that is not a securities contract under this clause, except that the master agreement shall be considered to be a securities contract under this clause only with respect to each agreement or transaction under the master agreement that is referred to in subclause (I), (III), (IV), (V), (VI), (VII), or (VIII); and

''(X) means any security agreement or arrangement or other credit enhancement related to any agreement or transaction referred to in this clause, including any guarantee or reimbursement obligation in connection with any agreement or transaction referred to in this clause.''.

(2) INSURED CREDIT UNIONS.—Section 207(c)(8)(D)(ii) of the Federal Credit Union Act (12 U.S.C. 1787(c)(8)(D)(ii)) is amended to read as follows:

''(ii) SECURITIES CONTRACT.—The term 'securities contract'—

''(I) means a contract for the purchase, sale, or loan of a security, a certificate of deposit, a mortgage loan, or any interest in a mortgage loan, a group or index of securities, certificates of deposit, or mortgage loans or interests therein (including any interest therein or based on the value thereof) or any option on any of the foregoing, including any option to purchase or sell any such security, certificate of deposit, mortgage loan, interest, group or index, or option, and including any repurchase or reverse repurchase transaction on any such security, certificate of deposit, mortgage loan, interest, group or index, or option;

''(II) does not include any purchase, sale, or repurchase obligation under a participation in a commercial mortgage loan unless the Board determines by regulation, resolution, or order to include any such agreement within the meaning of such term;

''(III) means any option entered into on a national securities exchange relating to foreign currencies;

''(IV) means the guarantee by or to any securities clearing agency of any settlement of cash, securities, certificates of deposit, mortgage loans or interests therein, group or index of securities, certificates of deposit, or mortgage loans or interests therein (including any interest therein or based on the value thereof) or option on any of the foregoing, including any option to purchase or sell any such security, certificate of deposit, mortgage loan, interest, group or index, or option;

''(V) means any margin loan;

''(VI) means any other agreement or transaction that is similar to any agreement or transaction referred to in this clause;

''(VII) means any combination of the agreements or transactions referred to in this clause;

''(VIII) means any option to enter into any agreement or transaction referred to in this clause;

''(IX) means a master agreement that provides for an agreement or transaction referred to in subclause (I), (III), (IV), (V), (VI), (VII), or (VIII), together with all supplements to any such master agreement, without regard to whether the master agreement provides for an agreement or transaction that is not a securities contract under this clause, except that the master agreement shall be considered to be a securities contract under this clause only with respect to each agreement or transaction under the master agreement that is referred to in subclause (I), (III), (IV), (V), (VI), (VII), or (VIII); and

''(X) means any security agreement or arrangement or other credit enhancement related to any agreement or transaction referred to in this clause, including any guarantee or reimbursement obligation in connection with any agreement or transaction referred to in this clause.''.

(c) DEFINITION OF COMMODITY CONTRACT.—

(1) FDIC-INSURED DEPOSITORY INSTITUTIONS.—Section 11(e)(8)(D)(iii) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1821(e)(8)(D)(iii)) is amended to read as follows:

''(iii) COMMODITY CONTRACT.—The term 'commodity contract' means—

''(I) with respect to a futures commission merchant, a contract for the purchase or sale of a commodity for future delivery on, or subject to the rules of, a contract market or board of trade;

''(II) with respect to a foreign futures commission merchant, a foreign future;

''(III) with respect to a leverage transaction merchant, a leverage transaction;

''(IV) with respect to a clearing organization, a contract for the purchase or sale of a commodity for future delivery on, or subject to the rules of, a contract market or board of trade that is cleared by such clearing organization, or commodity option traded on, or subject to the rules of, a contract market or board of trade that is cleared by such clearing organization;

''(V) with respect to a commodity options dealer, a commodity option;

''(VI) any other agreement or transaction that is similar to any agreement or transaction referred to in this clause;

''(VII) any combination of the agreements or transactions referred to in this clause;

''(VIII) any option to enter into any agreement or transaction referred to in this clause;

''(IX) a master agreement that provides for an agreement or transaction referred to in subclause (I), (II), (III), (IV), (V), (VI), (VII), or (VIII), together with all supplements to any such master agreement, without regard to whether the master agreement provides for an agreement or transaction that is not a commodity contract under this clause, except that the master agreement shall be considered to be a commodity contract under this clause only with respect to each agreement or transaction under the master agreement that is referred to in subclause (I), (II), (III), (IV), (V), (VI), (VII), or (VIII); or

''(X) any security agreement or arrangement or other credit enhancement related to any agreement or transaction referred to in this clause, including any guarantee or reimbursement obligation in connection with any agreement or transaction referred to in this clause.''.

(2) INSURED CREDIT UNIONS.—Section 207(c)(8)(D)(iii) of the Federal Credit Union Act (12 U.S.C. 1787(c)(8)(D)(iii)) is amended to read as follows:

''(iii) COMMODITY CONTRACT.—The term 'commodity contract' means—

''(I) with respect to a futures commission merchant, a contract for the purchase or sale of a commodity for future delivery on, or subject to the rules of, a contract market or board of trade;

''(II) with respect to a foreign futures commission merchant, a foreign future;

''(III) with respect to a leverage transaction merchant, a leverage transaction;

''(IV) with respect to a clearing organization, a contract for the purchase or sale of a commodity for future delivery on, or subject to the rules of, a contract market or board of trade that is cleared by such clearing organization, or commodity option traded on, or subject to the rules of, a contract market or board of trade that is cleared by such clearing organization;

''(V) with respect to a commodity options dealer, a commodity option;

''(VI) any other agreement or transaction that is similar to any agreement or transaction referred to in this clause;

''(VII) any combination of the agreements or transactions referred to in this clause;

''(VIII) any option to enter into any agreement or transaction referred to in this clause;

''(IX) a master agreement that provides for an agreement or transaction referred to in subclause (I), (II), (III), (IV), (V), (VI), (VII), or (VIII), together with all supplements to any such master agreement, without regard to whether the master agreement provides for an agreement or transaction that is not a commodity contract under this clause, except that the master agreement shall be considered to be a commodity contract under this clause only with respect to each agreement or transaction under the master agreement that is referred to in subclause (I), (II), (III), (IV), (V), (VI), (VII), or (VIII); or

''(X) any security agreement or arrangement or other credit enhancement related to any agreement or transaction referred to in this clause, including any guarantee or reimbursement obligation in connection with any agreement or transaction referred to in this clause.''.

(d) DEFINITION OF FORWARD CONTRACT.—

(1) FDIC-INSURED DEPOSITORY INSTITUTIONS.—Section 11(e)(8)(D)(iv) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1821(e)(8)(D)(iv)) is amended to read as follows:

''(iv) FORWARD CONTRACT.—The term 'forward contract' means—

''(I) a contract (other than a commodity contract) for the purchase, sale, or transfer of a commodity or any similar good, article, service, right, or interest which is presently or in the future becomes the subject of dealing in the forward contract trade, or product or byproduct thereof, with a maturity date more than 2 days after the date the contract is entered into, including, a repurchase transaction, reverse repurchase transaction, consignment, lease, swap, hedge transaction, deposit, loan, option, allocated transaction, unallocated transaction, or any other similar agreement;

''(II) any combination of agreements or transactions referred to in subclauses (I) and (III);

''(III) any option to enter into any agreement or transaction referred to in subclause (I) or (II);

''(IV) a master agreement that provides for an agreement or transaction referred to in subclauses (I), (II), or (III), together with all supplements to any such master agreement, without regard to whether the master agreement provides for an agreement or transaction that is not a forward contract under this clause, except that the master agreement shall be considered to be a forward contract under this clause only with respect to each agreement or transaction under the master agreement that is referred to in subclause (I), (II), or (III); or

''(V) any security agreement or arrangement or other credit enhancement related to any agreement or transaction referred to in subclause (I), (II), (III), or (IV), including any guarantee or reimbursement obligation in connection with any agreement or transaction referred to in any such subclause.''.

(2) INSURED CREDIT UNIONS.—Section 207(c)(8)(D)(iv) of the Federal Credit Union Act (12 U.S.C. 1787(c)(8)(D)(iv)) is amended to read as follows:

''(iv) FORWARD CONTRACT.—The term 'forward contract' means—

''(I) a contract (other than a commodity contract) for the purchase, sale, or transfer of a commodity or any similar good, article, service, right, or interest which is presently or in the future becomes the subject of dealing in the forward contract trade, or product or byproduct thereof, with a maturity date more than 2 days after the date the contract is entered into, including, a repurchase transaction, reverse repurchase transaction, consignment, lease, swap, hedge transaction, deposit, loan, option, allocated transaction, unallocated transaction, or any other similar agreement;

''(II) any combination of agreements or transactions referred to in subclauses (I) and (III);

''(III) any option to enter into any agreement or transaction referred to in subclause (I) or (II);

''(IV) a master agreement that provides for an agreement or transaction referred to in subclauses (I), (II), or (III), together with all supplements to any such master agreement, without regard to whether the master agreement provides for an agreement or transaction that is not a forward contract under this clause, except that the master agreement shall be considered to be a forward contract under this clause only with respect to each agreement or transaction under the master agreement that is referred to in subclause (I), (II), or (III); or

''(V) any security agreement or arrangement or other credit enhancement related to any agreement or transaction referred to in subclause (I), (II), (III), or (IV), including any guarantee or reimbursement obligation in connection with any agreement or transaction referred to in any such subclause.''.

(e) DEFINITION OF REPURCHASE AGREEMENT.—

(1) FDIC-INSURED DEPOSITORY INSTITUTIONS.—Section 11(e)(8)(D)(v) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1821(e)(8)(D)(v)) is amended to read as follows:

''(v) REPURCHASE AGREEMENT.—The term 'repurchase agreement' (which definition also applies to a reverse repurchase agreement)—

''(I) means an agreement, including related terms, which provides for the transfer of one or more certificates of deposit, mortgage-related securities (as such term is defined in the Securities Exchange Act of 1934), mortgage loans, interests in mortgage-related securities or mortgage loans, eligible bankers' acceptances, qualified foreign government securities or securities that are direct obligations of, or that are fully guaranteed by, the United States or any agency of the United States against the transfer of funds by the transferee of such certificates of deposit, eligible bankers' acceptances, securities, mortgage loans, or interests with a simultaneous agreement by such transferee to transfer to the transferor thereof certificates of deposit, eligible bankers' acceptances, securities, mortgage loans, or interests as described above, at a date certain not later than 1 year after such transfers or on demand, against the transfer of funds, or any other similar agreement;

''(II) does not include any repurchase obligation under a participation in a commercial mortgage loan unless the Corporation determines by regulation, resolution, or order to include any such participation within the meaning of such term;

''(III) means any combination of agreements or transactions referred to in subclauses (I) and (IV);

''(IV) means any option to enter into any agreement or transaction referred to in subclause (I) or (III);

''(V) means a master agreement that provides for an agreement or transaction referred to in subclause (I), (III), or (IV), together with all supplements to any such master agreement, without regard to whether the master agreement provides for an agreement or transaction that is not a repurchase agreement under this clause, except that the master agreement shall be considered to be a repurchase agreement under this subclause only with respect to each agreement or transaction under the master agreement that is referred to in subclause (I), (III), or (IV); and

''(VI) means any security agreement or arrangement or other credit enhancement related to any agreement or transaction referred to in subclause (I), (III), (IV), or (V), including any guarantee or reimbursement obligation in connection with any agreement or transaction referred to in any such subclause.

For purposes of this clause, the term 'qualified foreign government security' means a security that is a direct obligation of, or that is fully guaranteed by, the central government of a member of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (as determined by regulation or order adopted by the appropriate Federal banking authority).''.

(2) INSURED CREDIT UNIONS.—Section 207(c)(8)(D)(v) of the Federal Credit Union Act (12 U.S.C. 1787(c)(8)(D)(v)) is amended to read as follows:

''(v) REPURCHASE AGREEMENT.—The term 'repurchase agreement' (which definition also applies to a reverse repurchase agreement)—

''(I) means an agreement, including related terms, which provides for the transfer of one or more certificates of deposit, mortgage-related securities (as such term is defined in the Securities Exchange Act of 1934), mortgage loans, interests in mortgage-related securities or mortgage loans, eligible bankers' acceptances, qualified foreign government securities or securities that are direct obligations of, or that are fully guaranteed by, the United States or any agency of the United States against the transfer of funds by the transferee of such certificates of deposit, eligible bankers' acceptances, securities, mortgage loans, or interests with a simultaneous agreement by such transferee to transfer to the transferor thereof certificates of deposit, eligible bankers' acceptances, securities, mortgage loans, or interests as described above, at a date certain not later than 1 year after such transfers or on demand, against the transfer of funds, or any other similar agreement;

''(II) does not include any repurchase obligation under a participation in a commercial mortgage loan unless the Board determines by regulation, resolution, or order to include any such participation within the meaning of such term;

''(III) means any combination of agreements or transactions referred to in subclauses (I) and (IV);

''(IV) means any option to enter into any agreement or transaction referred to in subclause (I) or (III);

''(V) means a master agreement that provides for an agreement or transaction referred to in subclause (I), (III), or (IV), together with all supplements to any such master agreement, without regard to whether the master agreement provides for an agreement or transaction that is not a repurchase agreement under this clause, except that the master agreement shall be considered to be a repurchase agreement under this subclause only with respect to each agreement or transaction under the master agreement that is referred to in subclause (I), (III), or (IV); and

''(VI) means any security agreement or arrangement or other credit enhancement related to any agreement or transaction referred to in subclause (I), (III), (IV), or (V), including any guarantee or reimbursement obligation in connection with any agreement or transaction referred to in any such subclause.

For purposes of this clause, the term 'qualified foreign government security' means a security that is a direct obligation of, or that is fully guaranteed by, the central government of a member of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (as determined by regulation or order adopted by the appropriate Federal banking authority).''.

(f) DEFINITION OF SWAP AGREEMENT.—

(1) FDIC-INSURED DEPOSITORY INSTITUTIONS.—Section 11(e)(8)(D)(vi) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1821(e)(8)(D)(vi)) is amended to read as follows:

''(vi) SWAP AGREEMENT.—The term 'swap agreement' means—

''(I) any agreement, including the terms and conditions incorporated by reference in any such agreement, which is an interest rate swap, option, future, or forward agreement, including a rate floor, rate cap, rate collar, cross-currency rate swap, and basis swap; a spot, same day-tomorrow, tomorrow-next, forward, or other foreign exchange or precious metals agreement; a currency swap, option, future, or forward agreement; an equity index or equity swap, option, future, or forward agreement; a debt index or debt swap, option, future, or forward agreement; a total return, credit spread or credit swap, option, future, or forward agreement; a commodity index or commodity swap, option, future, or forward agreement; or a weather swap, weather derivative, or weather option;

''(II) any agreement or transaction that is similar to any other agreement or transaction referred to in this clause and that is of a type that has been, is presently, or in the future becomes, the subject of recurrent dealings in the swap markets (including terms and conditions incorporated by reference in such agreement) and that is a forward, swap, future, or option on one or more rates, currencies, commodities, equity securities or other equity instruments, debt securities or other debt instruments, quantitative measures associated with an occurrence, extent of an occurrence, or contingency associated with a financial, commercial, or economic consequence, or economic or financial indices or measures of economic or financial risk or value;

''(III) any combination of agreements or transactions referred to in this clause;

''(IV) any option to enter into any agreement or transaction referred to in this clause;

''(V) a master agreement that provides for an agreement or transaction referred to in subclause (I), (II), (III), or (IV), together with all supplements to any such master agreement, without regard to whether the master agreement contains an agreement or transaction that is not a swap agreement under this clause, except that the master agreement shall be considered to be a swap agreement under this clause only with respect to each agreement or transaction under the master agreement that is referred to in subclause (I), (II), (III), or (IV); and

''(VI) any security agreement or arrangement or other credit enhancement related to any agreements or transactions referred to in subclause (I), (II), (III), (IV), or (V), including any guarantee or reimbursement obligation in connection with any agreement or transaction referred to in any such subclause.

Such term is applicable for purposes of this subsection only and shall not be construed or applied so as to challenge or affect the characterization, definition, or treatment of any swap agreement under any other statute, regulation, or rule, including the Securities Act of 1933, the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935, the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, the Investment Company Act of 1940, the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, the Securities Investor Protection Act of 1970, the Commodity Exchange Act, the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act, and the Legal Certainty for Bank Products Act of 2000.''.

(2) INSURED CREDIT UNIONS.—Section 207(c)(8)(D) of the Federal Credit Union Act (12 U.S.C. 1787(c)(8)(D)) is amended by adding at the end the following new clause:

''(vi) SWAP AGREEMENT.—The term 'swap agreement' means—

''(I) any agreement, including the terms and conditions incorporated by reference in any such agreement, which is an interest rate swap, option, future, or forward agreement, including a rate floor, rate cap, rate collar, cross-currency rate swap, and basis swap; a spot, same day-tomorrow, tomorrow-next, forward, or other foreign exchange or precious metals agreement; a currency swap, option, future, or forward agreement; an equity index or equity swap, option, future, or forward agreement; a debt index or debt swap, option, future, or forward agreement; a total return, credit spread or credit swap, option, future, or forward agreement; a commodity index or commodity swap, option, future, or forward agreement; or a weather swap, weather derivative, or weather option;

''(II) any agreement or transaction that is similar to any other agreement or transaction referred to in this clause and that is of a type that has been, is presently, or in the future becomes, the subject of recurrent dealings in the swap markets (including terms and conditions incorporated by reference in such agreement) and that is a forward, swap,future, or option on one or more rates, currencies, commodities, equity securities or other equity instruments, debt securities or other debt instruments, quantitative measures associated with an occurrence, extent of an occurrence, or contingency associated with a financial, commercial, or economic consequence, or economic or financial indices or measures of economic or financial risk or value;

''(III) any combination of agreements or transactions referred to in this clause;

''(IV) any option to enter into any agreement or transaction referred to in this clause;

''(V) a master agreement that provides for an agreement or transaction referred to in subclause (I), (II), (III), or (IV), together with all supplements to any such master agreement, without regard to whether the master agreement contains an agreement or transaction that is not a swap agreement under this clause, except that the master agreement shall be considered to be a swap agreement under this clause only with respect to each agreement or transaction under the master agreement that is referred to in subclause (I), (II), (III), or (IV); and

''(VI) any security agreement or arrangement or other credit enhancement related to any agreements or transactions referred to in subclause (I), (II), (III), (IV), or (V), including any guarantee or reimbursement obligation in connection with any agreement or transaction referred to in any such subclause.

Such term is applicable for purposes of this subsection only and shall not be construed or applied so as to challenge or affect the characterization, definition, or treatment of any swap agreement under any other statute, regulation, or rule, including the Securities Act of 1933, the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935, the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, the Investment Company Act of 1940, the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, the Securities Investor Protection Act of 1970, the Commodity Exchange Act, the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act, and the Legal Certainty for Bank Products Act of 2000.''.

(g) DEFINITION OF TRANSFER.—

(1) FDIC-INSURED DEPOSITORY INSTITUTIONS.—Section 11(e)(8)(D)(viii) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1821(e)(8)(D)(viii)) is amended to read as follows:

''(viii) TRANSFER.—The term 'transfer' means every mode, direct or indirect, absolute or conditional, voluntary or involuntary, of disposing of or parting with property or with an interest in property, including retention of title as a security interest and foreclosure of the depository institution's equity of redemption.''.

(2) INSURED CREDIT UNIONS.—Section 207(c)(8)(D) of the Federal Credit Union Act (12 U.S.C. 1787(c)(8)(D)) (as amended by subsection (f) of this section) is amended by adding at the end the following new clause:

''(viii) TRANSFER.—The term 'transfer' means every mode, direct or indirect, absolute or conditional, voluntary or involuntary, of disposing of or parting with property or with an interest in property, including retention of title as a security interest and foreclosure of the depository institution's equity of redemption.''.

(h) TREATMENT OF QUALIFIED FINANCIAL CONTRACTS.—

(1) FDIC-INSURED DEPOSITORY INSTITUTIONS.—Section 11(e)(8) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1821(e)(8)) is amended—

(A) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) by striking ''paragraph (10)'' and inserting ''paragraphs (9) and (10)'';

(ii) in clause (i), by striking ''to cause the termination or liquidation'' and inserting ''such person has to cause the termination, liquidation, or acceleration''; and

(iii) by striking clause (ii) and inserting the following new clause:

''(ii) any right under any security agreement or arrangement or other credit enhancement related to one or more qualified financial contracts described in clause (i);''; and

(B) in subparagraph (E), by striking clause (ii) and inserting the following:

''(ii) any right under any security agreement or arrangement or other credit enhancement related to one or more qualified financial contracts described in clause (i);''.

(2) INSURED CREDIT UNIONS.—Section 207(c)(8) of the Federal Credit Union Act (12 U.S.C. 1787(c)(8)) is amended—

(A) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) by striking ''paragraph (12)'' and inserting ''paragraphs (9) and (10)'';

(ii) in clause (i), by striking ''to cause the termination or liquidation'' and inserting ''such person has to cause the termination, liquidation, or acceleration''; and

(iii) by striking clause (ii) and inserting the following new clause:

''(ii) any right under any security agreement or arrangement or other credit enhancement related to 1 or more qualified financial contracts described in clause (i);''; and

(B) in subparagraph (E), by striking clause (ii) and inserting the following new clause:

''(ii) any right under any security agreement or arrangement or other credit enhancement related to 1 or more qualified financial contracts described in clause (i);''.

(i) AVOIDANCE OF TRANSFERS.—

(1) FDIC-INSURED DEPOSITORY INSTITUTIONS.—Section 11(e)(8)(C)(i) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1821(e)(8)(C)(i)) is amended by inserting ''section 5242 of the Revised Statutes of the United States or any other Federal or State law relating to the avoidance of preferential or fraudulent transfers,'' before ''the Corporation''.

(2) INSURED CREDIT UNIONS.—Section 207(c)(8)(C)(i) of the Federal Credit Union Act (12 U.S.C. 1787(c)(8)(C)(i)) is amended by inserting ''section 5242 of the Revised Statutes of the United States or any other Federal or State law relating to the avoidance of preferential or fraudulent transfers,'' before ''the Board''.

SEC. 902. AUTHORITY OF THE FDIC AND NCUAB WITH RESPECT TO FAILED AND FAILING INSTITUTIONS.

(a) FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 11(e)(8) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1821(e)(8)) is amended—

(A) in subparagraph (E), by striking ''other than paragraph (12) of this subsection, subsection (d)(9)'' and inserting ''other than subsections (d)(9) and (e)(10)''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following new subparagraphs:

''(F) CLARIFICATION.—No provision of law shall be construed as limiting the right or power of the Corporation, or authorizing any court or agency to limit or delay, in any manner, the right or power of the Corporation to transfer any qualified financial contract in accordance with paragraphs (9) and (10) of this subsection or to disaffirm or repudiate any such contract in accordance with subsection (e)(1) of this section.

''(G) WALKAWAY CLAUSES NOT EFFECTIVE.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding the provisions of subparagraphs (A) and (E), and sections 403 and 404 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Improvement Act of 1991, no walkaway clause shall be enforceable in a qualified financial contract of an insured depository institution in default.

''(ii) WALKAWAY CLAUSE DEFINED.—For purposes of this subparagraph, the term 'walkaway clause' means a provision in a qualified financial contract that, after calculation of a value of a party's position or an amount due to or from 1 of the parties in accordance with its terms upon termination, liquidation, or acceleration of the qualified financial contract, either does not create a payment obligation of a party or extinguishes a payment obligation of a party in whole or in part solely because of such party's status as a nondefaulting party.''.

(2) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 11(e)(12)(A) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1821(e)(12)(A)) is amended by inserting ''or the exercise of rights or powers by'' after ''the appointment of''.

(b) NATIONAL CREDIT UNION ADMINISTRATION BOARD.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 207(c)(8) of the Federal Credit Union Act (12 U.S.C. 1787(c)(8)) is amended—

(A) in subparagraph (E) (as amended by section 901(h)), by striking ''other than paragraph (12) of this subsection, subsection (b)(9)'' and inserting ''other than subsections (b)(9) and (c)(10)''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following new subparagraphs:

''(F) CLARIFICATION.—No provision of law shall be construed as limiting the right or power of the Board, or authorizing any court or agency to limit or delay, in any manner, the right or power of the Board to transfer any qualified financial contract in accordance with paragraphs (9) and (10) of this subsection or to disaffirm or repudiate any such contract in accordance with subsection (c)(1) of this section.

''(G) WALKAWAY CLAUSES NOT EFFECTIVE.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding the provisions of subparagraphs (A) and (E), and sections 403 and 404 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Improvement Act of 1991, no walkaway clause shall be enforceable in a qualified financial contract of an insured credit union in default.

''(ii) WALKAWAY CLAUSE DEFINED.—For purposes of this subparagraph, the term 'walkaway clause' means a provision in a qualified financial contract that, after calculation of a value of a party's position or an

amount due to or from 1 of the parties in accordance with its terms upon termination, liquidation, or acceleration of the qualified financial contract, either does not create a payment obligation of a party or extinguishes a payment obligation of a party in whole or in part solely because of such party's status as a nondefaulting party.''.

(2) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 207(c)(12)(A) of the Federal Credit Union Act (12 U.S.C. 1787(c)(12)(A)) is amended by inserting ''or the exercise of rights or powers by'' after ''the appointment of''.

SEC. 903. AMENDMENTS RELATING TO TRANSFERS OF QUALIFIED FINANCIAL CONTRACTS.

(a) FDIC-INSURED DEPOSITORY INSTITUTIONS.—

(1) TRANSFERS OF QUALIFIED FINANCIAL CONTRACTS TO FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS.—Section 11(e)(9) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1821(e)(9)) is amended to read as follows:

''(9) TRANSFER OF QUALIFIED FINANCIAL CONTRACTS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—In making any transfer of assets or liabilities of a depository institution in default which includes any qualified financial contract, the conservator or receiver for such depository institution shall either—

''(i) transfer to one financial institution, other than a financial institution for which a conservator, receiver, trustee in bankruptcy, or other legal custodian has been appointed or which is otherwise the subject of a bankruptcy or insolvency proceeding—

''(I) all qualified financial contracts between any person or any affiliate of such person and the depository institution in default;

''(II) all claims of such person or any affiliate of such person against such depository institution under any such contract (other than any claim which, under the terms of any such contract, is subordinated to the claims of general unsecured creditors of such institution);

''(III) all claims of such depository institution against such person or any affiliate of such person under any such contract; and

''(IV) all property securing or any other credit enhancement for any contract described in subclause (I) or any claim described in subclause (II) or (III) under any such contract; or

''(ii) transfer none of the qualified financial contracts, claims, property or other credit enhancement referred to in clause (i) (with respect to such person and any affiliate of such person).

''(B) TRANSFER TO FOREIGN BANK, FOREIGN FINANCIAL INSTITUTION, OR BRANCH OR AGENCY OF A FOREIGN BANK OR FINANCIAL INSTITUTION.—In transferring any qualified financial contracts and related claims and property under subparagraph (A)(i), the conservator or receiver for the depository institution shall not make such transfer to a foreign bank, financial institution organized under the laws of a foreign country, or a branch or agency of a foreign bank or financial institution unless, under the law applicable to such bank, financial institution, branch or agency, to the qualified financial contracts, and to any netting contract, any security agreement or arrangement or other credit enhancement related to one or more qualified financial contracts, the contractual rights of the parties to such qualified financial contracts, netting contracts, security agreements or arrangements, or other credit enhancements are enforceable substantially to the same extent as permitted under this section.

''(C) TRANSFER OF CONTRACTS SUBJECT TO THE RULES OF A CLEARING ORGANIZATION.—In the event that a conservator or receiver transfers any qualified financial contract and related claims, property, and credit enhancements pursuant to subparagraph (A)(i) and such contract is cleared by or subject to the rules of a clearing organization, the clearing organization shall not be required to accept the transferee as a member by virtue of the transfer.

''(D) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this paragraph, the term 'financial institution' means a broker or dealer, a depository institution, a futures commission merchant, or any other institution, as determined by the Corporation by regulation to be a financial institution, and the term 'clearing organization' has the same meaning as in section 402 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Improvement Act of 1991.''.

(2) NOTICE TO QUALIFIED FINANCIAL CONTRACT COUNTERPARTIES.—Section 11(e)(10)(A) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1821(e)(10)(A)) is amended in the material immediately following clause (ii) by striking ''the conservator'' and all that follows through the period and inserting the following: ''the conservator or receiver shall notify any person who is a party to any such contract of such transfer by 5:00 p.m. (eastern time) on the business day following the date of the appointment of the receiver in the case of a receivership, or the business day following such transfer in the case of a conservatorship.''.

(3) RIGHTS AGAINST RECEIVER AND CONSERVATOR AND TREATMENT OF BRIDGE BANKS.—Section 11(e)(10) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1821(e)(10)) is amended—

(A) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as subparagraph (D); and

(B) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the following new subparagraphs:

''(B) CERTAIN RIGHTS NOT ENFORCEABLE.—

''(i) RECEIVERSHIP.—A person who is a party to a qualified financial contract with an insured depository institution may not exercise any right that such person has to terminate, liquidate, or net such contract under paragraph (8)(A) of this subsection or section 403 or 404 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Improvement Act of 1991, solely by reason of or incidental to the appointment of a receiver for the depository institution (or the insolvency or financial condition of the depository institution for which the receiver has been appointed)—

''(I) until 5:00 p.m. (eastern time) on the business day following the date of the appointment of the receiver; or

''(II) after the person has received notice that the contract has been transferred pursuant to paragraph (9)(A).

''(ii) CONSERVATORSHIP.—A person who is a party to a qualified financial contract with an insured depository institution may not exercise any right that such person has to terminate, liquidate, or net such contract under paragraph (8)(E) of this subsection or section 403 or 404 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Improvement Act of 1991, solely by reason of or incidental to the appointment of a conservator for the depository institution (or the insolvency or financial condition of the depository institution for which the conservator has been appointed).

''(iii) NOTICE.—For purposes of this paragraph, the Corporation as receiver or conservator of an insured depository institution shall be deemed to have notified a person who is a party to a qualified financial contract with such depository institution if the Corporation has taken steps reasonably calculated to provide notice to such person by the time specified in subparagraph (A).

''(C) TREATMENT OF BRIDGE BANKS.—The following institutions shall not be considered to be a financial institution for which a conservator, receiver, trustee in bankruptcy, or other legal custodian has been appointed or which is otherwise the subject of a bankruptcy or insolvency proceeding for purposes of paragraph (9):

''(i) A bridge bank.

''(ii) A depository institution organized by the Corporation, for which a conservator is appointed either—

''(I) immediately upon the organization of the institution; or

''(II) at the time of a purchase and assumption transaction between the depository institution and the Corporation as receiver for a depository institution in default.''.

(b) INSURED CREDIT UNIONS.—

(1) TRANSFERS OF QUALIFIED FINANCIAL CONTRACTS TO FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS.—Section 207(c)(9) of the Federal Credit Union Act (12 U.S.C. 1787(c)(9)) is amended to read as follows:

''(9) TRANSFER OF QUALIFIED FINANCIAL CONTRACTS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—In making any transfer of assets or liabilities of a credit union in default which includes any qualified financial contract, the conservator or liquidating agent for such credit union shall either—

''(i) transfer to 1 financial institution, other than a financial institution for which a conservator, receiver, trustee in bankruptcy, or other legal custodian has been appointed or which is otherwise the subject of a bankruptcy or insolvency proceeding—

''(I) all qualified financial contracts between any person or any affiliate of such person and the credit union in default;

''(II) all claims of such person or any affiliate of such person against such credit union under any such contract (other than any claim which, under the terms of any such contract, is subordinated to the claims of general unsecured creditors of such credit union);

''(III) all claims of such credit union against such person or any affiliate of such person under any such contract; and

''(IV) all property securing or any other credit enhancement for any contract described in subclause (I) or any claim described in subclause (II) or (III) under any such contract; or

''(ii) transfer none of the qualified financial contracts, claims, property or other credit enhancement referred to in clause (i) (with respect to such person and any affiliate of such person).

''(B) TRANSFER TO FOREIGN BANK, FOREIGN FINANCIAL INSTITUTION, OR BRANCH OR AGENCY OF A FOREIGN BANK OR FINANCIAL INSTITUTION.—In transferring any qualified financial contracts and related claims and property under subparagraph (A)(i), the conservator or liquidating agent for the credit union shall not make such transfer to a foreign bank, financial institution organized under the laws of a foreign country, or a branch or agency of a foreign bank or financial institution unless, under the law applicable to such bank, financial institution, branch or agency, to the qualified financial contracts, and to any netting contract, any security agreement or arrangement or other credit enhancement related to 1 or more qualified financial contracts, the contractual rights of the parties to such qualified financial contracts, netting contracts, security agreements or arrangements, or other credit enhancements are enforceable substantially to the same extent as permitted under this section.

''(C) TRANSFER OF CONTRACTS SUBJECT TO THE RULES OF A CLEARING ORGANIZATION.—In the event that a conservator or liquidating agent transfers any qualified financial contract and related claims, property, and credit enhancements pursuant to subparagraph

(A)(i) and such contract is cleared by or subject to the rules of a clearing organization, the clearing organization shall not be required to accept the transferee as a member by virtue of the transfer.

''(D) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this paragraph—

''(i) the term 'financial institution' means a broker or dealer, a depository institution, a futures commission merchant, a credit union, or any other institution, as determined by the Board by regulation to be a financial institution; and

''(ii) the term 'clearing organization' has the same meaning as in section 402 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Improvement Act of 1991.''.

(2) NOTICE TO QUALIFIED FINANCIAL CONTRACT COUNTERPARTIES.—Section 207(c)(10)(A) of the Federal Credit Union Act (12 U.S.C. 1787(c)(10)(A)) is amended in the material immediately following clause (ii) by striking ''the conservator'' and all that follows through the period and inserting the following: ''the conservator or liquidating agent shall notify any person who is a party to any such contract of such transfer by 5:00 p.m. (eastern time) on the business day following the date of the appointment of the liquidating agent in the case of a liquidation, or the business day following such transfer in the case of a conservatorship.''.

(3) RIGHTS AGAINST LIQUIDATING AGENT AND CONSERVATOR AND TREATMENT OF BRIDGE BANKS.—Section 207(c)(10) of the Federal Credit Union Act (12 U.S.C. 1787(c)(10)) is amended—

(A) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as subparagraph (D); and

(B) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the following new subparagraphs:

''(B) CERTAIN RIGHTS NOT ENFORCEABLE.—

''(i) LIQUIDATION.—A person who is a party to a qualified financial contract with an insured credit union may not exercise any right that such person has to terminate, liquidate, or net such contract under paragraph (8)(A) of this subsection or section 403 or 404 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Improvement Act of 1991, solely by reason of or incidental to the appointment of a liquidating agent for the credit union institution (or the insolvency or financial condition of the credit union for which the liquidating agent has been appointed)—

''(I) until 5:00 p.m. (eastern time) on the business day following the date of the appointment of the liquidating agent; or

''(II) after the person has received notice that the contract has been transferred pursuant to paragraph (9)(A).

''(ii) CONSERVATORSHIP.—A person who is a party to a qualified financial contract with an insured credit union may not exercise any right that such person has to terminate, liquidate, or net such contract under paragraph (8)(E) of this subsection or section 403 or 404 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Improvement Act of 1991, solely by reason of or incidental to the appointment of a conservator for the credit union or the insolvency or financial condition of the credit union for which the conservator has been appointed).

''(iii) NOTICE.—For purposes of this paragraph, the Board as conservator or liquidating agent of an insured credit union shall be deemed to have notified a person who is a party to a qualified financial contract with such credit union if the Board has taken steps reasonably calculated to provide notice to such person by the time specified in subparagraph (A).

''(C) TREATMENT OF BRIDGE BANKS.—The following institutions shall not be considered to be a financial institution for which a conservator, receiver, trustee in bankruptcy, or other legal custodian has been appointed or which is otherwise the subject of a bankruptcy or insolvency proceeding for purposes of paragraph (9):

''(i) A bridge bank.

''(ii) A credit union organized by the Board, for which a conservator is appointed either—

''(I) immediately upon the organization of the credit union; or

''(II) at the time of a purchase and assumption transaction between the credit union and the Board as receiver for a credit union in default.''.

SEC. 904. AMENDMENTS RELATING TO DISAFFIRMANCE OR REPUDIATION OF QUALIFIED FINANCIAL CONTRACTS.

(a) FDIC-INSURED DEPOSITORY INSTITUTIONS.—Section 11(e) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1821(e)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (11) through (15) as paragraphs (12) through (16), respectively;

(2) by inserting after paragraph (10) the following new paragraph:

''(11) DISAFFIRMANCE OR REPUDIATION OF QUALIFIED FINANCIAL CONTRACTS.—In exercising the rights of disaffirmance or repudiation of a conservator or receiver with respect to any qualified financial contract to which an insured depository institution is a party, the conservator or receiver for such institution shall either—

''(A) disaffirm or repudiate all qualified financial contracts between—

''(i) any person or any affiliate of such person; and

''(ii) the depository institution in default; or

''(B) disaffirm or repudiate none of the qualified financial contracts referred to in subparagraph (A) (with respect to such person or any affiliate of such person).''; and

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

''(17) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—The meanings of terms used in this subsection are applicable for purposes of this subsection only, and shall not be construed or applied so as to challenge or affect the characterization, definition, or treatment of any similar terms under any other statute, regulation, or rule, including the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act, the Legal Certainty for Bank Products Act of 2000, the securities laws (as that term is defined in section 3(a)(47) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934), and the Commodity Exchange Act.''.

(b) INSURED CREDIT UNIONS.—Section 207(c) of the Federal Credit Union Act (12 U.S.C. 1787(c)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (11), (12), and (13) as paragraphs (12), (13), and (14), respectively;

(2) by inserting after paragraph (10) the following new paragraph:

''(11) DISAFFIRMANCE OR REPUDIATION OF QUALIFIED FINANCIAL CONTRACTS.—In exercising the rights of disaffirmance or repudiation of a conservator or liquidating agent with respect to any qualified financial contract to which an insured credit union is a party, the conservator or liquidating agent for such credit union shall either—

''(A) disaffirm or repudiate all qualified financial contracts between—

''(i) any person or any affiliate of such person; and

''(ii) the credit union in default; or

''(B) disaffirm or repudiate none of the qualified financial contracts referred to in subparagraph (A) (with respect to such person or any affiliate of such person).''; and

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

''(15) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—The meanings of terms used in this subsection are applicable for purposes of this subsection only, and shall not be construed or applied so as to challenge or affect the characterization, definition, or treatment of any similar terms under any other statute, regulation, or rule, including the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act, the Legal Certainty for Bank Products Act of 2000, the securities laws (as that term is defined in section (a)(47) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934), and the Commodity Exchange Act.''.

SEC. 905. CLARIFYING AMENDMENT RELATING TO MASTER AGREEMENTS.

(a) FDIC-INSURED DEPOSITORY INSTITUTIONS.—Section 11(e)(8)(D)(vii) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1821(e)(8)(D)(vii)) is amended to read as follows:

''(vii) TREATMENT OF MASTER AGREEMENT AS ONE AGREEMENT.—Any master agreement for any contract or agreement described in any preceding clause of this subparagraph (or any master agreement for such master agreement or agreements), together with all supplements to such master agreement, shall be treated as a single agreement and a single qualified financial contract. If a master agreement contains provisions relating to agreements or transactions that are not themselves qualified financial contracts, the master agreement shall be deemed to be a qualified financial contract only with respect to those transactions that are themselves qualified financial contracts.''.

(b) INSURED CREDIT UNIONS.—Section 207(c)(8)(D) of the Federal Credit Union Act (12 U.S.C. 1787(c)(8)(D)) is amended by inserting after clause (vi) (as added by section 901(f)) the following new clause:

''(vii) TREATMENT OF MASTER AGREEMENT AS ONE AGREEMENT.—Any master agreement for any contract or agreement described in any preceding clause of this subparagraph (or any master agreement for such master agreement or agreements), together with all supplements to such master agreement, shall be treated as a single agreement and a single qualified financial contract. If a master agreement contains provisions relating to agreements or transactions that are not themselves qualified financial contracts, the master agreement shall be deemed to be a qualified financial contract only with respect to those transactions that are themselves qualified financial contracts.''.

SEC. 906. FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1991.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 402 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Improvement Act of 1991 (12 U.S.C. 4402) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)(ii), by inserting before the semicolon '', or is exempt from such registration by order of the Securities and Exchange Commission''; and

(B) in subparagraph (B), by inserting before the period '', that has been granted an exemption under section 4(c)(1) of the Commodity Exchange Act, or that is a multilateral clearing organization (as defined in section 408 of this Act)'';

(2) in paragraph (6)—

(A) by redesignating subparagraphs (B) through (D) as subparagraphs (C) through (E), respectively;

(B) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the following new subparagraph:

''(B) an uninsured national bank or an uninsured State bank that is a member of the Federal Reserve System, if the national bank or State member bank is not eligible to make application to become an insured bank under section 5 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act;''; and

(C) by amending subparagraph (C), so redesignated, to read as follows:

''(C) a branch or agency of a foreign bank, a foreign bank and any branch or agency of

the foreign bank, or the foreign bank that established the branch or agency, as those terms are defined in section 1(b) of the International Banking Act of 1978;'';

(3) in paragraph (11), by inserting before the period ''and any other clearing organization with which such clearing organization has a netting contract'';

(4) by amending paragraph (14)(A)(i) to read as follows:

''(i) means a contract or agreement between 2 or more financial institutions, clearing organizations, or members that provides for netting present or future payment obligations or payment entitlements (including liquidation or close out values relating to such obligations or entitlements) among the parties to the agreement; and''; and

(5) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(15) PAYMENT.—The term 'payment' means a payment of United States dollars, another currency, or a composite currency, and a noncash delivery, including a payment or delivery to liquidate an unmatured obligation.''.

(b) ENFORCEABILITY OF BILATERAL NETTING CONTRACTS.—Section 403 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Improvement Act of 1991 (12 U.S.C. 4403) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the following:

''(a) GENERAL RULE.—Notwithstanding any other provision of State or Federal law (other than paragraphs (8)(E), (8)(F), and (10)(B) of section 11(e) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act, paragraphs (8)(E), (8)(F), and (10)(B) of section 207(c) of the Federal Credit Union Act, or any order authorized under section 5(b)(2) of the Securities Investor Protection Act of 1970), the covered contractual payment obligations and the covered contractual payment entitlements between any 2 financial institutions shall be netted in accordance with, and subject to the conditions of, the terms of any applicable netting contract (except as provided in section 561(b)(2) of title 11, United States Code).''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(f) ENFORCEABILITY OF SECURITY AGREEMENTS.—The provisions of any security agreement or arrangement or other credit enhancement related to one or more netting contracts between any 2 financial institutions shall be enforceable in accordance with their terms (except as provided in section 561(b)(2) of title 11, United States Code), and shall not be stayed, avoided, or otherwise limited by any State or Federal law (other than paragraphs (8)(E), (8)(F), and (10)(B) of section 11(e) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act, paragraphs (8)(E), (8)(F), and (10)(B) of section 207(c) of the Federal Credit Union Act, and section 5(b)(2) of the Securities Investor Protection Act of 1970).''.

(c) ENFORCEABILITY OF CLEARING ORGANIZATION NETTING CONTRACTS.—Section 404 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Improvement Act of 1991 (12 U.S.C. 4404) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the following:

''(a) GENERAL RULE.—Notwithstanding any other provision of State or Federal law (other than paragraphs (8)(E), (8)(F), and (10)(B) of section 11(e) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act, paragraphs (8)(E), (8)(F), and (10)(B) of section 207(c) of the Federal Credit Union Act, and any order authorized under section 5(b)(2) of the Securities Investor Protection Act of 1970), the covered contractual payment obligations and the covered contractual payment entitlements of a member of a clearing organization to and from all other members of a clearing organization shall be netted in accordance with and subject to the conditions of any applicable netting contract (except as provided in section 561(b)(2) of title 11, United States Code).''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(h) ENFORCEABILITY OF SECURITY AGREEMENTS.—The provisions of any security agreement or arrangement or other credit enhancement related to one or more netting contracts between any 2 members of a clearing organization shall be enforceable in accordance with their terms (except as provided in section 561(b)(2) of title 11, United States Code), and shall not be stayed, avoided, or otherwise limited by any State or Federal law (other than paragraphs (8)(E), (8)(F), and (10)(B) of section 11(e) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act, paragraphs (8)(E), (8)(F), and (10)(B) of section 207(c) of the Federal Credit Union Act, and section 5(b)(2) of the Securities Investor Protection Act of 1970).''.

(d) ENFORCEABILITY OF CONTRACTS WITH UNINSURED NATIONAL BANKS, UNINSURED FEDERAL BRANCHES AND AGENCIES, CERTAIN UNINSURED STATE MEMBER BANKS, AND EDGE ACT CORPORATIONS.—The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Improvement Act of 1991 (12 U.S.C. 4401 et seq.) is amended—

(1) by redesignating section 407 as section 407A; and

(2) by inserting after section 406 the following new section:

''SEC. 407. TREATMENT OF CONTRACTS WITH UNINSURED NATIONAL BANKS, UNINSURED FEDERAL BRANCHES AND AGENCIES, CERTAIN UNINSURED STATE MEMBER BANKS, AND EDGE ACT CORPORATIONS.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, paragraphs (8), (9), (10), and (11) of section 11(e) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act shall apply to an uninsured national bank or uninsured Federal branch or Federal agency, a corporation chartered under section 25A of the Federal Reserve Act, or an uninsured State member bank which operates, or operates as, a multilateral clearing organization pursuant to section 409 of this Act, except that for such purpose—

''(1) any reference to the 'Corporation as receiver' or 'the receiver or the Corporation' shall refer to the receiver appointed by the Comptroller of the Currency in the case of an uninsured national bank or uninsured Federal branch or agency, or to the receiver appointed by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System in the case of a corporation chartered under section 25A of the Federal Reserve Act or an uninsured State member bank;

''(2) any reference to the 'Corporation' (other than in section 11(e)(8)(D) of such Act), the 'Corporation, whether acting as such or as conservator or receiver', a 'receiver', or a 'conservator' shall refer to the receiver or conservator appointed by the Comptroller of the Currency in the case of an uninsured national bank or uninsured Federal branch or agency, or to the receiver or conservator appointed by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System in the case of a corporation chartered under section 25A of the Federal Reserve Act or an uninsured State member bank; and

''(3) any reference to an 'insured depository institution' or 'depository institution' shall refer to an uninsured national bank, an uninsured Federal branch or Federal agency, a corporation chartered under section 25A of the Federal Reserve Act, or an uninsured State member bank which operates, or operates as, a multilateral clearing organization pursuant to section 409 of this Act.

''(b) LIABILITY.—The liability of a receiver or conservator of an uninsured national bank, uninsured Federal branch or agency, a corporation chartered under section 25A of the Federal Reserve Act, or an uninsured State member bank which operates, or operates as, a multilateral clearing organization pursuant to section 409 of this Act, shall be determined in the same manner and subject to the same limitations that apply to receivers and conservators of insured depository institutions under section 11(e) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act.

''(c) REGULATORY AUTHORITY.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller of the Currency in the case of an uninsured national bank or uninsured Federal branch or agency and the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System in the case of a corporation chartered under section 25A of the Federal Reserve Act, or an uninsured State member bank that operates, or operates as, a multilateral clearing organization pursuant to section 409 of this Act, in consultation with the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, may each promulgate regulations solely to implement this section.

''(2) SPECIFIC REQUIREMENT.—In promulgating regulations, limited solely to implementing paragraphs (8), (9), (10), and (11) of section 11(e) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act, the Comptroller of the Currency and the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System each shall ensure that the regulations generally are consistent with the regulations and policies of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation adopted pursuant to the Federal Deposit Insurance Act.

''(d) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section, the terms 'Federal branch', 'Federal agency', and 'foreign bank' have the same meanings as in section 1(b) of the International Banking Act of 1978.''.

SEC. 907. BANKRUPTCY LAW AMENDMENTS.

(a) DEFINITIONS OF FORWARD CONTRACT, REPURCHASE AGREEMENT, SECURITIES CLEARING AGENCY, SWAP AGREEMENT, COMMODITY CONTRACT, AND SECURITIES CONTRACT.—Title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in section 101—

(A) in paragraph (25)—

(i) by striking ''means a contract'' and inserting ''means—

''(A) a contract'';

(ii) by striking '', or any combination thereof or option thereon;'' and inserting '', or any other similar agreement;''; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

''(B) any combination of agreements or transactions referred to in subparagraphs (A) and (C);

''(C) any option to enter into an agreement or transaction referred to in subparagraph (A) or (B);

''(D) a master agreement that provides for an agreement or transaction referred to in subparagraph (A), (B), or (C), together with all supplements to any such master agreement, without regard to whether such master agreement provides for an agreement or transaction that is not a forward contract under this paragraph, except that such master agreement shall be considered to be a forward contract under this paragraph only with respect to each agreement or transaction under such master agreement that is referred to in subparagraph (A), (B), or (C); or

''(E) any security agreement or arrangement, or other credit enhancement related to any agreement or transaction referred to in subparagraph (A), (B), (C), or (D), including any guarantee or reimbursement obligation by or to a forward contract merchant or financial participant in connection with any agreement or transaction referred to in any such subparagraph, but not to exceed the damages in connection with any such agreement or transaction, measured in accordance with section 562;'';

(B) in paragraph (46), by striking ''on any day during the period beginning 90 days before the date of'' and inserting ''at any time before'';

(C) by amending paragraph (47) to read as follows:

''(47) 'repurchase agreement' (which definition also applies to a reverse repurchase agreement)—

''(A) means—

''(i) an agreement, including related terms, which provides for the transfer of one or more certificates of deposit, mortgage related securities (as defined in section 3 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934), mortgage loans, interests in mortgage related securities or mortgage loans, eligible bankers' acceptances, qualified foreign government securities (defined as a security that is a direct obligation of, or that is fully guaranteed by, the central government of a member of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development), or securities that are direct obligations of, or that are fully guaranteed by, the United States or any agency of the United States against the transfer of funds by the transferee of such certificates of deposit, eligible bankers' acceptances, securities, mortgage loans, or interests, with a simultaneous agreement by such transferee to transfer to the transferor thereof certificates of deposit, eligible bankers' acceptance, securities, mortgage loans, or interests of the kind described in this clause, at a date certain not later than 1 year after such transfer or on demand, against the transfer of funds;

''(ii) any combination of agreements or transactions referred to in clauses (i) and (iii);

''(iii) an option to enter into an agreement or transaction referred to in clause (i) or (ii);

''(iv) a master agreement that provides for an agreement or transaction referred to in clause (i), (ii), or (iii), together with all supplements to any such master agreement, without regard to whether such master agreement provides for an agreement or transaction that is not a repurchase agreement under this paragraph, except that such master agreement shall be considered to be a repurchase agreement under this paragraph only with respect to each agreement or transaction under the master agreement that is referred to in clause (i), (ii), or (iii); or

''(v) any security agreement or arrangement or other credit enhancement related to any agreement or transaction referred to in clause (i), (ii), (iii), or (iv), including any guarantee or reimbursement obligation by or to a repo participant or financial participant in connection with any agreement or transaction referred to in any such clause, but not to exceed the damages in connection with any such agreement or transaction, measured in accordance with section 562 of this title; and

''(B) does not include a repurchase obligation under a participation in a commercial mortgage loan;'';

(D) in paragraph (48), by inserting '', or exempt from such registration under such section pursuant to an order of the Securities and Exchange Commission,'' after ''1934''; and

(E) by amending paragraph (53B) to read as follows:

''(53B) 'swap agreement'—

''(A) means—

''(i) any agreement, including the terms and conditions incorporated by reference in such agreement, which is—

''(I) an interest rate swap, option, future, or forward agreement, including a rate floor, rate cap, rate collar, cross-currency rate swap, and basis swap;

''(II) a spot, same day-tomorrow, tomorrow-next, forward, or other foreign exchange or precious metals agreement;

''(III) a currency swap, option, future, or forward agreement;

''(IV) an equity index or equity swap, option, future, or forward agreement;

''(V) a debt index or debt swap, option, future, or forward agreement;

''(VI) a total return, credit spread or credit swap, option, future, or forward agreement;

''(VII) a commodity index or a commodity swap, option, future, or forward agreement; or

''(VIII) a weather swap, weather derivative, or weather option;

''(ii) any agreement or transaction that is similar to any other agreement or transaction referred to in this paragraph and that—

''(I) is of a type that has been, is presently, or in the future becomes, the subject of recurrent dealings in the swap markets (including terms and conditions incorporated by reference therein); and

''(II) is a forward, swap, future, or option on one or more rates, currencies, commodities, equity securities, or other equity instruments, debt securities or other debt instruments, quantitative measures associated with an occurrence, extent of an occurrence, or contingency associated with a financial, commercial, or economic consequence, or economic or financial indices or measures of economic or financial risk or value;

''(iii) any combination of agreements or transactions referred to in this subparagraph;

''(iv) any option to enter into an agreement or transaction referred to in this subparagraph;

''(v) a master agreement that provides for an agreement or transaction referred to in clause (i), (ii), (iii), or (iv), together with all supplements to any such master agreement, and without regard to whether the master agreement contains an agreement or transaction that is not a swap agreement under this paragraph, except that the master agreement shall be considered to be a swap agreement under this paragraph only with respect to each agreement or transaction under the master agreement that is referred to in clause (i), (ii), (iii), or (iv); or

''(vi) any security agreement or arrangement or other credit enhancement related to any agreements or transactions referred to in clause (i) through (v), including any guarantee or reimbursement obligation by or to a swap participant or financial participant in connection with any agreement or transaction referred to in any such clause, but not to exceed the damages in connection with any such agreement or transaction, measured in accordance with section 562; and

''(B) is applicable for purposes of this title only, and shall not be construed or applied so as to challenge or affect the characterization, definition, or treatment of any swap agreement under any other statute, regulation, or rule, including the Securities Act of 1933, the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935, the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, the Investment Company Act of 1940, the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, the Securities Investor Protection Act of 1970, the Commodity Exchange Act, the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act, and the Legal Certainty for Bank Products Act of 2000;'';

(2) in section 741(7), by striking paragraph (7) and inserting the following:

''(7) 'securities contract'—

''(A) means—

''(i) a contract for the purchase, sale, or loan of a security, a certificate of deposit, a mortgage loan or any interest in a mortgage loan, a group or index of securities, certificates of deposit, or mortgage loans or interests therein (including an interest therein or based on the value thereof), or option on any of the foregoing, including an option to purchase or sell any such security, certificate of deposit, mortgage loan, interest, group or index, or option, and including any repurchase or reverse repurchase transaction on any such security, certificate of deposit, mortgage loan, interest, group or index, or option;

''(ii) any option entered into on a national securities exchange relating to foreign currencies;

''(iii) the guarantee by or to any securities clearing agency of a settlement of cash, securities, certificates of deposit, mortgage loans or interests therein, group or index of securities, or mortgage loans or interests therein (including any interest therein or based on the value thereof), or option on any of the foregoing, including an option to purchase or sell any such security, certificate of deposit, mortgage loan, interest, group or index, or option;

''(iv) any margin loan;

''(v) any other agreement or transaction that is similar to an agreement or transaction referred to in this subparagraph;

''(vi) any combination of the agreements or transactions referred to in this subparagraph;

''(vii) any option to enter into any agreement or transaction referred to in this subparagraph;

''(viii) a master agreement that provides for an agreement or transaction referred to in clause (i), (ii), (iii), (iv), (v), (vi), or (vii), together with all supplements to any such master agreement, without regard to whether the master agreement provides for an agreement or transaction that is not a securities contract under this subparagraph, except that such master agreement shall be considered to be a securities contract under this subparagraph only with respect to each agreement or transaction under such master agreement that is referred to in clause (i), (ii), (iii), (iv), (v), (vi), or (vii); or

''(ix) any security agreement or arrangement or other credit enhancement related to any agreement or transaction referred to in this subparagraph, including any guarantee or reimbursement obligation by or to a stockbroker, securities clearing agency, financial institution, or financial participant in connection with any agreement or transaction referred to in this subparagraph, but not to exceed the damages in connection with any such agreement or transaction, measured in accordance with section 562; and

''(B) does not include any purchase, sale, or repurchase obligation under a participation in a commercial mortgage loan;''; and

(3) in section 761(4)—

(A) by striking ''or'' at the end of subparagraph (D); and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(F) any other agreement or transaction that is similar to an agreement or transaction referred to in this paragraph;

''(G) any combination of the agreements or transactions referred to in this paragraph;

''(H) any option to enter into an agreement or transaction referred to in this paragraph;

''(I) a master agreement that provides for an agreement or transaction referred to in subparagraph (A), (B), (C), (D), (E), (F), (G), or (H), together with all supplements to such master agreement, without regard to whether the master agreement provides for an agreement or transaction that is not a commodity contract under this paragraph, except that the master agreement shall be considered to be a commodity contract under this paragraph only with respect to each agreement or transaction under the master

agreement that is referred to in subparagraph (A), (B), (C), (D), (E), (F), (G), or (H); or

''(J) any security agreement or arrangement or other credit enhancement related to any agreement or transaction referred to in this paragraph, including any guarantee or reimbursement obligation by or to a commodity broker or financial participant in connection with any agreement or transaction referred to in this paragraph, but not to exceed the damages in connection with any such agreement or transaction, measured in accordance with section 562;''.

(b) DEFINITIONS OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTION, FINANCIAL PARTICIPANT, AND FORWARD CONTRACT MERCHANT.—Section 101 of title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking paragraph (22) and inserting the following:

''(22) 'financial institution' means—

''(A) a Federal reserve bank, or an entity (domestic or foreign) that is a commercial or savings bank, industrial savings bank, savings and loan association, trust company, federally-insured credit union, or receiver, liquidating agent, or conservator for such entity and, when any such Federal reserve bank, receiver, liquidating agent, conservator or entity is acting as agent or custodian for a customer in connection with a securities contract (as defined in section 741) such customer; or

''(B) in connection with a securities contract (as defined in section 741) an investment company registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940;'';

(2) by inserting after paragraph (22) the following:

''(22A) 'financial participant' means—

''(A) an entity that, at the time it enters into a securities contract, commodity contract, swap agreement, repurchase agreement, or forward contract, or at the time of the date of the filing of the petition, has one or more agreements or transactions described in paragraph (1), (2), (3), (4), (5), or (6) of section 561(a) with the debtor or any other entity (other than an affiliate) of a total gross dollar value of not less than $1,000,000,000 in notional or actual principal amount outstanding on any day during the previous 15-month period, or has gross mark-to-market positions of not less than $100,000,000 (aggregated across counterparties) in one or more such agreements or transactions with the debtor or any other entity (other than an affiliate) on any day during the previous 15-month period; or

''(B) a clearing organization (as defined in section 402 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Improvement Act of 1991);''; and

(3) by striking paragraph (26) and inserting the following:

''(26) 'forward contract merchant' means a Federal reserve bank, or an entity the business of which consists in whole or in part of entering into forward contracts as or with merchants in a commodity (as defined in section 761) or any similar good, article, service, right, or interest which is presently or in the future becomes the subject of dealing in the forward contract trade;''.

(c) DEFINITION OF MASTER NETTING AGREEMENT AND MASTER NETTING AGREEMENT PARTICIPANT.—Section 101 of title 11, United States Code, is amended by inserting after paragraph (38) the following new paragraphs:

''(38A) 'master netting agreement'—

''(A) means an agreement providing for the exercise of rights, including rights of netting, setoff, liquidation, termination, acceleration, or close out, under or in connection with one or more contracts that are described in any one or more of paragraphs (1) through (5) of section 561(a), or any security agreement or arrangement or other credit enhancement related to one or more of the foregoing, including any guarantee or reimbursement obligation related to 1 or more of the foregoing; and

''(B) if the agreement contains provisions relating to agreements or transactions that are not contracts described in paragraphs (1) through (5) of section 561(a), shall be deemed to be a master netting agreement only with respect to those agreements or transactions that are described in any one or more of paragraphs (1) through (5) of section 561(a);

''(38B) 'master netting agreement participant' means an entity that, at any time before the date of the filing of the petition, is a party to an outstanding master netting agreement with the debtor;''.

(d) SWAP AGREEMENTS, SECURITIES CONTRACTS, COMMODITY CONTRACTS, FORWARD CONTRACTS, REPURCHASE AGREEMENTS, AND MASTER NETTING AGREEMENTS UNDER THE AUTOMATIC-STAY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 362(b) of title 11, United States Code, as amended by sections 224, 303, 311, 401, and 718, is amended—

(A) in paragraph (6), by inserting '', pledged to, under the control of,'' after ''held by'';

(B) in paragraph (7), by inserting '', pledged to, under the control of,'' after ''held by'';

(C) by striking paragraph (17) and inserting the following:

''(17) under subsection (a), of the setoff by a swap participant or financial participant of a mutual debt and claim under or in connection with one or more swap agreements that constitutes the setoff of a claim against the debtor for any payment or other transfer of property due from the debtor under or in connection with any swap agreement against any payment due to the debtor from the swap participant or financial participant under or in connection with any swap agreement or against cash, securities, or other property held by, pledged to, under the control of, or due from such swap participant or financial participant to margin, guarantee, secure, or settle any swap agreement;''; and

(D) by inserting after paragraph (26) the following:

''(27) under subsection (a), of the setoff by a master netting agreement participant of a mutual debt and claim under or in connection with one or more master netting agreements or any contract or agreement subject to such agreements that constitutes the setoff of a claim against the debtor for any payment or other transfer of property due from the debtor under or in connection with such agreements or any contract or agreement subject to such agreements against any payment due to the debtor from such master netting agreement participant under or in connection with such agreements or any contract or agreement subject to such agreements or against cash, securities, or other property held by, pledged to, under the control of, or due from such master netting agreement participant to margin, guarantee, secure, or settle such agreements or any contract or agreement subject to such agreements, to the extent that such participant is eligible to exercise such offset rights under paragraph (6), (7), or (17) for each individual contract covered by the master netting agreement in issue; and''.

(2) LIMITATION.—Section 362 of title 11, United States Code, as amended by sections 106, 305, 311, and 441, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(o) The exercise of rights not subject to the stay arising under subsection (a) pursuant to paragraph (6), (7), (17), or (27) of subsection (b) shall not be stayed by any order of a court or administrative agency in any proceeding under this title.''.

(e) LIMITATION OF AVOIDANCE POWERS UNDER MASTER NETTING AGREEMENT.—Section 546 of title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (g) (as added by section 103 of Public Law 101–311)—

(A) by striking ''under a swap agreement'';

(B) by striking ''in connection with a swap agreement'' and inserting ''under or in connection with any swap agreement''; and

(C) by inserting ''or financial participant'' after ''swap participant''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(j) Notwithstanding sections 544, 545, 547, 548(a)(1)(B), and 548(b) the trustee may not avoid a transfer made by or to a master netting agreement participant under or in connection with any master netting agreement or any individual contract covered thereby that is made before the commencement of the case, except under section 548(a)(1)(A) and except to the extent that the trustee could otherwise avoid such a transfer made under an individual contract covered by such master netting agreement.''.

(f) FRAUDULENT TRANSFERS OF MASTER NETTING AGREEMENTS.—Section 548(d)(2) of title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (C), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (D), by striking the period and inserting ''; and''; and

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

''(E) a master netting agreement participant that receives a transfer in connection with a master netting agreement or any individual contract covered thereby takes for value to the extent of such transfer, except that, with respect to a transfer under any individual contract covered thereby, to the extent that such master netting agreement participant otherwise did not take (or is otherwise not deemed to have taken) such transfer for value.''.

(g) TERMINATION OR ACCELERATION OF SECURITIES CONTRACTS.—Section 555 of title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by amending the section heading to read as follows:

''§ 555. Contractual right to liquidate, terminate, or accelerate a securities contract'';

and

(2) in the first sentence, by striking ''liquidation'' and inserting ''liquidation, termination, or acceleration''.

(h) TERMINATION OR ACCELERATION OF COMMODITIES OR FORWARD CONTRACTS.—Section 556 of title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by amending the section heading to read as follows:

''§ 556. Contractual right to liquidate, terminate, or accelerate a commodities contract or forward contract'';

(2) in the first sentence, by striking ''liquidation'' and inserting ''liquidation, termination, or acceleration''; and

(3) in the second sentence, by striking ''As used'' and all that follows through ''right,'' and inserting ''As used in this section, the term 'contractual right' includes a right set forth in a rule or bylaw of a derivatives clearing organization (as defined in the Commodity Exchange Act), a multilateral clearing organization (as defined in the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Improvement Act of 1991), a national securities exchange, a national securities association, a securities clearing agency, a contract market designated under the Commodity Exchange Act, a derivatives transaction execution facility registered under the Commodity Exchange Act, or a board of trade (as defined in the Commodity Exchange Act) or in a resolution of the governing board thereof and a right,''.

(i) TERMINATION OR ACCELERATION OF REPURCHASE AGREEMENTS.—Section 559 of title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by amending the section heading to read as follows:

"§ 559. Contractual right to liquidate, terminate, or accelerate a repurchase agreement";

(2) in the first sentence, by striking ''liquidation'' and inserting ''liquidation, termination, or acceleration''; and

(3) in the third sentence, by striking ''As used'' and all that follows through ''right,'' and inserting ''As used in this section, the term 'contractual right' includes a right set forth in a rule or bylaw of a derivatives clearing organization (as defined in the Commodity Exchange Act), a multilateral clearing organization (as defined in the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Improvement Act of 1991), a national securities exchange, a national securities association, a securities clearing agency, a contract market designated under the Commodity Exchange Act, a derivatives transaction execution facility registered under the Commodity Exchange Act, or a board of trade (as defined in the Commodity Exchange Act) or in a resolution of the governing board thereof and a right,''.

(j) LIQUIDATION, TERMINATION, OR ACCELERATION OF SWAP AGREEMENTS.—Section 560 of title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by amending the section heading to read as follows:

"§ 560. Contractual right to liquidate, terminate, or accelerate a swap agreement";

(2) in the first sentence, by striking ''termination of a swap agreement'' and inserting ''liquidation, termination, or acceleration of one or more swap agreements'';

(3) by striking ''in connection with any swap agreement'' and inserting ''in connection with the termination, liquidation, or acceleration of one or more swap agreements''; and

(4) in the second sentence, by striking ''As used'' and all that follows through ''right,'' and inserting ''As used in this section, the term 'contractual right' includes a right set forth in a rule or bylaw of a derivatives clearing organization (as defined in the Commodity Exchange Act), a multilateral clearing organization (as defined in the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Improvement Act of 1991), a national securities exchange, a national securities association, a securities clearing agency, a contract market designated under the Commodity Exchange Act, a derivatives transaction execution facility registered under the Commodity Exchange Act, or a board of trade (as defined in the Commodity Exchange Act) or in a resolution of the governing board thereof and a right,''.

(k) LIQUIDATION, TERMINATION, ACCELERATION, OR OFFSET UNDER A MASTER NETTING AGREEMENT AND ACROSS CONTRACTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Title 11, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 560 the following:

"§ 561. Contractual right to terminate, liquidate, accelerate, or offset under a master netting agreement and across contracts; proceedings under chapter 15

''(a) Subject to subsection (b), the exercise of any contractual right, because of a condition of the kind specified in section 365(e)(1), to cause the termination, liquidation, or acceleration of or to offset or net termination values, payment amounts, or other transfer obligations arising under or in connection with one or more (or the termination, liquidation, or acceleration of one or more)—

''(1) securities contracts, as defined in section 741(7);

''(2) commodity contracts, as defined in section 761(4);

''(3) forward contracts;

''(4) repurchase agreements;

''(5) swap agreements; or

''(6) master netting agreements,

shall not be stayed, avoided, or otherwise limited by operation of any provision of this title or by any order of a court or administrative agency in any proceeding under this title.

''(b)(1) A party may exercise a contractual right described in subsection (a) to terminate, liquidate, or accelerate only to the extent that such party could exercise such a right under section 555, 556, 559, or 560 for each individual contract covered by the master netting agreement in issue.

''(2) If a debtor is a commodity broker subject to subchapter IV of chapter 7—

''(A) a party may not net or offset an obligation to the debtor arising under, or in connection with, a commodity contract traded on or subject to the rules of a contract market designated under the Commodity Exchange Act or a derivatives transaction execution facility registered under the Commodity Exchange Act against any claim arising under, or in connection with, other instruments, contracts, or agreements listed in subsection (a) except to the extent that the party has positive net equity in the commodity accounts at the debtor, as calculated under such subchapter; and

''(B) another commodity broker may not net or offset an obligation to the debtor arising under, or in connection with, a commodity contract entered into or held on behalf of a customer of the debtor and traded on or subject to the rules of a contract market designated under the Commodity Exchange Act or a derivatives transaction execution facility registered under the Commodity Exchange Act against any claim arising under, or in connection with, other instruments, contracts, or agreements listed in subsection (a).

''(3) No provision of subparagraph (A) or (B) of paragraph (2) shall prohibit the offset of claims and obligations that arise under—

''(A) a cross-margining agreement or similar arrangement that has been approved by the Commodity Futures Trading Commission or submitted to the Commodity Futures Trading Commission under paragraph (1) or (2) of section 5c(c) of the Commodity Exchange Act and has not been abrogated or rendered ineffective by the Commodity Futures Trading Commission; or

''(B) any other netting agreement between a clearing organization (as defined in section 761) and another entity that has been approved by the Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

''(c) As used in this section, the term 'contractual right' includes a right set forth in a rule or bylaw of a derivatives clearing organization (as defined in the Commodity Exchange Act), a multilateral clearing organization (as defined in the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Improvement Act of 1991), a national securities exchange, a national securities association, a securities clearing agency, a contract market designated under the Commodity Exchange Act, a derivatives transaction execution facility registered under the Commodity Exchange Act, or a board of trade (as defined in the Commodity Exchange Act) or in a resolution of the governing board thereof, and a right, whether or not evidenced in writing, arising under common law, under law merchant, or by reason of normal business practice.

''(d) Any provisions of this title relating to securities contracts, commodity contracts, forward contracts, repurchase agreements, swap agreements, or master netting agreements shall apply in a case under chapter 15, so that enforcement of contractual provisions of such contracts and agreements in accordance with their terms will not be stayed or otherwise limited by operation of any provision of this title or by order of a court in any case under this title, and to limit avoidance powers to the same extent as in a proceeding under chapter 7 or 11 of this title (such enforcement not to be limited based on the presence or absence of assets of the debtor in the United States).''.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 5 of title 11, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 560 the following:

''561. Contractual right to terminate, liquidate, accelerate, or offset under a master netting agreement and across contracts; proceedings under chapter 15.''.

(l) COMMODITY BROKER LIQUIDATIONS.—Title 11, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 766 the following:

"§ 767. Commodity broker liquidation and forward contract merchants, commodity brokers, stockbrokers, financial institutions, financial participants, securities clearing agencies, swap participants, repo participants, and master netting agreement participants

''Notwithstanding any other provision of this title, the exercise of rights by a forward contract merchant, commodity broker, stockbroker, financial institution, financial participant, securities clearing agency, swap participant, repo participant, or master netting agreement participant under this title shall not affect the priority of any unsecured claim it may have after the exercise of such rights.''.

(m) STOCKBROKER LIQUIDATIONS.—Title 11, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 752 the following:

"§ 753. Stockbroker liquidation and forward contract merchants, commodity brokers, stockbrokers, financial institutions, financial participants, securities clearing agencies, swap participants, repo participants, and master netting agreement participants

''Notwithstanding any other provision of this title, the exercise of rights by a forward contract merchant, commodity broker, stockbroker, financial institution, financial participant, securities clearing agency, swap participant, repo participant, or master netting agreement participant under this title shall not affect the priority of any unsecured claim it may have after the exercise of such rights.''.

(n) SETOFF.—Section 553 of title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(2)(B)(ii), by inserting before the semicolon the following: ''(except for a setoff of a kind described in section 362(b)(6), 362(b)(7), 362(b)(17), 362(b)(27), 555, 556, 559, 560, or 561)'';

(2) in subsection (a)(3)(C), by inserting before the period the following: ''(except for a setoff of a kind described in section 362(b)(6), 362(b)(7), 362(b)(17), 362(b)(27), 555, 556, 559, 560, or 561)''; and

(3) in subsection (b)(1), by striking ''362(b)(14),'' and inserting ''362(b)(17), 362(b)(27), 555, 556, 559, 560, 561,''.

(o) SECURITIES CONTRACTS, COMMODITY CONTRACTS, AND FORWARD CONTRACTS.—Title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in section 362(b)(6), by striking ''financial institutions,'' each place such term appears and inserting ''financial institution, financial participant,'';

(2) in sections 362(b)(7) and 546(f), by inserting ''or financial participant'' after ''repo participant'' each place such term appears;

(3) in section 546(e), by inserting ''financial participant,'' after ''financial institution,'';

(4) in section 548(d)(2)(B), by inserting ''financial participant,'' after ''financial institution,'';

(5) in section 548(d)(2)(C), by inserting ''or financial participant'' after ''repo participant'';

(6) in section 548(d)(2)(D), by inserting ''or financial participant'' after ''swap participant'';

(7) in section 555—

(A) by inserting ''financial participant,'' after ''financial institution,''; and

(B) by striking the second sentence and inserting the following: ''As used in this section, the term 'contractual right' includes a right set forth in a rule or bylaw of a derivatives clearing organization (as defined in the Commodity Exchange Act), a multilateral clearing organization (as defined in the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Improvement Act of 1991), a national securities exchange, a national securities association, a securities clearing agency, a contract market designated under the Commodity Exchange Act, a derivatives transaction execution facility registered under the Commodity Exchange Act, or a board of trade (as defined in the Commodity Exchange Act), or in a resolution of the governing board thereof, and a right, whether or not in writing, arising under common law, under law merchant, or by reason of normal business practice.'';

(8) in section 556, by inserting '', financial participant,'' after ''commodity broker'';

(9) in section 559, by inserting ''or financial participant'' after ''repo participant'' each place such term appears; and

(10) in section 560, by inserting ''or financial participant'' after ''swap participant''.

(p) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the table of sections for chapter 5—

(A) by amending the items relating to sections 555 and 556 to read as follows:

''555. Contractual right to liquidate, terminate, or accelerate a securities contract.

''556. Contractual right to liquidate, terminate, or accelerate a commodities contract or forward contract.'';

and

(B) by amending the items relating to sections 559 and 560 to read as follows:

''559. Contractual right to liquidate, terminate, or accelerate a repurchase agreement.

''560. Contractual right to liquidate, terminate, or accelerate a swap agreement.'';

and

(2) in the table of sections for chapter 7—

(A) by inserting after the item relating to section 766 the following:

''767. Commodity broker liquidation and forward contract merchants, commodity brokers, stockbrokers, financial institutions, financial participants, securities clearing agencies, swap participants, repo participants, and master netting agreement participants.'';

and

(B) by inserting after the item relating to section 752 the following:

''753. Stockbroker liquidation and forward contract merchants, commodity brokers, stockbrokers, financial institutions, financial participants, securities clearing agencies, swap participants, repo participants, and master netting agreement participants.''.

SEC. 908. RECORDKEEPING REQUIREMENTS.

(a) FDIC-INSURED DEPOSITORY INSTITUTIONS.—Section 11(e)(8) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1821(e)(8)) is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

''(H) RECORDKEEPING REQUIREMENTS.—The Corporation, in consultation with the appropriate Federal banking agencies, may prescribe regulations requiring more detailed recordkeeping by any insured depository institution with respect to qualified financial contracts (including market valuations) only if such insured depository institution is in a troubled condition (as such term is defined by the Corporation pursuant to section 32).''.

(b) INSURED CREDIT UNIONS.—Section 207(c)(8) of the Federal Credit Union Act (12 U.S.C. 1787(c)(8)) is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

''(H) RECORDKEEPING REQUIREMENTS.—The Board, in consultation with the appropriate Federal banking agencies, may prescribe regulations requiring more detailed recordkeeping by any insured credit union with respect to qualified financial contracts (including market valuations) only if such insured credit union is in a troubled condition (as such term is defined by the Board pursuant to section 212).''.

SEC. 909. EXEMPTIONS FROM CONTEMPORANEOUS EXECUTION REQUIREMENT.

Section 13(e)(2) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1823(e)(2)) is amended to read as follows:

''(2) EXEMPTIONS FROM CONTEMPORANEOUS EXECUTION REQUIREMENT.—An agreement to provide for the lawful collateralization of—

''(A) deposits of, or other credit extension by, a Federal, State, or local governmental entity, or of any depositor referred to in section 11(a)(2), including an agreement to provide collateral in lieu of a surety bond;

''(B) bankruptcy estate funds pursuant to section 345(b)(2) of title 11, United States Code;

''(C) extensions of credit, including any overdraft, from a Federal reserve bank or Federal home loan bank; or

''(D) one or more qualified financial contracts, as defined in section 11(e)(8)(D),

shall not be deemed invalid pursuant to paragraph (1)(B) solely because such agreement was not executed contemporaneously with the acquisition of the collateral or because of pledges, delivery, or substitution of the collateral made in accordance with such agreement.''.

SEC. 910. DAMAGE MEASURE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by inserting after section 561, as added by section 907, the following:

''§ 562. Timing of damage measurement in connection with swap agreements, securities contracts, forward contracts, commodity contracts, repurchase agreements, and master netting agreements

''(a) If the trustee rejects a swap agreement, securities contract (as defined in section 741), forward contract, commodity contract (as defined in section 761), repurchase agreement, or master netting agreement pursuant to section 365(a), or if a forward contract merchant, stockbroker, financial institution, securities clearing agency, repo participant, financial participant, master netting agreement participant, or swap participant liquidates, terminates, or accelerates such contract or agreement, damages shall be measured as of the earlier of—

''(1) the date of such rejection; or

''(2) the date or dates of such liquidation, termination, or acceleration.

''(b) If there are not any commercially reasonable determinants of value as of any date referred to in paragraph (1) or (2) of subsection (a), damages shall be measured as of the earliest subsequent date or dates on which there are commercially reasonable determinants of value.

''(c) For the purposes of subsection (b), if damages are not measured as of the date or dates of rejection, liquidation, termination, or acceleration, and the forward contract merchant, stockbroker, financial institution, securities clearing agency, repo participant, financial participant, master netting agreement participant, or swap participant or the trustee objects to the timing of the measurement of damages—

''(1) the trustee, in the case of an objection by a forward contract merchant, stockbroker, financial institution, securities clearing agency, repo participant, financial participant, master netting agreement participant, or swap participant; or

''(2) the forward contract merchant, stockbroker, financial institution, securities clearing agency, repo participant, financial participant, master netting agreement participant, or swap participant, in the case of an objection by the trustee,

has the burden of proving that there were no commercially reasonable determinants of value as of such date or dates.''; and

(2) in the table of sections for chapter 5, by inserting after the item relating to section 561 (as added by section 907) the following new item:

''562. Timing of damage measure in connection with swap agreements, securities contracts, forward contracts, commodity contracts, repurchase agreements, or master netting agreements.''.

(b) CLAIMS ARISING FROM REJECTION.—Section 502(g) of title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by inserting ''(1)'' after ''(g)''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(2) A claim for damages calculated in accordance with section 562 shall be allowed under subsection (a), (b), or (c), or disallowed under subsection (d) or (e), as if such claim had arisen before the date of the filing of the petition.''.

SEC. 911. SIPC STAY.

Section 5(b)(2) of the Securities Investor Protection Act of 1970 (15 U.S.C. 78eee(b)(2)) is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

''(C) EXCEPTION FROM STAY.—

''(i) Notwithstanding section 362 of title 11, United States Code, neither the filing of an application under subsection (a)(3) nor any order or decree obtained by SIPC from the court shall operate as a stay of any contractual rights of a creditor to liquidate, terminate, or accelerate a securities contract, commodity contract, forward contract, repurchase agreement, swap agreement, or master netting agreement, as those terms are defined in sections 101, 741, and 761 of title 11, United States Code, to offset or net termination values, payment amounts, or other transfer obligations arising under or in connection with one or more of such contracts or agreements, or to foreclose on any cash collateral pledged by the debtor, whether or not with respect to one or more of such contracts or agreements.

''(ii) Notwithstanding clause (i), such application, order, or decree may operate as a stay of the foreclosure on, or disposition of, securities collateral pledged by the debtor, whether or not with respect to one or more of such contracts or agreements, securities sold by the debtor under a repurchase agreement, or securities lent under a securities lending agreement.

''(iii) As used in this subparagraph, the term 'contractual right' includes a right set forth in a rule or bylaw of a national securities exchange, a national securities association, or a securities clearing agency, a right set forth in a bylaw of a clearing organization or contract market or in a resolution of the governing board thereof, and a right, whether or not in writing, arising under

common law, under law merchant, or by reason of normal business practice.''.

TITLE X—PROTECTION OF FAMILY FARMERS AND FAMILY FISHERMEN

SEC. 1001. PERMANENT REENACTMENT OF CHAPTER 12.

(a) REENACTMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 12 of title 11, United States Code, as reenacted by section 149 of division C of the Omnibus Consolidated and Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act, 1999 (Public Law 105–277), and as in effect on June 30, 2005, is hereby reenacted.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE OF REENACTMENT.—Paragraph (1) shall take effect on July 1, 2005.

(b) AMENDMENTS—Chapter 12 of title 11, United States Code, as reenacted by subsection (a), is amended by this Act.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 302 of the Bankruptcy Judges, United States Trustees, and Family Farmer Bankruptcy Act of 1986 (28 U.S.C. 581 note) is amended by striking subsection (f).

SEC. 1002. DEBT LIMIT INCREASE.

Section 104(b) of title 11, United States Code, as amended by section 226, is amended by inserting ''101(18),'' after ''101(3),'' each place it appears.

SEC. 1003. CERTAIN CLAIMS OWED TO GOVERNMENTAL UNITS.

(a) CONTENTS OF PLAN.—Section 1222(a)(2) of title 11, United States Code, as amended by section 213, is amended to read as follows:

''(2) provide for the full payment, in deferred cash payments, of all claims entitled to priority under section 507, unless—

''(A) the claim is a claim owed to a governmental unit that arises as a result of the sale, transfer, exchange, or other disposition of any farm asset used in the debtor's farming operation, in which case the claim shall be treated as an unsecured claim that is not entitled to priority under section 507, but the debt shall be treated in such manner only if the debtor receives a discharge; or

''(B) the holder of a particular claim agrees to a different treatment of that claim;''.

(b) SPECIAL NOTICE PROVISIONS.—Section 1231(b) of title 11, United States Code, as so designated by section 719, is amended by striking ''a State or local governmental unit'' and inserting ''any governmental unit''.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE; APPLICATION OF AMENDMENTS.—This section and the amendments made by this section shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act and shall not apply with respect to cases commenced under title 11 of the United States Code before such date.

SEC. 1004. DEFINITION OF FAMILY FARMER.

Section 101(18) of title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A)—

(A) by striking ''$1,500,000'' and inserting ''$3,237,000''; and

(B) by striking ''80'' and inserting ''50''; and

(2) in subparagraph (B)(ii)—

(A) by striking ''$1,500,000'' and inserting ''$3,237,000''; and

(B) by striking ''80'' and inserting ''50''.

SEC. 1005. ELIMINATION OF REQUIREMENT THAT FAMILY FARMER AND SPOUSE RECEIVE OVER 50 PERCENT OF INCOME FROM FARMING OPERATION IN YEAR PRIOR TO BANKRUPTCY.

Section 101(18)(A) of title 11, United States Code, is amended by striking ''for the taxable year preceding the taxable year'' and inserting the following:

''for—

''(i) the taxable year preceding; or

''(ii) each of the 2d and 3d taxable years preceding;

the taxable year''.

SEC. 1006. PROHIBITION OF RETROACTIVE ASSESSMENT OF DISPOSABLE INCOME.

(a) CONFIRMATION OF PLAN.—Section 1225(b)(1) of title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A) by striking ''or'' at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (B) by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; or''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(C) the value of the property to be distributed under the plan in the 3-year period, or such longer period as the court may approve under section 1222(c), beginning on the date that the first distribution is due under the plan is not less than the debtor's projected disposable income for such period.''.

(b) MODIFICATION OF PLAN.—Section 1229 of title 11, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(d) A plan may not be modified under this section—

''(1) to increase the amount of any payment due before the plan as modified becomes the plan;

''(2) by anyone except the debtor, based on an increase in the debtor's disposable income, to increase the amount of payments to unsecured creditors required for a particular month so that the aggregate of such payments exceeds the debtor's disposable income for such month; or

''(3) in the last year of the plan by anyone except the debtor, to require payments that would leave the debtor with insufficient funds to carry on the farming operation after the plan is completed.''.

SEC. 1007. FAMILY FISHERMEN.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 101 of title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by inserting after paragraph (7) the following:

''(7A) 'commercial fishing operation' means—

''(A) the catching or harvesting of fish, shrimp, lobsters, urchins, seaweed, shellfish, or other aquatic species or products of such species; or

''(B) for purposes of section 109 and chapter 12, aquaculture activities consisting of raising for market any species or product described in subparagraph (A);

''(7B) 'commercial fishing vessel' means a vessel used by a family fisherman to carry out a commercial fishing operation;''; and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (19) the following:

''(19A) 'family fisherman' means—

''(A) an individual or individual and spouse engaged in a commercial fishing operation—

''(i) whose aggregate debts do not exceed $1,500,000 and not less than 80 percent of whose aggregate noncontingent, liquidated debts (excluding a debt for the principal residence of such individual or such individual and spouse, unless such debt arises out of a commercial fishing operation), on the date the case is filed, arise out of a commercial fishing operation owned or operated by such individual or such individual and spouse; and

''(ii) who receive from such commercial fishing operation more than 50 percent of such individual's or such individual's and spouse's gross income for the taxable year preceding the taxable year in which the case concerning such individual or such individual and spouse was filed; or

''(B) a corporation or partnership—

''(i) in which more than 50 percent of the outstanding stock or equity is held by—

''(I) 1 family that conducts the commercial fishing operation; or

''(II) 1 family and the relatives of the members of such family, and such family or such relatives conduct the commercial fishing operation; and

''(ii)(I) more than 80 percent of the value of its assets consists of assets related to the commercial fishing operation;

''(II) its aggregate debts do not exceed $1,500,000 and not less than 80 percent of its aggregate noncontingent, liquidated debts (excluding a debt for 1 dwelling which is owned by such corporation or partnership and which a shareholder or partner maintains as a principal residence, unless such debt arises out of a commercial fishing operation), on the date the case is filed, arise out of a commercial fishing operation owned or operated by such corporation or such partnership; and

''(III) if such corporation issues stock, such stock is not publicly traded;

''(19B) 'family fisherman with regular annual income' means a family fisherman whose annual income is sufficiently stable and regular to enable such family fisherman to make payments under a plan under chapter 12 of this title;''.

(b) WHO MAY BE A DEBTOR.—Section 109(f) of title 11, United States Code, is amended by inserting ''or family fisherman'' after ''family farmer''.

(c) CHAPTER 12.—Chapter 12 of title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the chapter heading, by inserting ''**OR FISHERMAN**'' after ''**FAMILY FARMER**'';

(2) in section 1203, by inserting ''or commercial fishing operation'' after ''farm''; and

(3) in section 1206, by striking ''if the property is farmland or farm equipment'' and inserting ''if the property is farmland, farm equipment, or property used to carry out a commercial fishing operation (including a commercial fishing vessel)''.

(d) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—In the table of chapters for title 11, United States Code, the item relating to chapter 12, is amended to read as follows:

''12. Adjustments of Debts of a Family Farmer or Family Fisherman with Regular Annual Income ..... 1201''.

(e) APPLICABILITY.—Nothing in this section shall change, affect, or amend the Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976 (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.).

TITLE XI—HEALTH CARE AND EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

SEC. 1101. DEFINITIONS.

(a) HEALTH CARE BUSINESS DEFINED.—Section 101 of title 11, United States Code, as amended by section 306, is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (27A) as paragraph (27B); and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (27) the following:

''(27A) 'health care business'—

''(A) means any public or private entity (without regard to whether that entity is organized for profit or not for profit) that is primarily engaged in offering to the general public facilities and services for—

''(i) the diagnosis or treatment of injury, deformity, or disease; and

''(ii) surgical, drug treatment, psychiatric, or obstetric care; and

''(B) includes—

''(i) any—

''(I) general or specialized hospital;

''(II) ancillary ambulatory, emergency, or surgical treatment facility;

''(III) hospice;

''(IV) home health agency; and

''(V) other health care institution that is similar to an entity referred to in subclause (I), (II), (III), or (IV); and

''(ii) any long-term care facility, including any—

''(I) skilled nursing facility;

''(II) intermediate care facility;

''(III) assisted living facility;

''(IV) home for the aged;

''(V) domiciliary care facility; and

''(VI) health care institution that is related to a facility referred to in subclause (I), (II), (III), (IV), or (V), if that institution is primarily engaged in offering room, board, laundry, or personal assistance with activities of daily living and incidentals to activities of daily living;''.

(b) PATIENT AND PATIENT RECORDS DEFINED.—Section 101 of title 11, United States Code, is amended by inserting after paragraph (40) the following:

''(40A) 'patient' means any individual who obtains or receives services from a health care business;

''(40B) 'patient records' means any written document relating to a patient or a record recorded in a magnetic, optical, or other form of electronic medium;''.

(c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—The amendments made by subsection (a) of this section shall not affect the interpretation of section 109(b) of title 11, United States Code.

SEC. 1102. DISPOSAL OF PATIENT RECORDS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter III of chapter 3 of title 11, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 351. Disposal of patient records

''If a health care business commences a case under chapter 7, 9, or 11, and the trustee does not have a sufficient amount of funds to pay for the storage of patient records in the manner required under applicable Federal or State law, the following requirements shall apply:

''(1) The trustee shall—

''(A) promptly publish notice, in 1 or more appropriate newspapers, that if patient records are not claimed by the patient or an insurance provider (if applicable law permits the insurance provider to make that claim) by the date that is 365 days after the date of that notification, the trustee will destroy the patient records; and

''(B) during the first 180 days of the 365-day period described in subparagraph (A), promptly attempt to notify directly each patient that is the subject of the patient records and appropriate insurance carrier concerning the patient records by mailing to the most recent known address of that patient, or a family member or contact person for that patient, and to the appropriate insurance carrier an appropriate notice regarding the claiming or disposing of patient records.

''(2) If, after providing the notification under paragraph (1), patient records are not claimed during the 365-day period described under that paragraph, the trustee shall mail, by certified mail, at the end of such 365-day period a written request to each appropriate Federal agency to request permission from that agency to deposit the patient records with that agency, except that no Federal agency is required to accept patient records under this paragraph.

''(3) If, following the 365-day period described in paragraph (2) and after providing the notification under paragraph (1), patient records are not claimed by a patient or insurance provider, or request is not granted by a Federal agency to deposit such records with that agency, the trustee shall destroy those records by—

''(A) if the records are written, shredding or burning the records; or

''(B) if the records are magnetic, optical, or other electronic records, by otherwise destroying those records so that those records cannot be retrieved.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for subchapter III of chapter 3 of title 11, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''351. Disposal of patient records.''.

SEC. 1103. ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSE CLAIM FOR COSTS OF CLOSING A HEALTH CARE BUSINESS AND OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.

Section 503(b) of title 11, United States Code, as amended by section 445, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(8) the actual, necessary costs and expenses of closing a health care business incurred by a trustee or by a Federal agency (as defined in section 551(1) of title 5) or a department or agency of a State or political subdivision thereof, including any cost or expense incurred—

''(A) in disposing of patient records in accordance with section 351; or

''(B) in connection with transferring patients from the health care business that is in the process of being closed to another health care business; and''.

SEC. 1104. APPOINTMENT OF OMBUDSMAN TO ACT AS PATIENT ADVOCATE.

(a) OMBUDSMAN TO ACT AS PATIENT ADVOCATE.—

(1) APPOINTMENT OF OMBUDSMAN.—Title 11, United States Code, as amended by section 232, is amended by inserting after section 332 the following:

''§ 333. Appointment of patient care ombudsman

''(a)(1) If the debtor in a case under chapter 7, 9, or 11 is a health care business, the court shall order, not later than 30 days after the commencement of the case, the appointment of an ombudsman to monitor the quality of patient care and to represent the interests of the patients of the health care business unless the court finds that the appointment of such ombudsman is not necessary for the protection of patients under the specific facts of the case.

''(2)(A) If the court orders the appointment of an ombudsman under paragraph (1), the United States trustee shall appoint 1 disinterested person (other than the United States trustee) to serve as such ombudsman.

''(B) If the debtor is a health care business that provides long-term care, then the United States trustee may appoint the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman appointed under the Older Americans Act of 1965 for the State in which the case is pending to serve as the ombudsman required by paragraph (1).

''(C) If the United States trustee does not appoint a State Long-Term Care Ombudsman under subparagraph (B), the court shall notify the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman appointed under the Older Americans Act of 1965 for the State in which the case is pending, of the name and address of the person who is appointed under subparagraph (A).

''(b) An ombudsman appointed under subsection (a) shall—

''(1) monitor the quality of patient care provided to patients of the debtor, to the extent necessary under the circumstances, including interviewing patients and physicians;

''(2) not later than 60 days after the date of appointment, and not less frequently than at 60-day intervals thereafter, report to the court after notice to the parties in interest, at a hearing or in writing, regarding the quality of patient care provided to patients of the debtor; and

''(3) if such ombudsman determines that the quality of patient care provided to patients of the debtor is declining significantly or is otherwise being materially compromised, file with the court a motion or a written report, with notice to the parties in interest immediately upon making such determination.

''(c)(1) An ombudsman appointed under subsection (a) shall maintain any information obtained by such ombudsman under this section that relates to patients (including information relating to patient records) as confidential information. Such ombudsman may not review confidential patient records unless the court approves such review in advance and imposes restrictions on such ombudsman to protect the confidentiality of such records.

''(2) An ombudsman appointed under subsection (a)(2)(B) shall have access to patient records consistent with authority of such ombudsman under the Older Americans Act of 1965 and under non-Federal laws governing the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman program.''.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for subchapter II of chapter 3 of title 11, United States Code, as amended by section 232, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''333. Appointment of ombudsman.''.

(b) COMPENSATION OF OMBUDSMAN.—Section 330(a)(1) of title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting ''an ombudsman appointed under section 333, or'' before ''a professional person''; and

(2) in subparagraph (A), by inserting ''ombudsman,'' before ''professional person''.

SEC. 1105. DEBTOR IN POSSESSION; DUTY OF TRUSTEE TO TRANSFER PATIENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 704(a) of title 11, United States Code, as amended by sections 102, 219, and 446, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(12) use all reasonable and best efforts to transfer patients from a health care business that is in the process of being closed to an appropriate health care business that—

''(A) is in the vicinity of the health care business that is closing;

''(B) provides the patient with services that are substantially similar to those provided by the health care business that is in the process of being closed; and

''(C) maintains a reasonable quality of care.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 1106(a)(1) of title 11, United States Code, as amended by section 446, is amended by striking ''and (11)'' and inserting ''(11), and (12)''.

SEC. 1106. EXCLUSION FROM PROGRAM PARTICIPATION NOT SUBJECT TO AUTOMATIC STAY.

Section 362(b) of title 11, United States Code, is amended by inserting after paragraph (27), as amended by sections 224, 303, 311, 401, 718, and 907, the following:

''(28) under subsection (a), of the exclusion by the Secretary of Health and Human Services of the debtor from participation in the medicare program or any other Federal health care program (as defined in section 1128B(f) of the Social Security Act pursuant to title XI or XVIII of such Act).''.

TITLE XII—TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS

SEC. 1201. DEFINITIONS.

Section 101 of title 11, United States Code, as amended by this Act, is further amended—

(1) by striking ''In this title—'' and inserting ''In this title the following definitions shall apply:'';

(2) in each paragraph (other than paragraph (54A)), by inserting ''The term'' after the paragraph designation;

(3) in paragraph (35)(B), by striking ''paragraphs (21B) and (33)(A)'' and inserting ''paragraphs (23) and (35)'';

(4) in each of paragraphs (35A), (38), and (54A), by striking ''; and'' at the end and inserting a period;

(5) in paragraph (51B)—

(A) by inserting ''who is not a family farmer'' after ''debtor'' the first place it appears; and

(B) by striking ''thereto having aggregate'' and all that follows through the end of the paragraph and inserting a semicolon;

(6) by striking paragraph (54) and inserting the following:

''(54) The term 'transfer' means—

''(A) the creation of a lien;

''(B) the retention of title as a security interest;

''(C) the foreclosure of a debtor's equity of redemption; or

''(D) each mode, direct or indirect, absolute or conditional, voluntary or involuntary, of disposing of or parting with—

''(i) property; or

''(ii) an interest in property;'';

(7) in paragraph (54A)—

(A) by striking ''the term'' and inserting ''The term''; and

(B) by indenting the left margin of paragraph (54A) 2 ems to the right; and

(8) in each of paragraphs (1) through (35), in each of paragraphs (36), (37), (38A), (38B) and (39A), and in each of paragraphs (40) through (55), by striking the semicolon at the end and inserting a period.

SEC. 1202. ADJUSTMENT OF DOLLAR AMOUNTS.

Section 104 of title 11, United States Code, is amended by inserting ''522(f)(3),'' after ''522(d),'' each place it appears.

SEC. 1203. EXTENSION OF TIME.

Section 108(c)(2) of title 11, United States Code, is amended by striking ''922'' and all that follows through ''or'', and inserting ''922, 1201, or''.

SEC. 1204. TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.

Title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in section 109(b)(2), by striking ''subsection (c) or (d) of''; and

(2) in section 552(b)(1), by striking ''product'' each place it appears and inserting ''products''.

SEC. 1205. PENALTY FOR PERSONS WHO NEGLIGENTLY OR FRAUDULENTLY PREPARE BANKRUPTCY PETITIONS.

Section 110(j)(4) of title 11, United States Code, as so redesignated by section 221, is amended by striking ''attorney's'' and inserting ''attorneys' ''.

SEC. 1206. LIMITATION ON COMPENSATION OF PROFESSIONAL PERSONS.

Section 328(a) of title 11, United States Code, is amended by inserting ''on a fixed or percentage fee basis,'' after ''hourly basis,''.

SEC. 1207. EFFECT OF CONVERSION.

Section 348(f)(2) of title 11, United States Code, is amended by inserting ''of the estate'' after ''property'' the first place it appears.

SEC. 1208. ALLOWANCE OF ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.

Section 503(b)(4) of title 11, United States Code, is amended by inserting ''subparagraph (A), (B), (C), (D), or (E) of'' before ''paragraph (3)''.

SEC. 1209. EXCEPTIONS TO DISCHARGE.

Section 523 of title 11, United States Code, as amended by sections 215 and 314, is amended—

(1) by transferring paragraph (15), as added by section 304(e) of Public Law 103–394 (108 Stat. 4133), so as to insert such paragraph after subsection (a)(14A);

(2) in subsection (a)(9), by striking ''motor vehicle'' and inserting ''motor vehicle, vessel, or aircraft''; and

(3) in subsection (e), by striking ''a insured'' and inserting ''an insured''.

SEC. 1210. EFFECT OF DISCHARGE.

Section 524(a)(3) of title 11, United States Code, is amended by striking ''section 523'' and all that follows through ''or that'' and inserting ''section 523, 1228(a)(1), or 1328(a)(1), or that''.

SEC. 1211. PROTECTION AGAINST DISCRIMINATORY TREATMENT.

Section 525(c) of title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by inserting ''student'' before ''grant'' the second place it appears; and

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking ''the program operated under part B, D, or E of'' and inserting ''any program operated under''.

SEC. 1212. PROPERTY OF THE ESTATE.

Section 541(b)(4)(B)(ii) of title 11, United States Code, is amended by inserting ''365 or'' before ''542''.

SEC. 1213. PREFERENCES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 547 of title 11, United States Code, as amended by section 201, is amended—

(1) in subsection (b), by striking ''subsection (c)'' and inserting ''subsections (c) and (i)''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(i) If the trustee avoids under subsection (b) a transfer made between 90 days and 1 year before the date of the filing of the petition, by the debtor to an entity that is not an insider for the benefit of a creditor that is an insider, such transfer shall be considered to be avoided under this section only with respect to the creditor that is an insider.''.

(b) APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to any case that is pending or commenced on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 1214. POSTPETITION TRANSACTIONS.

Section 549(c) of title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by inserting ''an interest in'' after ''transfer of'' each place it appears;

(2) by striking ''such property'' and inserting ''such real property''; and

(3) by striking ''the interest'' and inserting ''such interest''.

SEC. 1215. DISPOSITION OF PROPERTY OF THE ESTATE.

Section 726(b) of title 11, United States Code, is amended by striking ''1009,''.

SEC. 1216. GENERAL PROVISIONS.

Section 901(a) of title 11, United States Code, is amended by inserting ''1123(d),'' after ''1123(b),''.

SEC. 1217. ABANDONMENT OF RAILROAD LINE.

Section 1170(e)(1) of title 11, United States Code, is amended by striking ''section 11347'' and inserting ''section 11326(a)''.

SEC. 1218. CONTENTS OF PLAN.

Section 1172(c)(1) of title 11, United States Code, is amended by striking ''section 11347'' and inserting ''section 11326(a)''.

SEC. 1219. BANKRUPTCY CASES AND PROCEEDINGS.

Section 1334(d) of title 28, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking ''made under this subsection'' and inserting ''made under subsection (c)''; and

(2) by striking ''This subsection'' and inserting ''Subsection (c) and this subsection''.

SEC. 1220. KNOWING DISREGARD OF BANKRUPTCY LAW OR RULE.

Section 156(a) of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the first undesignated paragraph—

(A) by inserting ''(1) the term'' before '' 'bankruptcy''; and

(B) by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(2) in the second undesignated paragraph—

(A) by inserting ''(2) the term'' before '' 'document''; and

(B) by striking ''this title'' and inserting ''title 11''.

SEC. 1221. TRANSFERS MADE BY NONPROFIT CHARITABLE CORPORATIONS.

(a) SALE OF PROPERTY OF ESTATE.—Section 363(d) of title 11, United States Code, is amended by striking ''only'' and all that follows through the end of the subsection and inserting ''only—

''(1) in accordance with applicable nonbankruptcy law that governs the transfer of property by a corporation or trust that is not a moneyed, business, or commercial corporation or trust; and

''(2) to the extent not inconsistent with any relief granted under subsection (c), (d), (e), or (f) of section 362.''.

(b) CONFIRMATION OF PLAN OF REORGANIZATION.—Section 1129(a) of title 11, United States Code, as amended by sections 213 and 321, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(16) All transfers of property of the plan shall be made in accordance with any applicable provisions of nonbankruptcy law that govern the transfer of property by a corporation or trust that is not a moneyed, business, or commercial corporation or trust.''.

(c) TRANSFER OF PROPERTY.—Section 541 of title 11, United States Code, as amended by section 225, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(f) Notwithstanding any other provision of this title, property that is held by a debtor that is a corporation described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from tax under section 501(a) of such Code may be transferred to an entity that is not such a corporation, but only under the same conditions as would apply if the debtor had not filed a case under this title.''.

(d) APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to a case pending under title 11, United States Code, on the date of enactment of this Act, or filed under that title on or after that date of enactment, except that the court shall not confirm a plan under chapter 11 of title 11, United States Code, without considering whether this section would substantially affect the rights of a party in interest who first acquired rights with respect to the debtor after the date of the filing of the petition. The parties who may appear and be heard in a proceeding under this section include the attorney general of the State in which the debtor is incorporated, was formed, or does business.

(e) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to require the court in which a case under chapter 11 of title 11, United States Code, is pending to remand or refer any proceeding, issue, or controversy to any other court or to require the approval of any other court for the transfer of property.

SEC. 1222. PROTECTION OF VALID PURCHASE MONEY SECURITY INTERESTS.

Section 547(c)(3)(B) of title 11, United States Code, is amended by striking ''20'' and inserting ''30''.

SEC. 1223. BANKRUPTCY JUDGESHIPS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the ''Bankruptcy Judgeship Act of 2005''.

(b) TEMPORARY JUDGESHIPS.—

(1) APPOINTMENTS.—The following bankruptcy judges shall be appointed in the manner prescribed in section 152(a)(1) of title 28, United States Code, for the appointment of bankruptcy judges provided for in section 152(a)(2) of such title:

(A) One additional bankruptcy judge for the eastern district of California.

(B) Three additional bankruptcy judges for the central district of California.

(C) Four additional bankruptcy judges for the district of Delaware.

(D) Two additional bankruptcy judges for the southern district of Florida.

(E) One additional bankruptcy judge for the southern district of Georgia.

(F) Three additional bankruptcy judges for the district of Maryland.

(G) One additional bankruptcy judge for the eastern district of Michigan.

(H) One additional bankruptcy judge for the southern district of Mississippi.

(I) One additional bankruptcy judge for the district of New Jersey.

(J) One additional bankruptcy judge for the eastern district of New York.

(K) One additional bankruptcy judge for the northern district of New York.

(L) One additional bankruptcy judge for the southern district of New York.

(M) One additional bankruptcy judge for the eastern district of North Carolina.

(N) One additional bankruptcy judge for the eastern district of Pennsylvania.

(O) One additional bankruptcy judge for the middle district of Pennsylvania.

(P) One additional bankruptcy judge for the district of Puerto Rico.

(Q) One additional bankruptcy judge for the western district of Tennessee.

(R) One additional bankruptcy judge for the eastern district of Virginia.

(S) One additional bankruptcy judge for the district of South Carolina.

(T) One additional bankruptcy judge for the district of Nevada.

(2) VACANCIES.—

(A) DISTRICTS WITH SINGLE APPOINTMENTS.—Except as provided in subparagraphs (B), (C), (D), and (E), the first vacancy occurring in the office of bankruptcy judge in each of the judicial districts set forth in paragraph (1)—

(i) occurring 5 years or more after the appointment date of the bankruptcy judge appointed under paragraph (1) to such office; and

(ii) resulting from the death, retirement, resignation, or removal of a bankruptcy judge;

shall not be filled.

(B) CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA.—The 1st, 2d, and 3d vacancies in the office of bankruptcy judge in the central district of California—

(i) occurring 5 years or more after the respective 1st, 2d, and 3d appointment dates of the bankruptcy judges appointed under paragraph (1)(B); and

(ii) resulting from the death, retirement, resignation, or removal of a bankruptcy judge;

shall not be filled.

(C) DISTRICT OF DELAWARE.—The 1st, 2d, 3d, and 4th vacancies in the office of bankruptcy judge in the district of Delaware—

(i) occurring 5 years or more after the respective 1st, 2d, 3d, and 4th appointment dates of the bankruptcy judges appointed under paragraph (1)(F); and

(ii) resulting from the death, retirement, resignation, or removal of a bankruptcy judge;

shall not be filled.

(D) SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA.—The 1st and 2d vacancies in the office of bankruptcy judge in the southern district of Florida—

(i) occurring 5 years or more after the respective 1st and 2d appointment dates of the bankruptcy judges appointed under paragraph (1)(D); and

(ii) resulting from the death, retirement, resignation, or removal of a bankruptcy judge;

shall not be filled.

(E) DISTRICT OF MARYLAND.—The 1st, 2d, and 3d vacancies in the office of bankruptcy judge in the district of Maryland—

(i) occurring 5 years or more after the respective 1st, 2d, and 3d appointment dates of the bankruptcy judges appointed under paragraph (1)(F); and

(ii) resulting from the death, retirement, resignation, or removal of a bankruptcy judge;

shall not be filled.

(c) EXTENSIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The temporary office of bankruptcy judges authorized for the northern district of Alabama, the district of Delaware, the district of Puerto Rico, and the eastern district of Tennessee under paragraphs (1), (3), (7), and (9) of section 3(a) of the Bankruptcy Judgeship Act of 1992 (28 U.S.C. 152 note) are extended until the first vacancy occurring in the office of a bankruptcy judge in the applicable district resulting from the death, retirement, resignation, or removal of a bankruptcy judge and occurring 5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) APPLICABILITY OF OTHER PROVISIONS.—All other provisions of section 3 of the Bankruptcy Judgeship Act of 1992 (28 U.S.C. 152 note) remain applicable to the temporary office of bankruptcy judges referred to in this subsection.

(d) TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.—Section 152(a) of title 28, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking the first sentence and inserting the following: ''Each bankruptcy judge to be appointed for a judicial district, as provided in paragraph (2), shall be appointed by the court of appeals of the United States for the circuit in which such district is located.''; and

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in the item relating to the middle district of Georgia, by striking ''2'' and inserting ''3''; and

(B) in the collective item relating to the middle and southern districts of Georgia, by striking ''Middle and Southern . . . . . 1''.

(e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 1224. COMPENSATING TRUSTEES.

Section 1326 of title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking ''and'';

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(3) if a chapter 7 trustee has been allowed compensation due to the conversion or dismissal of the debtor's prior case pursuant to section 707(b), and some portion of that compensation remains unpaid in a case converted to this chapter or in the case dismissed under section 707(b) and refiled under this chapter, the amount of any such unpaid compensation, which shall be paid monthly—

''(A) by prorating such amount over the remaining duration of the plan; and

''(B) by monthly payments not to exceed the greater of—

''(i) $25; or

''(ii) the amount payable to unsecured nonpriority creditors, as provided by the plan, multiplied by 5 percent, and the result divided by the number of months in the plan.''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(d) Notwithstanding any other provision of this title—

''(1) compensation referred to in subsection (b)(3) is payable and may be collected by the trustee under that paragraph, even if such amount has been discharged in a prior case under this title; and

''(2) such compensation is payable in a case under this chapter only to the extent permitted by subsection (b)(3).''.

SEC. 1225. AMENDMENT TO SECTION 362 OF TITLE 11, UNITED STATES CODE.

Section 362(b)(18) of title 11, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''(18) under subsection (a) of the creation or perfection of a statutory lien for an ad valorem property tax, or a special tax or special assessment on real property whether or not ad valorem, imposed by a governmental unit, if such tax or assessment comes due after the date of the filing of the petition;''.

SEC. 1226. JUDICIAL EDUCATION.

The Director of the Federal Judicial Center, in consultation with the Director of the Executive Office for United States Trustees, shall develop materials and conduct such training as may be useful to courts in implementing this Act and the amendments made by this Act, including the requirements relating to the means test under section 707(b), and reaffirmation agreements under section 524, of title 11 of the United States Code, as amended by this Act.

SEC. 1227. RECLAMATION.

(a) RIGHTS AND POWERS OF THE TRUSTEE.—Section 546(c) of title 11, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''(c)(1) Except as provided in subsection (d) of this section and in section 507(c), and subject to the prior rights of a holder of a security interest in such goods or the proceeds thereof, the rights and powers of the trustee under sections 544(a), 545, 547, and 549 are subject to the right of a seller of goods that has sold goods to the debtor, in the ordinary course of such seller's business, to reclaim such goods if the debtor has received such goods while insolvent, within 45 days before the date of the commencement of a case under this title, but such seller may not reclaim such goods unless such seller demands in writing reclamation of such goods—

''(A) not later than 45 days after the date of receipt of such goods by the debtor; or

''(B) not later than 20 days after the date of commencement of the case, if the 45-day period expires after the commencement of the case.

''(2) If a seller of goods fails to provide notice in the manner described in paragraph (1), the seller still may assert the rights contained in section 503(b)(9).''.

(b) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Section 503(b) of title 11, United States Code, as amended by sections 445 and 1103, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(9) the value of any goods received by the debtor within 20 days before the date of commencement of a case under this title in which the goods have been sold to the debtor in the ordinary course of such debtor's business.''.

SEC. 1228. PROVIDING REQUESTED TAX DOCUMENTS TO THE COURT.

(a) CHAPTER 7 CASES.—The court shall not grant a discharge in the case of an individual who is a debtor in a case under chapter 7 of title 11, United States Code, unless requested tax documents have been provided to the court.

(b) CHAPTER 11 AND CHAPTER 13 CASES.—The court shall not confirm a plan of reorganization in the case of an individual under chapter 11 or 13 of title 11, United States Code, unless requested tax documents have been filed with the court.

(c) DOCUMENT RETENTION.—The court shall destroy documents submitted in support of a bankruptcy claim not sooner than 3 years after the date of the conclusion of a case filed by an individual under chapter 7, 11, or 13 of title 11, United States Code. In the event of a pending audit or enforcement action, the court may extend the time for destruction of such requested tax documents.

SEC. 1229. ENCOURAGING CREDITWORTHINESS.

(a) SENSE OF THE CONGRESS.—It is the sense of the Congress that—

(1) certain lenders may sometimes offer credit to consumers indiscriminately, without taking steps to ensure that consumers are capable of repaying the resulting debt, and in a manner which may encourage certain consumers to accumulate additional debt; and

(2) resulting consumer debt may increasingly be a major contributing factor to consumer insolvency.

(b) STUDY REQUIRED.—The Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System (hereafter in this section referred to as the ''Board'') shall conduct a study of—

(1) consumer credit industry practices of soliciting and extending credit—

(A) indiscriminately;

(B) without taking steps to ensure that consumers are capable of repaying the resulting debt; and

(C) in a manner that encourages consumers to accumulate additional debt; and

(2) the effects of such practices on consumer debt and insolvency.

(c) REPORT AND REGULATIONS.—Not later than 12 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Board—

(1) shall make public a report on its findings with respect to the indiscriminate solicitation and extension of credit by the credit industry;

(2) may issue regulations that would require additional disclosures to consumers; and

(3) may take any other actions, consistent with its existing statutory authority, that the Board finds necessary to ensure responsible industrywide practices and to prevent resulting consumer debt and insolvency.

SEC. 1230. PROPERTY NO LONGER SUBJECT TO REDEMPTION.

Section 541(b) of title 11, United States Code, as amended by sections 225 and 323, is amended by adding after paragraph (7), as added by section 323, the following:

''(8) subject to subchapter III of chapter 5, any interest of the debtor in property where the debtor pledged or sold tangible personal property (other than securities or written or printed evidences of indebtedness or title) as collateral for a loan or advance of money given by a person licensed under law to make such loans or advances, where—

''(A) the tangible personal property is in the possession of the pledgee or transferee;

''(B) the debtor has no obligation to repay the money, redeem the collateral, or buy back the property at a stipulated price; and

''(C) neither the debtor nor the trustee have exercised any right to redeem provided under the contract or State law, in a timely manner as provided under State law and section 108(b); or''.

SEC. 1231. TRUSTEES.

(a) SUSPENSION AND TERMINATION OF PANEL TRUSTEES AND STANDING TRUSTEES.—Section 586(d) of title 28, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by inserting ''(1)'' after ''(d)''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(2) A trustee whose appointment under subsection (a)(1) or under subsection (b) is terminated or who ceases to be assigned to cases filed under title 11, United States Code, may obtain judicial review of the final agency decision by commencing an action in the district court of the United States for the district for which the panel to which the trustee is appointed under subsection (a)(1), or in the district court of the United States for the district in which the trustee is appointed under subsection (b) resides, after first exhausting all available administrative remedies, which if the trustee so elects, shall also include an administrative hearing on the record. Unless the trustee elects to have an administrative hearing on the record, the trustee shall be deemed to have exhausted all administrative remedies for purposes of this paragraph if the agency fails to make a final agency decision within 90 days after the trustee requests administrative remedies. The Attorney General shall prescribe procedures to implement this paragraph. The decision of the agency shall be affirmed by the district court unless it is unreasonable and without cause based on the administrative record before the agency.''.

(b) EXPENSES OF STANDING TRUSTEES.—Section 586(e) of title 28, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(3) After first exhausting all available administrative remedies, an individual appointed under subsection (b) may obtain judicial review of final agency action to deny a claim of actual, necessary expenses under this subsection by commencing an action in the district court of the United States for the district where the individual resides. The decision of the agency shall be affirmed by the district court unless it is unreasonable and without cause based upon the administrative record before the agency.

''(4) The Attorney General shall prescribe procedures to implement this subsection.''.

SEC. 1232. BANKRUPTCY FORMS.

Section 2075 of title 28, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''The bankruptcy rules promulgated under this section shall prescribe a form for the statement required under section 707(b)(2)(C) of title 11 and may provide general rules on the content of such statement.''.

SEC. 1233. DIRECT APPEALS OF BANKRUPTCY MATTERS TO COURTS OF APPEALS.

(a) APPEALS.—Section 158 of title 28, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)(1), by striking ''Subject to subsection (b),'' and inserting ''Subject to subsections (b) and (d)(2),''; and

(2) in subsection (d)—

(A) by inserting ''(1)'' after ''(d)''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(2)(A) The appropriate court of appeals shall have jurisdiction of appeals described in the first sentence of subsection (a) if the bankruptcy court, the district court, or the bankruptcy appellate panel involved, acting on its own motion or on the request of a party to the judgment, order, or decree described in such first sentence, or all the appellants and appellees (if any) acting jointly, certify that—

''(i) the judgment, order, or decree involves a question of law as to which there is no controlling decision of the court of appeals for the circuit or of the Supreme Court of the United States, or involves a matter of public importance;

''(ii) the judgment, order, or decree involves a question of law requiring resolution of conflicting decisions; or

''(iii) an immediate appeal from the judgment, order, or decree may materially advance the progress of the case or proceeding in which the appeal is taken;

and if the court of appeals authorizes the direct appeal of the judgment, order, or decree.

''(B) If the bankruptcy court, the district court, or the bankruptcy appellate panel—

''(i) on its own motion or on the request of a party, determines that a circumstance specified in clause (i), (ii), or (iii) of subparagraph (A) exists; or

''(ii) receives a request made by a majority of the appellants and a majority of appellees (if any) to make the certification described in subparagraph (A);

then the bankruptcy court, the district court, or the bankruptcy appellate panel shall make the certification described in subparagraph (A).

''(C) The parties may supplement the certification with a short statement of the basis for the certification.

''(D) An appeal under this paragraph does not stay any proceeding of the bankruptcy court, the district court, or the bankruptcy appellate panel from which the appeal is taken, unless the respective bankruptcy court, district court, or bankruptcy appellate panel, or the court of appeals in which the appeal in pending, issues a stay of such proceeding pending the appeal.

''(E) Any request under subparagraph (B) for certification shall be made not later than 60 days after the entry of the judgment, order, or decree.''.

(b) PROCEDURAL RULES.—

(1) TEMPORARY APPLICATION.—A provision of this subsection shall apply to appeals under section 158(d)(2) of title 28, United States Code, until a rule of practice and procedure relating to such provision and such appeals is promulgated or amended under chapter 131 of such title.

(2) CERTIFICATION.—A district court, a bankruptcy court, or a bankruptcy appellate panel may make a certification under section 158(d)(2) of title 28, United States Code, only with respect to matters pending in the respective bankruptcy court, district court, or bankruptcy appellate panel.

(3) PROCEDURE.—Subject to any other provision of this subsection, an appeal authorized by the court of appeals under section 158(d)(2)(A) of title 28, United States Code, shall be taken in the manner prescribed in subdivisions (a)(1), (b), (c), and (d) of rule 5 of the Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure. For purposes of subdivision (a)(1) of rule 5—

(A) a reference in such subdivision to a district court shall be deemed to include a reference to a bankruptcy court and a bankruptcy appellate panel, as appropriate; and

(B) a reference in such subdivision to the parties requesting permission to appeal to be served with the petition shall be deemed to include a reference to the parties to the judgment, order, or decree from which the appeal is taken.

(4) FILING OF PETITION WITH ATTACHMENT.—A petition requesting permission to appeal, that is based on a certification made under subparagraph (A) or (B) of section 158(d)(2) shall—

(A) be filed with the circuit clerk not later than 10 days after the certification is entered on the docket of the bankruptcy court, the district court, or the bankruptcy appellate panel from which the appeal is taken; and

(B) have attached a copy of such certification.

(5) REFERENCES IN RULE 5.—For purposes of rule 5 of the Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure—

(A) a reference in such rule to a district court shall be deemed to include a reference to a bankruptcy court and to a bankruptcy appellate panel; and

(B) a reference in such rule to a district clerk shall be deemed to include a reference to a clerk of a bankruptcy court and to a clerk of a bankruptcy appellate panel.

(6) APPLICATION OF RULES.—The Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure shall apply in the courts of appeals with respect to appeals authorized under section 158(d)(2)(A), to the extent relevant and as if such appeals were taken from final judgments, orders, or decrees of the district courts or bankruptcy appellate panels exercising appellate jurisdiction under subsection (a) or (b) of section 158 of title 28, United States Code.

SEC. 1234. INVOLUNTARY CASES.

(a) AMENDMENTS.—Section 303 of title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(1), by—

(A) inserting ''as to liability or amount'' after ''bona fide dispute''; and

(B) striking ''if such claims'' and inserting ''if such noncontingent, undisputed claims''; and

(2) in subsection (h)(1), by inserting ''as to liability or amount'' before the semicolon at the end.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE; APPLICATION OF AMENDMENTS.—This section and the amendments made by this section shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act and shall apply with respect to cases commenced

under title 11 of the United States Code before, on, and after such date.

SEC. 1235. FEDERAL ELECTION LAW FINES AND PENALTIES AS NONDISCHARGEABLE DEBT.

Section 523(a) of title 11, United States Code, as amended by section 314, is amended by inserting after paragraph (14A) the following:

''(14B) incurred to pay fines or penalties imposed under Federal election law;''.

TITLE XIII—CONSUMER CREDIT DISCLOSURE

SEC. 1301. ENHANCED DISCLOSURES UNDER AN OPEN END CREDIT PLAN.

(a) MINIMUM PAYMENT DISCLOSURES.—Section 127(b) of the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1637(b)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(11)(A) In the case of an open end credit plan that requires a minimum monthly payment of not more than 4 percent of the balance on which finance charges are accruing, the following statement, located on the front of the billing statement, disclosed clearly and conspicuously: 'Minimum Payment Warning: Making only the minimum payment will increase the interest you pay and the time it takes to repay your balance. For example, making only the typical 2% minimum monthly payment on a balance of $1,000 at an interest rate of 17% would take 88 months to repay the balance in full. For an estimate of the time it would take to repay your balance, making only minimum payments, call this toll-free number: _____.' (the blank space to be filled in by the creditor).

''(B) In the case of an open end credit plan that requires a minimum monthly payment of more than 4 percent of the balance on which finance charges are accruing, the following statement, in a prominent location on the front of the billing statement, disclosed clearly and conspicuously: 'Minimum Payment Warning: Making only the required minimum payment will increase the interest you pay and the time it takes to repay your balance. Making a typical 5% minimum monthly payment on a balance of $300 at an interest rate of 17% would take 24 months to repay the balance in full. For an estimate of the time it would take to repay your balance, making only minimum monthly payments, call this toll-free number: _____.' (the blank space to be filled in by the creditor).

''(C) Notwithstanding subparagraphs (A) and (B), in the case of a creditor with respect to which compliance with this title is enforced by the Federal Trade Commission, the following statement, in a prominent location on the front of the billing statement, disclosed clearly and conspicuously: 'Minimum Payment Warning: Making only the required minimum payment will increase the interest you pay and the time it takes to repay your balance. For example, making only the typical 5% minimum monthly payment on a balance of $300 at an interest rate of 17% would take 24 months to repay the balance in full. For an estimate of the time it would take to repay your balance, making only minimum monthly payments, call the Federal Trade Commission at this toll-free number: _____.' (the blank space to be filled in by the creditor). A creditor who is subject to this subparagraph shall not be subject to subparagraph (A) or (B).

''(D) Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), (B), or (C), in complying with any such subparagraph, a creditor may substitute an example based on an interest rate that is greater than 17 percent. Any creditor that is subject to subparagraph (B) may elect to provide the disclosure required under subparagraph (A) in lieu of the disclosure required under subparagraph (B).

''(E) The Board shall, by rule, periodically recalculate, as necessary, the interest rate and repayment period under subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C).

''(F)(i) The toll-free telephone number disclosed by a creditor or the Federal Trade Commission under subparagraph (A), (B), or (G), as appropriate, may be a toll-free telephone number established and maintained by the creditor or the Federal Trade Commission, as appropriate, or may be a toll-free telephone number established and maintained by a third party for use by the creditor or multiple creditors or the Federal Trade Commission, as appropriate. The toll-free telephone number may connect consumers to an automated device through which consumers may obtain information described in subparagraph (A), (B), or (C), by inputting information using a touch-tone telephone or similar device, if consumers whose telephones are not equipped to use such automated device are provided the opportunity to be connected to an individual from whom the information described in subparagraph (A), (B), or (C), as applicable, may be obtained. A person that receives a request for information described in subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) from an obligor through the toll-free telephone number disclosed under subparagraph (A), (B), or (C), as applicable, shall disclose in response to such request only the information set forth in the table promulgated by the Board under subparagraph (H)(i).

''(ii)(I) The Board shall establish and maintain for a period not to exceed 24 months following the effective date of the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act of 2005, a toll-free telephone number, or provide a toll-free telephone number established and maintained by a third party, for use by creditors that are depository institutions (as defined in section 3 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act), including a Federal credit union or State credit union (as defined in section 101 of the Federal Credit Union Act), with total assets not exceeding $250,000,000. The toll-free telephone number may connect consumers to an automated device through which consumers may obtain information described in subparagraph (A) or (B), as applicable, by inputting information using a touch-tone telephone or similar device, if consumers whose telephones are not equipped to use such automated device are provided the opportunity to be connected to an individual from whom the information described in subparagraph (A) or (B), as applicable, may be obtained. A person that receives a request for information described in subparagraph (A) or (B) from an obligor through the toll-free telephone number disclosed under subparagraph (A) or (B), as applicable, shall disclose in response to such request only the information set forth in the table promulgated by the Board under subparagraph (H)(i). The dollar amount contained in this subclause shall be adjusted according to an indexing mechanism established by the Board.

''(II) Not later than 6 months prior to the expiration of the 24-month period referenced in subclause (I), the Board shall submit to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives a report on the program described in subclause (I).

''(G) The Federal Trade Commission shall establish and maintain a toll-free number for the purpose of providing to consumers the information required to be disclosed under subparagraph (C).

''(H) The Board shall—

''(i) establish a detailed table illustrating the approximate number of months that it would take to repay an outstanding balance if a consumer pays only the required minimum monthly payments and if no other advances are made, which table shall clearly present standardized information to be used to disclose the information required to be disclosed under subparagraph (A), (B), or (C), as applicable;

''(ii) establish the table required under clause (i) by assuming—

''(I) a significant number of different annual percentage rates;

''(II) a significant number of different account balances;

''(III) a significant number of different minimum payment amounts; and

''(IV) that only minimum monthly payments are made and no additional extensions of credit are obtained; and

''(iii) promulgate regulations that provide instructional guidance regarding the manner in which the information contained in the table established under clause (i) should be used in responding to the request of an obligor for any information required to be disclosed under subparagraph (A), (B), or (C).

''(I) The disclosure requirements of this paragraph do not apply to any charge card account, the primary purpose of which is to require payment of charges in full each month.

''(J) A creditor that maintains a toll-free telephone number for the purpose of providing customers with the actual number of months that it will take to repay the customer's outstanding balance is not subject to the requirements of subparagraph (A) or (B).

''(K) A creditor that maintains a toll-free telephone number for the purpose of providing customers with the actual number of months that it will take to repay an outstanding balance shall include the following statement on each billing statement: 'Making only the minimum payment will increase the interest you pay and the time it takes to repay your balance. For more information, call this toll-free number: _____.' (the blank space to be filled in by the creditor).''.

(b) REGULATORY IMPLEMENTATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System (hereafter in this title referred to as the ''Board'') shall promulgate regulations implementing the requirements of section 127(b)(11) of the Truth in Lending Act, as added by subsection (a) of this section.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Section 127(b)(11) of the Truth in Lending Act, as added by subsection (a) of this section, and the regulations issued under paragraph (1) of this subsection shall not take effect until the later of—

(A) 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act; or

(B) 12 months after the publication of such final regulations by the Board.

(c) STUDY OF FINANCIAL DISCLOSURES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Board may conduct a study to determine the types of information available to potential borrowers from consumer credit lending institutions regarding factors qualifying potential borrowers for credit, repayment requirements, and the consequences of default.

(2) FACTORS FOR CONSIDERATION.—In conducting a study under paragraph (1), the Board should, in consultation with the other Federal banking agencies (as defined in section 3 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act), the National Credit Union Administration, and the Federal Trade Commission, consider the extent to which—

(A) consumers, in establishing new credit arrangements, are aware of their existing payment obligations, the need to consider those obligations in deciding to take on new credit, and how taking on excessive credit can result in financial difficulty;

(B) minimum periodic payment features offered in connection with open end credit plans impact consumer default rates;

(C) consumers make only the required minimum payment under open end credit plans;

(D) consumers are aware that making only required minimum payments will increase the cost and repayment period of an open end credit obligation; and

(E) the availability of low minimum payment options is a cause of consumers experiencing financial difficulty.

(3) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Findings of the Board in connection with any study conducted under this subsection shall be submitted to Congress. Such report shall also include recommendations for legislative initiatives, if any, of the Board, based on its findings.

SEC. 1302. ENHANCED DISCLOSURE FOR CREDIT EXTENSIONS SECURED BY A DWELLING.

(a) OPEN END CREDIT EXTENSIONS.—

(1) CREDIT APPLICATIONS.—Section 127A(a)(13) of the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1637a(a)(13)) is amended—

(A) by striking ''CONSULTATION OF TAX ADVISER.—A statement that the'' and inserting the following: ''TAX DEDUCTIBILITY.—A statement that—

''(A) the''; and

(B) by striking the period at the end and inserting the following: ''; and

''(B) in any case in which the extension of credit exceeds the fair market value (as defined under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986) of the dwelling, the interest on the portion of the credit extension that is greater than the fair market value of the dwelling is not tax deductible for Federal income tax purposes.''.

(2) CREDIT ADVERTISEMENTS.—Section 147(b) of the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1665b(b)) is amended—

(A) by striking ''If any'' and inserting the following:

''(1) IN GENERAL.—If any''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(2) CREDIT IN EXCESS OF FAIR MARKET VALUE.—Each advertisement described in subsection (a) that relates to an extension of credit that may exceed the fair market value of the dwelling, and which advertisement is disseminated in paper form to the public or through the Internet, as opposed to by radio or television, shall include a clear and conspicuous statement that—

''(A) the interest on the portion of the credit extension that is greater than the fair market value of the dwelling is not tax deductible for Federal income tax purposes; and

''(B) the consumer should consult a tax adviser for further information regarding the deductibility of interest and charges.''.

(b) NON-OPEN END CREDIT EXTENSIONS.—

(1) CREDIT APPLICATIONS.—Section 128 of the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1638) is amended—

(A) in subsection (a), by adding at the end the following:

''(15) In the case of a consumer credit transaction that is secured by the principal dwelling of the consumer, in which the extension of credit may exceed the fair market value of the dwelling, a clear and conspicuous statement that—

''(A) the interest on the portion of the credit extension that is greater than the fair market value of the dwelling is not tax deductible for Federal income tax purposes; and

''(B) the consumer should consult a tax adviser for further information regarding the deductibility of interest and charges.''; and

(B) in subsection (b), by adding at the end the following:

''(3) In the case of a credit transaction described in paragraph (15) of subsection (a), disclosures required by that paragraph shall be made to the consumer at the time of application for such extension of credit.''.

(2) CREDIT ADVERTISEMENTS.—Section 144 of the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1664) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(e) Each advertisement to which this section applies that relates to a consumer credit transaction that is secured by the principal dwelling of a consumer in which the extension of credit may exceed the fair market value of the dwelling, and which advertisement is disseminated in paper form to the public or through the Internet, as opposed to by radio or television, shall clearly and conspicuously state that—

''(1) the interest on the portion of the credit extension that is greater than the fair market value of the dwelling is not tax deductible for Federal income tax purposes; and

''(2) the consumer should consult a tax adviser for further information regarding the deductibility of interest and charges.''.

(c) REGULATORY IMPLEMENTATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Board shall promulgate regulations implementing the amendments made by this section.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Regulations issued under paragraph (1) shall not take effect until the later of—

(A) 12 months after the date of enactment of this Act; or

(B) 12 months after the date of publication of such final regulations by the Board.

SEC. 1303. DISCLOSURES RELATED TO "INTRODUCTORY RATES".

(a) INTRODUCTORY RATE DISCLOSURES.—Section 127(c) of the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1637(c)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(6) ADDITIONAL NOTICE CONCERNING 'INTRODUCTORY RATES'.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), an application or solicitation to open a credit card account and all promotional materials accompanying such application or solicitation for which a disclosure is required under paragraph (1), and that offers a temporary annual percentage rate of interest, shall—

''(i) use the term 'introductory' in immediate proximity to each listing of the temporary annual percentage rate applicable to such account, which term shall appear clearly and conspicuously;

''(ii) if the annual percentage rate of interest that will apply after the end of the temporary rate period will be a fixed rate, state in a clear and conspicuous manner in a prominent location closely proximate to the first listing of the temporary annual percentage rate (other than a listing of the temporary annual percentage rate in the tabular format described in section 122(c)), the time period in which the introductory period will end and the annual percentage rate that will apply after the end of the introductory period; and

''(iii) if the annual percentage rate that will apply after the end of the temporary rate period will vary in accordance with an index, state in a clear and conspicuous manner in a prominent location closely proximate to the first listing of the temporary annual percentage rate (other than a listing in the tabular format prescribed by section 122(c)), the time period in which the introductory period will end and the rate that will apply after that, based on an annual percentage rate that was in effect within 60 days before the date of mailing the application or solicitation.

''(B) EXCEPTION.—Clauses (ii) and (iii) of subparagraph (A) do not apply with respect to any listing of a temporary annual percentage rate on an envelope or other enclosure in which an application or solicitation to open a credit card account is mailed.

''(C) CONDITIONS FOR INTRODUCTORY RATES.—An application or solicitation to open a credit card account for which a disclosure is required under paragraph (1), and that offers a temporary annual percentage rate of interest shall, if that rate of interest is revocable under any circumstance or upon any event, clearly and conspicuously disclose, in a prominent manner on or with such application or solicitation—

''(i) a general description of the circumstances that may result in the revocation of the temporary annual percentage rate; and

''(ii) if the annual percentage rate that will apply upon the revocation of the temporary annual percentage rate—

''(I) will be a fixed rate, the annual percentage rate that will apply upon the revocation of the temporary annual percentage rate; or

''(II) will vary in accordance with an index, the rate that will apply after the temporary rate, based on an annual percentage rate that was in effect within 60 days before the date of mailing the application or solicitation.

''(D) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph—

''(i) the terms 'temporary annual percentage rate of interest' and 'temporary annual percentage rate' mean any rate of interest applicable to a credit card account for an introductory period of less than 1 year, if that rate is less than an annual percentage rate that was in effect within 60 days before the date of mailing the application or solicitation; and

''(ii) the term 'introductory period' means the maximum time period for which the temporary annual percentage rate may be applicable.

''(E) RELATION TO OTHER DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS.—Nothing in this paragraph may be construed to supersede subsection (a) of section 122, or any disclosure required by paragraph (1) or any other provision of this subsection.''.

(b) REGULATORY IMPLEMENTATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Board shall promulgate regulations implementing the requirements of section 127(c)(6) of the Truth in Lending Act, as added by this section.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Section 127(c)(6) of the Truth in Lending Act, as added by this section, and regulations issued under paragraph (1) of this subsection shall not take effect until the later of—

(A) 12 months after the date of enactment of this Act; or

(B) 12 months after the date of publication of such final regulations by the Board.

SEC. 1304. INTERNET-BASED CREDIT CARD SOLICITATIONS.

(a) INTERNET-BASED SOLICITATIONS.—Section 127(c) of the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1637(c)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(7) INTERNET-BASED SOLICITATIONS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—In any solicitation to open a credit card account for any person under an open end consumer credit plan using the Internet or other interactive computer service, the person making the solicitation shall clearly and conspicuously disclose—

''(i) the information described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (1); and

''(ii) the information described in paragraph (6).

''(B) FORM OF DISCLOSURE.—The disclosures required by subparagraph (A) shall be—

''(i) readily accessible to consumers in close proximity to the solicitation to open a credit card account; and

''(ii) updated regularly to reflect the current policies, terms, and fee amounts applicable to the credit card account.

''(C) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this paragraph—

''(i) the term 'Internet' means the international computer network of both Federal and non-Federal interoperable packet switched data networks; and

''(ii) the term 'interactive computer service' means any information service, system, or access software provider that provides or enables computer access by multiple users to a computer server, including specifically a service or system that provides access to the Internet and such systems operated or services offered by libraries or educational institutions.''.

(b) REGULATORY IMPLEMENTATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Board shall promulgate regulations implementing the requirements of section 127(c)(7) of the Truth in Lending Act, as added by this section.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) and the regulations issued under paragraph (1) of this subsection shall not take effect until the later of—

(A) 12 months after the date of enactment of this Act; or

(B) 12 months after the date of publication of such final regulations by the Board.

SEC. 1305. DISCLOSURES RELATED TO LATE PAYMENT DEADLINES AND PENALTIES.

(a) DISCLOSURES RELATED TO LATE PAYMENT DEADLINES AND PENALTIES.—Section 127(b) of the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1637(b)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(12) If a late payment fee is to be imposed due to the failure of the obligor to make payment on or before a required payment due date, the following shall be stated clearly and conspicuously on the billing statement:

''(A) The date on which that payment is due or, if different, the earliest date on which a late payment fee may be charged.

''(B) The amount of the late payment fee to be imposed if payment is made after such date.''.

(b) REGULATORY IMPLEMENTATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Board shall promulgate regulations implementing the requirements of section 127(b)(12) of the Truth in Lending Act, as added by this section.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) and regulations issued under paragraph (1) of this subsection shall not take effect until the later of—

(A) 12 months after the date of enactment of this Act; or

(B) 12 months after the date of publication of such final regulations by the Board.

SEC. 1306. PROHIBITION ON CERTAIN ACTIONS FOR FAILURE TO INCUR FINANCE CHARGES.

(a) PROHIBITION ON CERTAIN ACTIONS FOR FAILURE TO INCUR FINANCE CHARGES.—Section 127 of the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1637) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(h) PROHIBITION ON CERTAIN ACTIONS FOR FAILURE TO INCUR FINANCE CHARGES.—A creditor of an account under an open end consumer credit plan may not terminate an account prior to its expiration date solely because the consumer has not incurred finance charges on the account. Nothing in this subsection shall prohibit a creditor from terminating an account for inactivity in 3 or more consecutive months.''.

(b) REGULATORY IMPLEMENTATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Board shall promulgate regulations implementing the requirements of section 127(h) of the Truth in Lending Act, as added by this section.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) and regulations issued under paragraph (1) of this subsection shall not take effect until the later of—

(A) 12 months after the date of enactment of this Act; or

(B) 12 months after the date of publication of such final regulations by the Board.

SEC. 1307. DUAL USE DEBIT CARD.

(a) REPORT.—The Board may conduct a study of, and present to Congress a report containing its analysis of, consumer protections under existing law to limit the liability of consumers for unauthorized use of a debit card or similar access device. Such report, if submitted, shall include recommendations for legislative initiatives, if any, of the Board, based on its findings.

(b) CONSIDERATIONS.—In preparing a report under subsection (a), the Board may include—

(1) the extent to which section 909 of the Electronic Fund Transfer Act (15 U.S.C. 1693g), as in effect at the time of the report, and the implementing regulations promulgated by the Board to carry out that section provide adequate unauthorized use liability protection for consumers;

(2) the extent to which any voluntary industry rules have enhanced or may enhance the level of protection afforded consumers in connection with such unauthorized use liability; and

(3) whether amendments to the Electronic Fund Transfer Act (15 U.S.C. 1693 et seq.), or revisions to regulations promulgated by the Board to carry out that Act, are necessary to further address adequate protection for consumers concerning unauthorized use liability.

SEC. 1308. STUDY OF BANKRUPTCY IMPACT OF CREDIT EXTENDED TO DEPENDENT STUDENTS.

(a) STUDY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Board shall conduct a study regarding the impact that the extension of credit described in paragraph (2) has on the rate of cases filed under title 11 of the United States Code.

(2) EXTENSION OF CREDIT.—The extension of credit described in this paragraph is the extension of credit to individuals who are—

(A) claimed as dependents for purposes of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986; and

(B) enrolled within 1 year of successfully completing all required secondary education requirements and on a full-time basis, in postsecondary educational institutions.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Board shall submit to the Senate and the House of Representatives a report summarizing the results of the study conducted under subsection (a).

SEC. 1309. CLARIFICATION OF CLEAR AND CONSPICUOUS.

(a) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Board, in consultation with the other Federal banking agencies (as defined in section 3 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act), the National Credit Union Administration Board, and the Federal Trade Commission, shall promulgate regulations to provide guidance regarding the meaning of the term ''clear and conspicuous'', as used in subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C) of section 127(b)(11) and clauses (ii) and (iii) of section 127(c)(6)(A) of the Truth in Lending Act.

(b) EXAMPLES.—Regulations promulgated under subsection (a) shall include examples of clear and conspicuous model disclosures for the purposes of disclosures required by the provisions of the Truth in Lending Act referred to in subsection (a).

(c) STANDARDS.—In promulgating regulations under this section, the Board shall ensure that the clear and conspicuous standard required for disclosures made under the provisions of the Truth in Lending Act referred to in subsection (a) can be implemented in a manner which results in disclosures which are reasonably understandable and designed to call attention to the nature and significance of the information in the notice.

TITLE XIV—PREVENTING CORPORATE BANKRUPTCY ABUSE

SEC. 1401. EMPLOYEE WAGE AND BENEFIT PRIORITIES.

Section 507(a) of title 11, United States Code, as amended by section 212, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (4) by striking ''90'' and inserting ''180'', and

(2) in paragraphs (4) and (5) by striking ''$4,000'' and inserting ''$10,000''.

SEC. 1402. FRAUDULENT TRANSFERS AND OBLIGATIONS.

Section 548 of title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsections (a) and (b) by striking ''one year'' and inserting ''2 years'',

(2) in subsection (a)—

(A) by inserting ''(including any transfer to or for the benefit of an insider under an employment contract)'' after ''transfer'' the 1st place it appears, and

(B) by inserting ''(including any obligation to or for the benefit of an insider under an employment contract)'' after ''obligation'' the 1st place it appears, and

(3) in subsection (a)(1)(B)(ii)—

(A) in subclause (II) by striking ''or'' at the end,

(B) in subclause (III) by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; or'', and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(IV) made such transfer to or for the benefit of an insider, or incurred such obligation to or for the benefit of an insider, under an employment contract and not in the ordinary course of business.''.

SEC. 1403. PAYMENT OF INSURANCE BENEFITS TO RETIRED EMPLOYEES.

Section 1114 of title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (l) as subsection (m), and

(2) by inserting after subsection (k) the following:

''(l) If the debtor, during the 180-day period ending on the date of the filing of the petition—

''(1) modified retiree benefits; and

''(2) was insolvent on the date such benefits were modified;

the court, on motion of a party in interest, and after notice and a hearing, shall issue an order reinstating as of the date the modification was made, such benefits as in effect immediately before such date unless the court finds that the balance of the equities clearly favors such modification.''.

[SEC. 1404. EFFECTIVE DATE; APPLICATION OF AMENDMENTS.]

SEC. 1404. DEBTS NONDISCHARGEABLE IF INCURRED IN VIOLATION OF SECURITIES FRAUD LAWS.

(a) PREPETITION AND POSTPETITION EFFECT.—Section 523(a)(19)(B) of title 11, United States Code, is amended by inserting '', before, on, or after the date on which the petition was filed,'' after ''results''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE UPON ENACTMENT OF SARBANES-OXLEY ACT.—The amendment made by subsection (a) is effective beginning July 30, 2002.

SEC. 1405. APPOINTMENT OF TRUSTEE IN CASES OF SUSPECTED FRAUD.

Section 1104 of title 11, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(e) The United States trustee shall move for the appointment of a trustee under subsection (a) if there are reasonable grounds to suspect that current members of the governing body of the debtor, the debtor's chief executive or chief financial officer, or members of the governing body who selected the debtor's chief executive or

chief financial officer, participated in actual fraud, dishonesty, or criminal conduct in the management of the debtor or the debtor's public financial reporting.''.

SEC. 1406. EFFECTIVE DATE; APPLICATION OF AMENDMENTS.

(a) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Except as provided in subsection (b), this title and the amendments made by this title shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) APPLICATION OF AMENDMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the amendments made by this title shall apply only with respect to cases commenced under title 11 of the United States Code on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) AVOIDANCE PERIOD.—The amendment made by section 1402(1) shall apply only with respect to cases commenced under title 11 of the United States Code more than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

TITLE XV—GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE; APPLICATION OF AMENDMENTS

SEC. 1501. EFFECTIVE DATE; APPLICATION OF AMENDMENTS.

(a) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Except as otherwise provided in this Act, this Act and the amendments made by this Act shall take effect 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) APPLICATION OF AMENDMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise provided in this Act and paragraph (2), the amendments made by this Act shall not apply with respect to cases commenced under title 11, United States Code, before the effective date of this Act.

(2) CERTAIN LIMITATIONS APPLICABLE TO DEBTORS.—The amendments made by sections 308, 322, and 330 shall apply with respect to cases commenced under title 11, United States Code, on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 1502. TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.

(a) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS TO TITLE 11 OF THE UNITED STATES CODE.—Title 11 of the United States Code, as amended by the preceding provisions of this Act, is amended—

(1) in section 507—

(A) in subsection (a)—

(i) in paragraph (5)(B)(ii) by striking ''paragraph (3)'' and inserting ''paragraph (4)''; and

(ii) in paragraph (8)(D) by striking ''paragraph (3)'' and inserting ''paragraph (4)'';

(B) in subsection (b) by striking ''subsection (a)(1)'' and inserting ''subsection (a)(2)''; and

(C) in subsection (d) by striking ''subsection (a)(3)'' and inserting ''subsection (a)(1)'';

(2) in section 523(a)(1)(A) by striking ''507(a)(2)'' and inserting ''507(a)(3)'';

(3) in section 752(a) by striking ''507(a)(1)'' and inserting ''507(a)(2)'';

(4) in section 766—

(A) in subsection (h) by striking ''507(a)(1)'' and inserting ''507(a)(2)''; and

(B) in subsection (i) by striking ''507(a)(1)'' each place it appears and inserting ''507(a)(2)'';

(5) in section 901(a) by striking ''507(a)(1)'' and inserting ''507(a)(2)'';

(6) in section 943(b)(5) by striking ''507(a)(1)'' and inserting ''507(a)(2)'';

(7) in section 1123(a)(1) by striking ''507(a)(1), 507(a)(2)'' and inserting ''507(a)(2), 507(a)(3)'';

(8) in section 1129(a)(9)—

(A) in subparagraph (A) by striking ''507(a)(1) or 507(a)(2)'' and inserting ''507(a)(2) or 507(a)(3)''; and

(B) in subparagraph (B) by striking ''507(a)(3)'' and inserting ''507(a)(1)'';

(9) in section 1226(b)(1) by striking ''507(a)(1)'' and inserting ''507(a)(2)''; and

(10) in section 1326(b)(1) by striking ''507(a)(1)'' and inserting ''507(a)(2)''.

(b) RELATED CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 6(e) of the Securities Investor Protection Act of 1970 (15 U.S.C. 78fff(e)) is amended by striking ''507(a)(1)'' and inserting ''507(a)(2)''.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, in my capacity as chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, I am pleased to join my distinguished colleague from Vermont, the ranking member, in beginning the debate on this very important legislation.

At the outset, I congratulate Senator GRASSLEY for the work he has done over the past decade, and also former chairman, Senator HATCH, for the outstanding job he has done. I thank Senator HATCH especially for filling in for me a week ago Thursday on the executive session when the committee took up the bill and reported it to the Senate.

I thank both Republicans and Democrats on the committee for withholding amendments until the floor.

We had one very extensive hearing. I know there was an interest in having more hearings, but the reality is this issue has been debated and has been heard. There is a very comprehensive idea on both sides as to the underlying merits of the bill.

It is important to note that going back to the 105th Congress the Senate passed a similar bill by a vote of 97 to 1, and subsequently voted to proceed to conference by a vote of 94 to 2. The Senate again took up a similar bill in the 106th Congress and passed legislation again by a wide margin, 83 to 14. The House also passed legislation during the 106th Congress, but President Clinton resorted to a pocket veto, so the bill was not enacted. The Senate took up the bill again in the 107th Congress but never reached agreement with the House on certain language. So here we are today with reform legislation that seeks to protect the interests of the debtors, honest Americans, who need relief from bankruptcy, and still address those who take advantage of the bankruptcy laws.

Bankruptcy is obviously a necessary tool for many people who find they simply are not able to repay their debts. Indeed, the vast majority of bankruptcy filers have nothing with which to pay their creditors. They file for bankruptcy as a last resort. And for them bankruptcy will continue to provide a fresh start.

Unfortunately, at the same time, there are some who use bankruptcy as a means of avoiding debts they have the ability to pay. Some bankruptcy filers have the ability to pay a significant portion of their debts, but the current bankruptcy system, which presumes that most people are acting honestly, does not require them to do so. At a recent Judiciary Committee hearing on the bill, the expert testimony was that up to 10 percent of people who file for bankruptcy have the ability to pay for at least part of their debts.

The consequence of having people avoid their debts when they can pay for them has resulted in having these obligations absorbed by other people in the commercial system. The estimate is that there are some $44 billion in debts discharged annually. There has been an enormous increase in the filings. In recent years, annual bankruptcy filings have exceeded 1.6 million for the first time in history. They more than doubled in the 1980s and again doubled from 1990 to the year 2003.

This legislation is an effort to achieve some balance, balance to see to it that people who genuinely need bankruptcy and cannot pay their debts are able to get the relief in bankruptcy, and at the same time looking at many practices which are in need of reform.

For example, this legislation will require high-income debtors who have the ability to repay some of their debts to do so. The heart of this bill is a means test. It requires the bankruptcy trustee to examine the income and expenses of high-income debtors and determine whether they have the ability to pay something toward their debts. If so, they must complete a chapter 13 reorganization plan, which requires that they repay part of their debts over time before they can have the rest discharged.

The legislation will also bring to an end other abuses that occur under the current bankruptcy system. For example, it closes the ''mansion loophole,'' which allows opportunistic debtors to avoid paying their creditors by buying a house in a State with an unlimited or extremely generous homestead exemption, and then declaring bankruptcy. It extends the statute of limitations for fraudulent use of the homestead exemption to 10 years.

Another provision prevents debtors from purchasing large amounts of luxury goods on credit and then filing for bankruptcy to have that debt discharged. Other provisions will discourage debtors from repeatedly filing for bankruptcy, and then invoking the automatic stay to avoid repaying their creditors.

The legislation also aims at ensuring that debtors cannot escape their spousal and child support obligations by filing for bankruptcy. That is, of course, a very important item, with dodging child support and spousal support being a matter of an enormous problem nationwide. Chapter 13 debtors cannot have a repayment plan approved or their debts discharged until they are current on their spousal and child support obligations.

The legislation will further improve the bankruptcy process for small businesses and enhance bankruptcy protections for family farmers as well as family fishermen. Small businesses that can restructure will still be able to obtain a fresh start. However, for the many small businesses that will never survive a protracted bankruptcy, the bill imposes deadlines to keep cases

from languishing and creditors from waiting indefinitely.

In addition, the bill makes it easier for family farmers to obtain bankruptcy protection under Chapter 12, a form of bankruptcy that takes account of the unique concerns of farmers. And, for the first time, family fishermen will also be able to file for Chapter 12 bankruptcy.

Further, the bill contains protections aimed at helping consumers avoid excessive debt and bankruptcy. It requires credit card companies to warn their cardholders that making the minimum payment on a credit card balance can significantly increase the time it takes to pay off the balance. Many credit card practices are extremely deceptive. Credit card companies must also provide certain disclosures in credit card solicitations, including clear indications when an advertised interest rate is merely introductory—again, a practice which is very deceptive. So the bill is aimed at preventing the little guy from being misled, which leads him into bankruptcy.

The legislation further provides that creditors make certain disclosures before debtors can reaffirm their debts so that debtors fully understand the implications of signing a reaffirmation agreement—a technical matter. The legislation requires that debtors receive credit counseling before filing for bankruptcy so they can understand the consequences of filing and are aware of the alternatives to bankruptcy. A little knowledge there can go a long way.

At the outset, I want to acknowledge that there are many low-income people who will not be able to repay any of their debts. The means test will not affect those people. If they are below the median income for their State, the means test will not apply. However, for those who are above the median income, there will be a balance so those who can afford to do so must repay part of their debts, to help prevent the $44 billion in discharged debts from burdening other honest Americans, and part of the commercial system will not be saddled with those obligations.

In analyzing this legislation, it is my concern to ensure that it is fair to the ''little guy,'' the working men and women who need bankruptcy as a last resort and who do not abuse the system.

We had a lively debate in the hearing in the Judiciary Committee. We had a lively hearing. I know there are many amendments which will be offered, and I will have an open mind in considering these amendments as we work through the process. It is a very complicated bill. But it has been analyzed and reanalyzed. Again, it attempts to strike a balance so that the person who needs the discharge in bankruptcy will be able to obtain it, but those who game the system will not be able to do so.

Let me reiterate the comments of the majority leader in urging Senators who have opening statements to come to the floor to offer those opening statements. It will be the objective of Senator LEAHY, the ranking member, and myself to try to move through to amendments. It is anticipated there will be amendments.

We have a very active calendar ahead of us. One of the items on the Judiciary Committee agenda that we are moving forward on is asbestos legislation, an issue of tremendous importance, where many Americans are dying from mesothelioma and other deadly ailments from exposure to asbestos, who collect nothing because the companies are bankrupt. Some 74 companies have gone bankrupt, and more are in the process. I filed a draft discussion bill. There have been very extensive negotiations with Republicans and Democrats, and we are anxious to move ahead. We will be taking that issue up on the executive calendar of the Judiciary Committee on Thursday. But I mention that to underscore the importance of moving ahead on this legislation because there will be, doubtless, many amendments, and the sooner they are offered, the sooner we can come to grips with the substance of the bill.

At this time, I yield to my distinguished ranking member, Senator LEAHY.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Vermont is recognized.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I thank the distinguished chairman of the committee, the senior Senator from Pennsylvania, for his opening statement. I know he has worked hard on this matter.

The Senator from Pennsylvania, the Senator from Vermont, and the distinguished President pro tempore have noted that it is spitting snow outside. Unfortunately, some think this is a time for panic. They should go to Alaska. They should go to Vermont. They should go over to the mountains of Pennsylvania.

I say to the President pro tempore, you heard me mention not so long ago that I was back home in Vermont. I was listening to the news, and almost as an afterthought they said: By the way, we should have a dusting of snow tonight; No more than 3 to 5 inches. Down here, of course, everything comes to a screeching halt.

Why I bring this up I have no idea, except that when watching TV crews going out begging to get one shot of a snowflake, I say: Go to Alaska. Go to Vermont. We will show them what real weather is.

Today, we are beginning debate on the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act of 2005—a big title for S. 256. But it is an important debate. It is the first time in 4 years the Senate has debated bankruptcy reform legislation. I hope it is going to be a fair and informed and beneficial debate that will improve this bipartisan bill and help us enact bankruptcy reform into law.

Both the chairman and I have worked very hard with Senators on our sides of the aisle. We have tried to move this legislation forward. But we know that bankruptcy is a complex area of law. It has many competing public policy interests between debtors and creditors and even among competing creditors.

The very complex and competing interests involved in achieving fair reforms of our bankruptcy system demand that we work in a bipartisan manner throughout the legislative process.

I mentioned that 4 years ago we debated this issue. I mentioned that because today our Nation has an entirely different face than it did then. We have endured the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. We have immersed ourselves in wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. We have witnessed a parade of financial misdeeds—more than misdeeds, financial thefts and skulduggery by major U.S. corporations. We have even watched as pension programs, and the promises of the pension programs, were shortchanged by nearly $100 billion. All these factors have only deepened the financial woes of an already struggling economy. So when we debate this issue today we are discussing real life today, not what it was in 2001.

I think for this legislation to be appropriate and fair, the key provisions have to be carefully examined. If necessary, they have to be modernized, they have to be amended.

Earlier this month, our committee held a bipartisan hearing on bankruptcy reform legislation. As I said, that was our first hearing in 4 years. It was an informed discussion. A week later, the Judiciary Committee held its first markup on bankruptcy legislation in 4 years. During that meeting, we considered 11 amendments, 5 of which were accepted.

They improved the bill. In fact, they were accepted unanimously. I am particularly pleased the committee accepted the Leahy-Grassley amendment that clarifies that any judgment, order, or settlement agreement for violation of securities fraud law after the filing of a bankruptcy case is nondischargeable. In other words, if you want to defraud somebody in securities, if you want to pull some of these big fraud actions we have seen in the past few years, you are not going to escape the consequences by bankruptcy.

During consideration of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, Senator GRASSLEY and I worked together to amend the Bankruptcy Code to make judgments and settlements based on security law violations nondischargeable. We wanted to protect the victims' ability to recoup their losses and hold wrongdoers accountable for their actions. This change in the law was based on a Judiciary Committee amendment that Senator GRASSLEY and I introduced to my corporate fraud legislation, S. 2010, the Corporate and Criminal Fraud Accountability Act that was unanimously reported by the Judiciary Committee. It was later adopted as a floor amendment by a vote of 99 to nothing in 2002.

Recently a bankruptcy court wrongly interpreted the new law by finding that a securities fraud judgment, order, or settlement must be in existence at the time the bankruptcy petition is filed to be nondischargeable. That was never intended. This court precedent could result in future courts discharging securities frauds judgments, orders, or settlements that are entered into after a debtor files for bankruptcy.

To give you an idea of what a get-out-of-jail-free card this is, an Enron executive could avoid paying his securities fraud judgment by filing for bankruptcy where the securities fraud litigation is pending. That would be wrong. Neither Republicans nor Democrats who supported that amendment want that to happen. So the Leahy-Grassley amendment, which was accepted by all Members, Republicans and Democrats, in the committee during committee consideration, would remedy that injustice and makes it clear that Congress intended for all securities fraud judgments, orders, or settlements to be nondischargeable.

Another area we have to consider is the economic hardships faced by service members' families. When you get a call to serve your country in Iraq or Afghanistan or elsewhere—and now it is a disproportionate number of guardsmen and reservists who are called up; I watch this as the cochair of the National Guard caucus of the Senate—it can cause loss of family income, the close of a family business, a whole lot of other unexpected expenses. Unfortunately, it is not uncommon for service members and their families to be forced into filing for bankruptcy relief. We have to protect those who are fighting for us. I know Senators DURBIN and NELSON have taken an interest in this issue. I look forward to hearing their thoughts on how we can help the situations faced by service members serving our Nation and their families.

I spoke of the financial misdeeds of U.S. corporations. When you talk about Enron and WorldCom, others, it leaves a very bitter taste in the mouths of average Americans. If an average American were to steal $500 or $1,000, they might go to jail. Apparently, if you steel $100 million, $200 million, or $500 million, you are a hero. When it is done, there are no heroes, not to any of us. They have damaged investor confidence. They have shaken our capital markets. Senators SARBANES, KENNEDY, DURBIN, HARKIN, and CANTWELL have prepared amendments to address the ongoing problems caused by corporate abuse.

We must strengthen the financial safety net for hard-working American families who confront illness or injury. Medical problems contribute to about half of all bankruptcies, even though most of those who file had health insurance when they became sick. Many lose their jobs and their insurance because they got sick. Others face thousands of dollars in copayments and deductibles for services not covered by their insurance. Senators KENNEDY, DURBIN, CLINTON, and CORZINE will be leading the debate on this issue.

Since we last considered bankruptcy reform legislation, financially troubled companies have shortchanged their pension promises by nearly $100 billion, putting workers approaching retirement age or responsible companies and actually taxpayers at risk. We will hear from Senators HARKIN, ROCKEFELLER, and DAYTON during debate over this issue.

I know that Senators GRASSLEY, DURBIN, DODD, FEINSTEIN, and others share a commitment to include credit industry reform in a balanced bankruptcy bill. The millions of credit card solicitations made to American consumers in the past year have contributed to the rise in consumer debt and bankruptcy. It is relatively easy to obtain credit. We have heard the stories of a neighbor's dog getting a $3,000 preapproved credit card. Kids go to college and are inundated with preapproved credit cards. So it is relatively easy to obtain them. Not nearly enough is done to ensure that credit is properly managed. Currently, credit card statements fail to include all of the information necessary to allow individuals to make fully informed financial decisions. Additional disclosure is needed to ensure that individuals completely understand the implications of their credit card use.

Senator AKAKA intends to offer the credit card minimum payment warning act. I am proud to be an original cosponsor with him. It will provide a wake-up call for consumers by making it very clear what costs they are going to incur if they make only the minimum payments on their credit cards. The personalized information they will receive for each of their accounts will help consumers make informed choices about their debts. In an era of computers, this is not a real burden on the companies.

Senator FEINGOLD, a longtime protector of working middle and lower income families who rely on the ability to resolve overwhelming financial burdens through bankruptcy, is going to offer several amendments to improve this bill. Senator FEINGOLD and I have worked together on bankruptcy reform issues for a long time. I know his expertise and the measures he means to propose will enhance this legislation.

We have to be careful that our efforts to ensure accountability in the bankruptcy process do not inadvertently create problems for privacy and security. We are in an age where personal information—far too much personal information—can be easily digitized and shared. If it falls into the wrong hands, it is abused. Identity theft is one danger, as is tracking and harassing a battered spouse. We can look for accountability, but we have to find ways to minimize the possibilities of abuse.

Four years ago, the committee adopted the Leahy-Hatch amendment to protect the personal privacy of consumers whose information is held by firms in bankruptcy as part of bankruptcy reform legislation. I am pleased this bill retains this proprivacy provision.

Our bipartisan provision permits bankruptcy courts to honor the privacy policies of business debtors. It creates a consumer privacy ombudsman to protect personal privacy in bankruptcy proceedings. I appreciate Senator HATCH's efforts to add important consumer privacy protections to the code.

Unfortunately, the Leahy-Hatch amendment is needed because the customer lists and databases of failed firms now can be put up for sale in bankruptcy without any privacy considerations, even in violation of the failed firm's own public privacy policy against sale of personal customer information to third parties.

Let me just tell you what happened in this case, and it is not untypical. We had an online toy store called Toysmart.com. Toysmart.com wanted to encourage parents to allow their children to go online and, in doing so, they promised on their Web site that personal information voluntarily submitted by visitors to the site—such as name, address, billing information, childhood preferences—would never be shared with a third party. If you are a parent, you would look at that and say: I feel a little bit better about this. I don't want my son or daughter's names out there.

Guess what happened. They filed for bankruptcy in 2000. Even though they had made this promise to parents and children, the personal customer information was put on the auction block. In a way, the bankruptcy court had a catch-22. I suspect the judge realized that this was violating everything every parent thought of, but under the law at that time, there was only one real asset. It was this mailing list. It wasn't the old desks or loading docks or the warehouse. Those were empty. It wasn't the computers. Those would be out of date every few months. The one item of any value was the mailing list. The mailing list that parents had been promised would never go out, the children's names would never be sold, that had to go into bankruptcy. That is why we have the Leahy-Hatch amendment.

The Leahy-Hatch provision included in this legislation adds privacy protections and a consumer privacy ombudsman to the bankruptcy code. We wanted to prevent future cases like Toysmart.com. Once somebody tells you we are going to keep your kids, information confidential, it will be.

We have seen in the news recently the ChoicePoint Inc. breach. It is just the latest example of why we need to take special care with databases containing America's personal information. It is astounding that a company in the business of providing data for background checks and law enforcement purposes failed to assess the legitimacy of its own customers. It sold

personal data on 145,000 individuals to scam artists. Many of the victims had no idea that ChoicePoint existed, let alone that the company compiled data. How irresponsible, how wrong. How can the people who run ChoicePoint sleep at night? This is one of the most outrageous things we have heard. How can they possibly hold themselves up as a company? We now find that as this was going on, some of them were making millions of dollars in stock options. This is outrageous. I would hope that the Department of Justice and others are looking at this. How can anybody be this negligent? How can anybody be this criminal? They make millions of dollars, the people running it. Somebody who has a mom and pop somewhere can find, because they were so negligent, because they opened the doors and let the scam artists come in, they may lose their business. Somebody who has a child in college may not be able to pay the tuition. Somebody who is trying to make the rent or the mortgage, living paycheck to paycheck, may not be able to.

Apparently, according to the press this past week, their executives will make millions of dollars on stock while their customers are being clobbered. What shame. And we haven't heard a single one of them step forward and say how ashamed they are by this outrageous action.

It has become all too familiar. In recent years, headlines have recounted how personal information has been compromised and database breaches of government contractors, at banks, at universities, even a blood bank. One hospital on the west coast sends things to be translated in Pakistan. All these secret medical records that you think are so private, they sent it over to Pakistan, and the person in Pakistan said: I want more money.

If you don't give me more money—because I am in Pakistan, and you cannot touch me here—I am going to put all of these people's medical records online. What were they thinking, the people who run this thing? They make a whole lot of money, but, boy, they are clobbering the people who go there. This puts America's most private information at risk not only for financial crimes but for stalking. You can find out who lives alone, who is vulnerable, who could be blackmailed, and find out who may be a victim for scam artists. The administration talks about fighting terrorism. This creates a potential avenue for a terrorist to masquerade as an innocent person.

I have called for a series of hearings on how we ensure data security, privacy and proper use in the information age. I am pleased that Chairman SPECTER has agreed to my request for hearings, and I look forward to these opportunities to consider these issues closely.

We need to take reasonable measures in the bankruptcy process to guide what information will be available publicly and to whom. Debtors are often required to submit documents containing highly personal information. Declaring bankruptcy is challenging enough for those who find themselves in that circumstance, we shouldn't make it worse by creating the possibility that they will be victimized later on. I am submitting an amendment to provide protections in handling personal data in those submissions. These changes reflect current Judicial Conference policy and were included in last term's Hatch-Leahy Federal Courts Improvement Act.

First, my amendment expands the court's discretion to protect information such as social security numbers and passport numbers. The bankruptcy courts are in a unique position to properly balance the need to share information with the need to protect privacy, and we should rely on their good judgment and discretion as much as possible. The amendment draws from the current civil procedure discovery rules to set a standard against which the court can apply its discretion. The amendment also allows individuals to request that the court protect sensitive information before it is placed in the public record. This protection is particularly important given our increasing reliance on electronic filing, where information is immediately available to the public.

Second, my amendment provides important protection for social security numbers. Originally promised to be narrow in purpose and use, social security numbers are now the universal identifier with the key to unlock access to bank accounts and other highly sensitive areas. We must treat these numbers commensurate with their power, and ensure that they are only accessed in appropriate situations by authorized users. My amendment would allow debtors to limit disclosure to only the last four digits of his or her social security number in the notices that are filed with the court. The amendment still protects creditors where necessary, and specifies that creditors who are on the schedule of assets and liabilities should receive the full tax payer identification number in the notices sent specifically to the creditor.

This idea of truncation isn't new. Just last year, we passed the Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act of 2003, and that Act required truncation of credit card and debit card numbers on receipts given to cardholders.

As I stand here on the Senate floor, I look at the Presiding Officer, my neighbor from New Hampshire, and I see waiting to speak the other distinguished Senator from New Hampshire. We come from an area where we believe in privacy. We live in a country where we are giving up more and more of our privacy all the time. We have to be careful. We are giving it up not just in corporate areas but in government. Both conservatives and liberals ought to join hands on how much information we are willing to give up on ourselves and allow to go into databanks. An example is what happened with Bank of America, which is one of the dumbest things I have ever seen. All of their records were lost. Good Lord, they send something off or ship it off by plane—not private, but they mail it to a location with backup files of all of their customers. I don't know. I suspect maybe their top executives fly by private jets. Maybe they don't understand that the three Senators on the floor right now fly commercially, and we know how often you get your bags lost or a suitcase lost. They just lost thousands upon thousands upon thousands of files on their customers. How would you like to be a Bank of America customer and wake up and find out they were so stupid and negligent that they lost all your information? They ought to be ashamed of themselves.

But I digress. I mentioned privacy. I have kept an article. It is the only thing I have ever framed that was written about me in one of our newspapers. To put this into context, you have to understand that we live on a dirt road in an old farmhouse. We have an adjoining farm family who kind of watches over the place when we are not there. The reporter in this article drives up on a Saturday with out-of-State license plates and asks the farmer sitting on the porch, ''Does Senator LEAHY live up this road?''

The farmer said, ''Are you a relative of his?''

He said, ''No.''

''Are you a friend of his?''

He answered, ''Not really.''

''Is he expecting you?''

''No.''

''Never heard of him.''

That is the kind of privacy we like. These people in a cavalier way—like Bank of America and all—are giving information away. We are finding more and more that our own Government is being lax with the information they have. Of course, the information can often be wrong. The third most senior Member of the Senate has been stopped half a dozen times getting on an airplane when going home—something he has been doing for decades—because he is on a terrorist list. He is one of the most recognizable people in America, and he cannot get off this list. You have to kind of ask, how much are we willing to give up and what does it do for us? Bank of America didn't do much of anything. These are some of the reforms included in the bill. I hope we will all look at this carefully and work together closely.

Requiring truncation of social security numbers is similarly reasonable. It provides protection against abuse, but still allows for important information sharing to take place.

These are just some of the reforms that should be included in this bill. I hope that all Senators will give fair and thoughtful consideration to amendments proposed on either side of the aisle. When the Senate works productively and constructively, we can

improve legislation on a bipartisan basis. I have worked with Senator GRASSLEY and others to make bipartisan improvements in the past and I hope that we can do that again on this bankruptcy reform legislation.

In particular, I urge my colleagues to give full consideration to an amendment Senator SCHUMER will offer to make sure debts incurred through violence and other illegal acts at health clinics may not be discharged in bankruptcy. Senator SCHUMER has been the leader on ending this bankruptcy abuse and I have always been proud to support his efforts. Any fair bankruptcy reform measure should end abusive bankruptcy filings used to avoid the legal consequences of violence, vandalism and obstruction to deny access to legal health services.

As we move forward with reforms that are appropriate to eliminate abuses in the system, we need to remember the people who use the system, both the debtor and the creditor. We need to balance the interests of creditors with those of the poor and middle class who need the opportunity to resolve overwhelming financial burdens.

These are important subjects that have a real impact on the lives of many people who have already suffered from illnesses or divorce or job loss. We should utilize the expertise of our colleagues on both sides of the aisle to ensure that the Senate passes balanced legislation.

I look forward to continuing to work with Senator GRASSLEY, Senator SPECTER and the rest of my colleagues to make more bipartisan improvements on the Senate floor to enact balanced bankruptcy reform legislation into law.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SUNUNU). The Senator from New Hampshire is recognized.

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, we are on the bill, I take it.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, first, it was a pleasure to hear the presentation by the chairman of the Judiciary Committee and the ranking member relative to the bankruptcy bill, which is an extraordinarily important piece of legislation, which has been to the floor before—in fact, too many times. Hopefully, this year we will pass it and send it to the President to be signed. I congratulate the Judiciary Committee for bringing it out. Certainly, it is a piece of legislation that is very important to the commerce of our country and needs to be passed.

THE BUDGET

I wanted to speak about another subject—specifically, the budget of the United States and the fiscal policy, as we are presently dealing with the funding of the Federal Government. Within the next 3 weeks, hopefully, we will take up a budget in committee and here on the floor of the Senate. The budget is a blueprint of where we are going as a country relative to our spending policies and fiscal policies. What is important to remember is that the budget is just an outline. It doesn't get into too much specific detail of how we function as a Government but, rather, it sets goals that we as a Government wish to pursue in the area of policy relative to spending and relative to taxes.

What we need to focus on, I believe, this year—and I believe Congress did focus on it, and certainly the President did in his budget, which is a very laudable document, and it does focus specifically on these issues—there are two things: the deficit, as we confront as a Nation the short-term liabilities, and what we confront in the long-term.

The deficit in the short term is having an unfortunate impact on our country. It arises for a lot of reasons. I argue that it arises for two primary reasons. First is that in the mid and late 1990s, we started to run very significant surpluses in this Nation as a result of an economic boom known as the Internet bubble—a bubble that is an aberration on the economic landscape. There have been other major bubbles in our history. It is basically when people have created artificial money. The Internet bubble was probably the largest bubble in the history of the world. In many instances, it was an artificial expansion of the economy relative to real productivity and growth. That bubble collapsed, as they do. As a result of that collapse, the economy slowed dramatically, and the revenues to the Federal Government dropped significantly.

The second major cause, obviously, of the deficits we confront today, in my opinion, was the fact that we were attacked on 9/11. We are at war, and as a nation we must fight that war with every tool we have available, and that means fully arming and manning our soldiers. Also, it means regearing ourselves as a nation, retooling as a nation. We have had to make what I would call significant investments in our national security, both in the homeland area, bringing first responders up to speed, in the area of protecting ourselves from biological, chemical, or potentially nuclear attacks, and in the area, obviously, of rearming and retooling our military and our intelligence community across the country and the globe. It has been extremely expensive for us as a nation, but it is money we must spend because we have been attacked, we are at war.

There are people who wish to do us harm in the most heinous way. They want to kill Americans simply because they are Americans. They wish to destroy our culture and Nation because they don't like our freedoms, they don't like the fact that we are prosperous. Those people are still out there, and they must be found and brought to justice, and, most importantly, kept from attacking us here in America. That is a commitment we have made as a nation, and this President has pursued that with a focus.

So we went through a period of significant surpluses in the late 1990s to a period of deficit. That deficit has been rather large. We are now as a nation trying to address that fact. The deficit in the short term is having deleterious effect on our Nation. It is obviously causing us to pass on to our children the debts for the operation of today's Government. You are basically borrowing from the future, and the people who are going to have to pay that are your children, not you, because that note becomes due not in your lifetime—well, maybe in your lifetime—but 10, 15 years from now. Who has to pay it? The people who work 10, 15 years from now, in their taxes. They have less money to keep because they have to pay more taxes. So we are borrowing from our children's future to pay for this deficit.

Second, it is having an impact on our economy internationally. The dollar is weakened in large part because the international community looks at our deficit and says we are not doing a heck of a lot about it.

So we need to address the short-term deficit, and I will get to the specifics of that, how we have done that. But the President's budget has attempted to do that. That is an important public policy issue.

The second largest public policy issue we have is the question of how we deal with the long-term liabilities of our country, liabilities that already exist. What does that mean?

We have basically put in place today a large number of Federal programs that we have to pay for today because these programs survive for as far as the eye can see—infinity. We know they are going to cost money. Most of these programs—the most expensive ones, called entitlements—deal with making sure that people who are retired have a decent lifestyle. This has been a great benefit to our Nation—Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid. These programs have truly improved the quality of life of the American population, especially those who are retired. But as we look into the future, we see huge and very complicated and difficult problems for us as a country as we try to maintain those programs and make sure that people who are retired have a decent lifestyle.

What is driving this major concern, this huge cost which we are going to face as a nation, is a fact which has never existed before in our history. It is called demographics. After World War II, the largest expansion ever in our population occurred. More children were born during a period from about 1946 to about 1955 than at any other period in American history. It is called the baby boom generation.

That generation was so large—and I happen to be a member of it—that it totally restructured every lifestyle event it impacted. As children, that generation caused a massive expansion in schools. As college students, that generation created the huge social concern of the sixties, in the area of rights

of African Americans and minorities and the rights of women and, of course, with regard to the issue of how Vietnam was fought. In the seventies and eighties, as that generation went into the workplace, it became the most productive engine of economic wealth this country had ever seen and continues to be a producer of economic wealth.

Now that generation is headed toward retirement, and we know, because everyone is alive today, that generation will be the largest retired generation in the history of our country. We know the benefits structure which we have put in place to help senior citizens through retirement so they can live a decent lifestyle is also in place. When those two merge—this huge generation and that benefits structure called Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid—it is going to put dramatic demands on our society in the area of costs to pay for the benefits which are in place.

Think of it this way: Almost all the retirement programs we have—Social Security and Medicare especially—were designed with the genius of Franklin Roosevelt. His policy essentially said there will always be many more people working than those retired. So the working Americans can always support the retired Americans.

It was always perceived there would be a pyramid. In fact, in 1950, there were about 16 Americans working for every 1 American retired. That meant programs such as Social Security and Medicare not only generated money to support those who were retired, they actually generated more money than needed to support the people who retired. That is happening today even. But the number of people retiring compared to the number of people working has been changing. It has gone from 16 in 1950 down to about 3½ today. And further into this century, as the baby boom generation retires, it will drop to 2 people working for every 1 person retired.

There is where the problem is. We go from a pyramid to essentially a rectangle. It becomes pretty obvious, if you only have two people working to pay for one person retired, those two people are going to have to pay a lot more in taxes to support that one person retired than if we have 10 people working or 3½ people working, as we have today.

So this creates a huge what is called unfunded liability, contingent liability. We do not know how we are going to pay for this in the outyears. We do know the problem is going to exist, but we do not know how we are going to pay for it.

I want to give you some context of this problem because it is so massive, and we should be so concerned about it.

Entitlements—which basically is what I am talking about, which is Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid—represent this orange bar on this chart as a percentage of Federal spending. One will see today that orange bar is approximately 56 percent of the Federal Government, with defense spending being about 18 percent of the Federal Government, nondefense spending about 18 percent of the Federal Government, and interest on the Federal debt being about 7 percent.

When the baby boom generation is headed to full retirement, beginning about the year 2015—actually, it starts in the year 2008—there is an explosion in the entitlement spending as a percentage of Federal spending. Defense spending does not change much, discretionary spending does not change much, but retirement spending jumps to 64 percent of the Federal Government. In fact, if it continues on its present track, spending to support Social Security will create this massive problem for us as a nation, which I have alluded to, which is we will have so many programmatic demands placed on the younger working Americans that their taxes will have to go up radically in order to pay for this.

This chart shows it pretty clearly. The historic spending levels of the Federal Government since the year 1960 have been right around 20 percent. That is historic spending. That is all Federal spending in the post-World War II period. But entitlement spending as a percentage of gross national product has always been—or up until now—fairly flat—not flat, going up, but still staying within the 5 to 10-percent range.

However, beginning in the year 2008, it starts to climb precipitously. By the year 2030, Medicare and Social Security spending will be 20 percent of the gross national product. By the year 2040, it will exceed that and be 25 percent of the gross national product. We will essentially be spending more on those two programs alone within a few years, about a decade and a half to two decades, than we spend today on the entire Federal Government.

What does that mean? It means either at that point you do not have any part of the Federal Government—you do not have national defense, you do not have any education programs, you do not have any environmental programs—or you have to jump the tax rates dramatically to pay for Social Security and Medicare expenditures.

What is the implication of this other than we are headed toward clear fiscal disaster? One of the implications is if this graph were carried out to its logical conclusion, the tax rate on working Americans—my children, your children, and our grandchildren—will have to be doubled to support the system.

Another implication is that there is, according to the Comptroller General, approximately $44 trillion of potential liability over the natural lifetime of Social Security, which is deemed to be 75 years, or Medicare. Mr. President, $44 trillion—that is trillion, and I do not even know what a trillion is, but that is what it is—$44 trillion of costs which we have no idea how we are going to pay. We have no idea at all. It is called unfunded liabilities, $44 trillion.

To try to put this in perspective: If you take all the taxes paid into the Federal Government since the beginning of America, all the taxes paid into the Federal Government in U.S. history, that represents $38 trillion. We are talking about a liability that exceeds that number. We are talking about a liability that would actually be about the same as the present value net worth. That is the present value number, by the way. It means it is discounted to today's dollar, which actually would be almost the same as the present net worth of every American.

The present net worth of every American is about $47 trillion. The present liability of just the Medicare and Social Security funds—with not even Medicaid included in this—is $44 trillion. So essentially we would have to use every dollar of every American, every asset of every American to pay this.

We can see the problem is astronomical, so large, in fact, that many are burying their heads on the issue and saying it does not exist, which is a very unique approach to the problem. Obviously, we are not going to solve it this year or in the next couple of weeks. But what we can do in the next couple of weeks as we address the budget is try to start addressing these two major issues. One is the short-term deficit; the other is this long-term, looming problem which we confront as a nation. And that brings us back to the budget process and why it is important.

It is important because it is the blueprint off which we can begin this process of addressing these huge public policy issues. If we do not address them now, it is like that old television ad, you can pay me now or you can pay me later. When you pay later, the cost is going to be basically unacceptable because if we wait until 2008 or 2015 to start addressing these issues, we are essentially going to have to do something extraordinarily precipitous. We are either going to have to radically cut the benefits of seniors who are retired or we are going to have to radically increase the taxes on our children and their children's children, meaning their quality of life is going to be reduced significantly.

The President sent up a budget which begins the process of trying to address some of these core issues. On the first issue of the deficit, he has proposed a budget which reduces in half the deficit over the next few years. You can see he takes it from about 4.5 percent of GDP, the deficit. That is what we need to look at because the actual numbers do not relate to what their effect is on the economy.

The deficit was projected to be about 4.5 percent of gross domestic product back in 2004, down to approximately 1.3 percent of gross domestic product in 2009, 1.5 percent in 2009, 1.7 percent in 2008, or he reduces it in half. I would be the first to say that in that estimate,

especially the 2008 number, there is no accounting for the war. The war is a one-time item, hopefully, or two-time item. We do not expect the war to go on forever. In fact, by 2008, we hope the war to be over relative to Iraq and Afghanistan. It will not be built into the base, and we expect it will not be.

These numbers may be inaccurate in that they may be off in not accounting for the war. But the point is, when you go from 4.5 percent to 1.7 percent, that should still be able to be accomplished whether we are at war, with accounting for the war correctly. We can reduce this deficit, and the President has proposed this.

How has he proposed it? He proposed to do it in a series of ways, but there is a consistency within his proposal, which is this: Basically, he said we have to get fiscal discipline in place. We have to be responsible for how much money we spend, and in order to accomplish that, we are going to have to reduce the rate of growth—we never actually cut spending—reduce the rate of growth of Federal spending right across the board.

So he has essentially proposed goring everybody's ox, and maybe that is the way we have to approach something like this. He suggests we freeze nondiscretionary defense spending, which is going to be difficult, but it is something we have to do. He suggests the defense core budget not rise as fast as it is projected to rise. We are already hearing discussions from many of the defense subcontractors and contractors around the city that they cannot live with that number. So I guess it must be stepping on some toes out there.

He is suggesting in the entitlement accounts—and this is the most important—that we begin to reduce the rate of growth; not cut them but reduce their rate of growth. That is a courageous step but a step that has to be taken.

The only accounting he did not address, quite honestly, was Medicare because of his recent enactment of the Medicare reform bill which I guess they would like to play out a little while before they move into that account. Everybody else has been impacted. He has put in place and suggested a series of enforcement mechanisms which will allow us to accomplish this type of a budget, and we intend to put in even more to accomplish this because the numbers mean nothing if they are not enforceable.

As we move forward in this debate—I see the Senator from Utah is here. He wished to speak at 3 o'clock, and I have gone past my time. I will come back to the topic again and talk a little bit about the tax side of this. As we move forward in this debate, it is critical we understand that we are facing these two huge public policy issues: the need to bring under control the short-term deficit but even more importantly the need to address the long-term entitlement reform question.

I should mention on that point that not only did he address the entitlements, such as Medicaid and some others within the budget, but he has set forth a proposal to address Social Security. That is a courageous act, and that, of course, is one of the key components of any sort of major entitlement reform. We must address the issue of Social Security.

The President has stepped up to the plate, so to speak, to move forward with a plan which will put in place fiscal discipline. As the Senate moves forward, it is our responsibility to pursue this course also, to put in place a budget which is fiscally responsible and which addresses not only the discretionary side of the ledger but the entitlement side of the ledger. That is going to be our challenge. It is very doable. All it takes is a willingness to stand up and recognize that if we do not do it, we will be passing on to our children a nation which does not guarantee them as high a quality of life as we have had because of the burden of taxation which we will be placing on them.

It is our responsibility to move forward in this area, and I look forward to the next few weeks as an opportunity to debate and discuss these proposals even further.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask that my remarks be as in morning business.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah is recognized.

Mr. HATCH. I thank the Chair.

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA LAND TRANSFER ACT OF 2005

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak to the Boy Scouts of America Land Transfer Act of 2005. This important legislation will allow the exchange of two small parcels of land between the Utah National Parks Council of the Boy Scouts of America and Brian Head Ski Resort.

In a 1983 land patent, the Bureau of Land Management granted roughly 1,300 acres to the Utah National Parks Council of the Boy Scouts of America to be used as a Boy Scout camp. The Scout camp, known as Camp Thunder Ridge, is situated in the mountains adjacent to Brian Head Ski Resort and near Cedar Breaks National Monument.

At the time the land patent was granted, a local rancher owned a parcel of land adjacent to the camp and another parcel right in the middle of the camp. Several years ago, the rancher gave those lands to Brian Head Ski Resort. The Scouts need to obtain the land, totaling 120 acres, from Brian Head. However, under the patent, land cannot be sold or exchanged without an act of Congress.

While Camp Thunder Ridge is located in a steep, rough, mountainous area, much of the land the Boy Scouts seek is flat, making it particularly important for the camp. Obtaining the land would make it possible for the Scouts to make the camp's shooting area and archery range safer and would allow them to improve and expand their camping facilities. It also would allow for the installation of much-needed septic tanks.

I am a strong supporter of the Boy Scouts of America. The Boy Scouts have a long tradition of instilling strong values in young men.

Scout camps such as Camp Thunder Ridge give young men the opportunity to learn vital skills, fulfil merit badge requirements, and otherwise improve themselves. This small land exchange will allow Camp Thunder Ridge to more fully help these young men learn and grow.

For their part, Brian Head Ski Resort is seeking to expand their operations and have received preliminary approval from local officials. The local planning commission, however, has required them to build an emergency exit from their property. The only place to build such a road is through land owned by the Boy Scouts. The exchange will allow Brian Head to construct the access road and comply with county fire safety regulations.

The Boy Scouts have been working for more than 20 years to secure the lands in question, and Brian Head needs to build a road on lands currently owned by the Scouts. This exchange is desperately needed by both parties, and I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise in support of S. 256, the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act of 2005. The purpose of this bill is to make our bankruptcy system more fair and efficient. Every citizen has a stake in this bill. It is obvious that bankruptcy filers have a lot at stake in this legislation.

In recent years, the number of bankruptcies has been on the rise, and I understand that today more bankruptcies are filed every year than during the entire decade of the Great Depression, and this chart shows that. It begins in the year 1900. It is basically a flat line until we get to about 1984—actually, 1995—and then it heads straight up. These are bankruptcy filings per 100,000 population, and they have gone up dramatically over the years. Annual bankruptcy filings have now reached about 1.6 million Americans, and this is up significantly since the time we started working on the overhaul of the bankruptcy system now 8 years ago.

One of the key goals of legislation we have before us today is to make sure the system is not abused by the unscrupulous who leave their creditors high and dry. At the same time, the concept of allowing those citizens who have become saddled by debt to use bankruptcy to get a fresh start is firmly entrenched in the American legal system. Gone are the days of debtor prisons.

We want to treat debtors fairly and give those who become overwhelmed by debt a second chance. We do not want

to send a signal to those who for whatever reason get into a financial hole that it is okay to go deeper in that hole prior to filing for and become absolved by bankruptcy. We want to give those in debt a fair second chance to bring their fiscal houses in order.

We also want to treat creditors fairly. At the end of the day, it is law-abiding, bill-paying citizens who pay for the bankruptcy of others, regardless of whether the debts involved were taken on by con men or those whose situations simply got out of hand.

As this debate goes forward, it is important for all to understand that according to some experts, a conservative estimate is that every American family pays about $400 a year in a hidden tax associated with bankruptcies, taxes they should not have to pay. I am told that others place the fair estimate of this hidden bankruptcy tax in the range of $550 per person per year. There are numerous examples of people who take advantage of loopholes today at the expense of everyone else tomorrow.

We recently heard from a Wisconsin credit union president who testified before the Judiciary Committee about a young couple who wanted a clean financial slate before they got married. What did they do? They ran up their credit card purchases. One of them prepaid a car loan with the credit union to have the other cosigner released. Then, although they were both employed full-time, they filed for bankruptcy to wipe out their debt. Their credit union and its members had to absorb the $3,000 in credit card debt and then another couple of hundred dollars on the car itself. Bankruptcy relief was never meant to allow this kind of abuse. Hard-working Americans, including the members of credit unions nationwide, have been victimized by abusers of the current bankruptcy system long enough.

Bankruptcy abuse also hurts our Nation's small businesses. Without reforms from this bill, losses from bankruptcy abuse will continue to break the backs of the Nation's small businesses and retailers, which work with slim profit margins and have even smaller margins for error.

Throughout this debate, I want those who pay their bills in full and on time to understand that our attempt to rebalance some of the aspects of the bankruptcy system will have a positive impact on their pocketbooks each time they go to the store. In effect, we all pay for the bankruptcies of others through this ''hidden tax.'' In some respects, I suppose one could view this bill as a tax cut for the responsible people.

While one large impact of bankruptcy is felt in the wallet, perhaps the most important principle involved in this is when one borrows money, they need to take personal responsibility to pay it back. Personal responsibility is a core American value. This legislation, which has been crafted over years of debate and compromise, reflects that basic value.

We are mindful of the old adage there is no such thing as a free lunch. When some people do not pay their credit card bills, the rest of us pay for them in the form of increased prices. We do not get off. We have to pay for it. Great strain is placed on businesses, particularly small businesses, when customers do not pay for their purchases.

While we want to be fair to those who are in serious debt, we must also be mindful that sometimes it is employees and their families who have to pay through lost salary increases or even pay cuts or job loss when some do not pay their bills. No firm can expand or even maintain its operations or stay in business for long if a substantial portion of goods and services it sells is not paid for by its customers. We all simply have a stake in bankruptcy policy and, therefore, we all have a stake in this bill.

Unfortunately, our current system allows certain people with the ability to repay at least some of their debt load to take advantage of the system at the expense of everyone else. Today, individuals with relatively high incomes can run up substantial debts and then too easily use bankruptcy to get out of honoring them. In the end, all of us pay for those who abuse the system.

As I will describe, one of the key improvements made by this bill is to devise a new and equitable system to see that those who declare bankruptcy will be called upon to repay a fair portion of their past debts with future earnings if they are able to do so. This is the so-called means test that I will describe in a few minutes.

First, I will take a few minutes to highlight some of the key proconsumer provisions of this bill. S. 256, the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act of 2005, includes a debtor's bill of rights with new consumer protections to prevent the bankruptcy mills from preying upon those who are uninformed of their legal rights and needlessly pushing them into bankruptcy. This is an important improvement over current law and helps rectify the current practice whereby some, both debtors and creditors alike, lose out in the long run to some shady legal advisers who take their fees and run.

The bill also includes new consumer protections under the Truth in Lending Act, such as new required disclosures regarding minimum monthly payments and introductory rates for credit cards. It protects consumers from unscrupulous creditors with new penalties on creditors who refuse to negotiate reasonable payment schedules outside of bankruptcy.

Our bill provides penalties on creditors who fail to properly credit planned payments in bankruptcy. It includes credit counseling programs to help people avoid the cycle of indebtedness. This is an important provision for consumers.

Except for those with evil motivations and a willingness to take advantage of the system, no one likes to be in debt. This bill helps consumers learn how to better protect their financial resources. S. 256 provides for a protection of educational savings accounts, and it gives equal protection for retirement accounts or retirement savings in bankruptcy. These provisions will help our children and our parents have adequate resources.

The bankruptcy legislation also contains important changes in current law that will benefit women and children. We have heard some people complain that our bankruptcy laws do not adequately take care of women and children. Through our years of work on this bill, we have tried to make the law more protective in these areas, and this bill accomplishes that goal.

Current law provides that child support obligations are seventh in overall priority among unsecured claims. This bill dramatically changes the world with respect to child support. This bill contains a large set of provisions addressing the treatment of child support, including making domestic support obligations first in priority after certain required expenditures.

I will repeat that for emphasis. Child support goes from seventh to first in priority within its category for repayment under this bill. From seventh in line to top priority, this is a big change. Unfortunately, those who have slow walked this bill for the last 8 years have prevented this important change from taking effect.

The legislation also includes a provision that makes staying current on child support a condition of getting a discharge in bankruptcy. It makes debt discharge in bankruptcy conditional upon full payment of past due child support and alimony. S. 256 makes domestic support obligations automatically nondischargeable without the costs of litigation. It prevents bankruptcy from holding up child custody, visitation, and domestic violation cases. It helps eliminate administrative roadblocks in the current system so children can get the support they need. All of these measures are valuable additions and changes in the bankruptcy laws.

It is in the best interests of women and children to pass this bill. It is a tremendous improvement for children and families over current law. That is why there is such overwhelming support for this legislation from the child support professionals across the country—the very people who go after deadbeats to help get children the financial support they need.

That is not all. Let me cite a few more improvements over current law for women and children.

The bill makes the payment of child support arrears a condition of plan confirmation. It provides stronger and more comprehensive notice requirements and more information for easier child support collection. It provides help in tracking down deadbeats.

It allows for claims against a deadbeat parent's property. It allows for

payment of child support with interest by those with means. It facilitates wage withholding to collect child support from deadbeat parents.

As I have just described, there are many important provisions in this bill for children, women, and the aged. I hope that we can finally get this bill to the President's desk for signature. This is a bill that is way overdue.

This legislation, S. 256, also requires extensive new disclosure requirements by creditors in the area of reaffirmations and more judicial oversight of reaffirmations to protect people from being pressured into agreements against their interests.

These are important provisions. Let me explain why.

Reaffirmation agreements commonly occur in conjunction with bankruptcy proceedings when debtors agree to repay a debt they would not otherwise have to pay. These reaffirmation agreements can be very helpful to debtors as they seek to reestablish their good financial status with their creditors as they emerge from bankruptcy.

By increasing disclosure requirements and judicial oversight, the reaffirmation process can operate to the advantage of debtor and creditor alike.

Next, I would like to briefly describe one of the key features of the bill, the means test, and how it relates to, and will improve, the overall operation of our bankruptcy system.

The premise behind the means test is that those who are able to pay all, or some, of their past debts should do so. The means test helps the courts determine who can and who can not repay their debts and, perhaps most importantly, how much they can afford to pay.

The challenge is to set this figure at the right level, neither too high nor too low.

If the figure is set too high, the debtor may be placed in a vicious cycle from which he or she can never escape and get a fair chance to start over. Of course, if the repayment schedule is set too low, the debtors will escape responsibility at the expense of those who they owe.

Through this new means test, in certain circumstances, the bill requires those filing for bankruptcy to pay a fair but not overly burdensome portion of their future earnings.

The means test allows for a straight deduction of actual expenses for the care and support of an elderly, chronically ill, or disabled household member, or member of the debtor's immediate family.

This test allows for a straight deduction for food and clothing expenses.

This test allows for up to $1,500 to be deducted per child for educational purposes.

This test includes an allowance for housing and utilities costs.

This test includes all the categories enumerated under the National Standards, Local Standards and Other National Expenses issued by the Internal Revenue Service.

This test allows for the straight deduction of expenses incurred in maintaining the safety of the debtor and the family of the debtor from family violence.

This test includes a special circumstances safety valve that allows debtors to adjust their income or expenditures based on unforeseen circumstances such as military activation and deployment or unexpected and catastrophic medical conditions.

Finally, this test includes a safe harbor provision which exempts debtors below their respective State median incomes.

After all of these exemptions are applied, including the safe harbor, it is estimated that 90 percent of debtors will not be affected by the changes in the repayment provisions of this bill.

Who constitutes the remaining 10 percent? They are the people who can afford to pay at least some of their debts. And that is what the means test is all about.

All of these changes that I have described are important. Many of us have worked for many years on this bill. Frankly, some of us think this bill has already taken way too many years to complete.

I want to take a few minutes describing the extensive legislative history of the bill. This is important for many reasons. One of those reasons is that this history will reveal that this measure has already been fully debated and this bill reflects literally dozens and dozens of compromises along its 8-year journey.

I will describe the nadir of this bill when President Clinton pocket vetoed the legislation after Congress adjourned in the fall of 2000.

This bill has had broad bipartisan support from the very beginning.

In the Senate, Senators GRASSLEY and BIDEN have been at this for a long time, as have many others on both sides of the aisle.

When we debate amendments over the next few days, I want my colleagues to pay close attention to those who are offering amendments.

If what occurred at the Judiciary Committee mark-up of the bill repeats itself on the floor, it might be the case that many amendments will be offered by that relatively small group of Senators who have steadfastly opposed this bill each step of the way during the last 8 years. If that is the case, we must examine their amendments with both exacting scrutiny and heavy skepticism.

It is one thing to attempt to improve a bill and bring it more to your liking, it is another matter altogether to try to scuttle a bill. This can be a fine line on any bill. But with a bill with the extensive history as this, it is easier to assess who is trying to get this bill over the goal line finally and who is trying to push us out of bounds and into yet another period of legislative overtime.

The House and Senate have been engaged in the process of deliberating on this issue since 1997, back during the 105th Congress. Turning back the clock to 1997, we see that the comprehensive bankruptcy reform bill was developed and passed in both bodies by overwhelming votes. The actual substance of bankruptcy reform legislation has been a bipartisan, bicameral effort.

The successful work by each chamber of Congress in 1997 was followed by the appointment of conferees, negotiations with the House, and, in October of 1998, an overwhelming vote by House Members in favor of the conference report. Unfortunately, the Senate did not complete its vote on final passage before the end of the Congress.

Next, in February of 1999, Congressman Gekas and Senator GRASSLEY reintroduced the same bankruptcy bill agreed to by both bodies during the previous conference committee. That bill passed the House in May by an overwhelming margin. Later that same month, the Senate Judiciary Committee marked up our bill and we reported it from committee.

Finally, in February of 2000, after months of procedural delays and debate on the Senate floor, the reform legislation passed by another impressive margin of 83 to 14.

I suspect this body will approve this bill by a similar lopsided margin when a vote on final passage is taken in this Congress if we can get to a vote on final passage. There are some who have indicated they are going to filibuster this bill. We will have to see. But there have been far too many people, on both sides of the aisle, who promised they would work to get this bill through, and they should fight against any filibuster.

Turning back to the year 2000 after the bipartisan 83–14 vote, the Senate then requested a conference. This should be a routine matter, but the objection of a single Senator blocked the appointment of conferees. As a result, the House and Senate had to turn to an informal conference process.

With a great deal of effort by Members on both sides of the aisle, we reached a compromise agreement on over 400 pages of legislation.

Ultimately, both the House and Senate were able to pass that conference report in another series of decisive votes in the fall of 2000.

However, President Clinton chose to pocket-veto the legislation and (refused to sign it into law, despite the overwhelming support. Once again, the stone pushed by Sisyphus was at the bottom of the mountain.

Representative Gekas introduced the bill, yet again, in January of 2001. The conference report for that bill, H.R. 333, became the backbone of the legislation pending before us today. It too, had overwhelming support, except for what is now understood to be a poison-pill amendment.

I will not take the time today to discuss just how this important comprehensive change in the bankruptcy bill got waylaid in the eleventh hour

by this problematical and, many believe, perhaps mostly hypothetical and politically motivated, provision.

We all know that this bill has repeatedly won the overwhelming approval of our colleagues in both Houses of Congress.

Before we began a conference meeting on an earlier version a few years ago I referred to that meeting as being the last leg of a legislative marathon. I was wrong then—but I hope, and I have every confidence, that this floor debate represents the final beginning of that last leg.

We succeeded in finally enacting the class action reform bill 2 weeks ago and I am hopeful that we can duplicate this success with the bankruptcy bill over the next several days.

As many have said, this is a compromise bill that enjoys broad bipartisan support among Democrats and Republicans, and conservatives and liberals.

Even after having worked for 8 years already, we agreed to make some additional compromises in the Judiciary Committee during mark-up 2 weeks ago to satisfy some concerns of our colleagues on the other side of the aisle. Those compromises were difficult to make, but we have made them.

I should add that there are some on our side of the aisle, such as Senator CORNYN, who would like to make additional changes in this bill. He has a very substantial proposal addressing the issue of venue reform. It is an area in which he has special expertise from his experiences with some important bankruptcies that affected many citizens of Texas but were litigated out of State.

There are things I would like to see changed in the bill.

But I also recognize that many have cooperated and compromised in order to reach the state where this legislation is today. Given the extensive and lengthy history of this bill, I think it best for my colleagues to refrain from offering controversial amendments on this vehicle at this time—and I will do so because I know that any further amendments might scuttle this bill.

This bill provides new consumer protections, helps children in need of child support, and makes other necessary reforms to a system that is open to abuse.

I want to stress the fact that this legislation does not make it more difficult for people to file for bankruptcy, but it does eliminate some of the opportunities for abuse that exist under the current system.

This is a good bill. We should pass it promptly and send it to the House.

It is possible that during this debate that some may falsely suggest that this bill unfairly treats low-income persons. Let me tell you at the outset that the poor are not affected by the means test. The legislation provides a safe harbor for those who fall below the median income, so they are not subjected to the means test at all. What the means test is designed to do, and what it will do, is to prevent abuse by those who can and should pay a portion of their debts wit future earnings. It will stop the fraud. It will stop the abuse of a system that has been going on through some of these unscrupulous lawyers and bankruptcy helpers.

Another misconception that I have heard again and again from opponents of the bill is that this legislation will not let people file for bankruptcy relief when they need it. The fact is that this legislation does not deny anyone access to bankruptcy relief, it just requires those who have the means to repay their debts based on their income and ability to pay.

It is that simple. It is fair. It is a long overdue change for the better.

Some opponents of this legislation have also claimed that it somehow hurts women and children. This falsehood is particularly disturbing for me to hear, because I have had a long history of advocating for children and families in Congress, and I have worked tirelessly, provision by provision, to make this legislation dramatically improve the position of children and ex-spouses who are entitled to domestic support. I have already told you in some detail why these allegations are baseless and how this bill works to help women and children.

I look forward to participating in this debate.

This is a very good bill.

It represents years of bipartisan, bicameral work. It is time we pass this bill. This President will sign this bill.

I hope that we will not get sidetracked by nonrelevant or counterproductive, controversial amendments on a consensus bill that has been so long in the making.

I hope there will not be any frivolous amendments or amendments designed to kill the bill or message amendments trying to make political points rather than solve the problems we have regarding bankruptcy.

Let us pass this bill for the fourth and final time and get on to other business.

I urge all of my colleagues to support S. 256, the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act of 2005.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period for the transaction of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMENDING HOWARD BAKER

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, just before we went into recess on February 17, the distinguished majority leader introduced, and the Senate passed by unanimous consent, a resolution commending the public life of our dear former colleague, Senator Howard Baker. I did not have the opportunity to speak to this resolution then, and I wish to add a few words today.

I commend the current majority leader for taking a few moments from our busy Senate schedule that Friday to introduce and pass a resolution commending a former majority leader, my former colleague and dear friend, Howard Baker, for his lifetime of public service. All of us who know Ambassador Baker, or have had the great pleasure of serving under him, on either side of the aisle, will see this as certainly the least controversial act this Senate will pass this year.

I have known Howard Baker my entire Senate career—there are very few here who came to this body before Senator Baker did, back in 1966. And to know Howard Baker is to know consummate Southern grace and manners, to know a man who it is almost as much a pleasure to disagree with as it is to agree with. In my many years serving with Senator Baker, and under him, as my Republican Leader, when I first arrived, and as the majority leader, during the first 6 years of the Reagan administration, I had a few occasions where we stood on different sides of an issue, but many more where we did the people's business side-by-side. Our cause was always stronger when we had the intelligence and perseverance of Howard Baker on our side, and, on the few occasions where we did disagree, my arguments always had to be stronger because of the scrutiny and deliberation of my colleague's same intelligence and perseverance.

Majority Leader Baker did such a superb job during the first 6 years of the Reagan administration that President Reagan wisely chose him as his Chief of Staff for the last, often difficult, 2 years of his administration. It was a wise choice.

A few years later, Howard Baker made his own very wise choice. After being widowed, he married another one of our most distinguished colleagues, former Senator Nancy Landon Kassebaum. I can honestly say that I have never seen a better collaboration between two Senators I hold in the highest regard.

As we all know, our distinguished former colleague's service to the Nation was not over yet. He served our Nation with great distinction in one of the most important ambassadorial positions we have, the United States Ambassador to Japan.

Mr. President, when they teach civics in our primary and secondary schools

today, the textbook writers would be wise to have a lesson on the career of Howard Baker. His character and example, and the policies he advanced, would be admired by all who, unlike some of us, have not had the opportunity to know this man in person. The textbook writers should wait a while longer, however, as I hope and expect that Howard Baker's life of public service continues, for the good of the Nation and the good of all of us. I heartily co-sponsor this resolution and offer my warmest congratulations to former Senator Baker, and his wife, former Senator Kassebaum.

AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, it is especially appropriate that this year the theme of African-American History Month should be the Niagara Movement, for 100 years ago, in July 1905, the Niagara Movement convened for the first time. It brought together a distinguished group of twenty-nine thinkers, writers, educators, attorneys, ministers and businessmen in the African-American community; among them was the Reverend George Freeman Bragg, for many years the pastor of St. James' Episcopal Church in Baltimore and the author of Men of Maryland, a history of African Americans in Maryland from the earliest days of the colony. Although the participants were scheduled to meet in Buffalo they were unable to find hotel accommodations in that city, and as a consequence they moved to Fort Erie, on the Canadian side of the Falls.

The Niagara Movement symbolized a ''mighty current'' of protest against all the disabilities and indignities of second-class citizenship to which African-Americans were subjected. It rejected the pernicious ''separate but equal'' doctrine set out 9 years earlier by the Supreme Court in Plessy v. Ferguson, and all the political, social and economic consequences of that decision. The prospect that African-American citizens of this Nation would at last be guaranteed all the rights and protections of the Constitution had already begun to fade with the end of Reconstruction, in 1876, and Plessy seemed to affirm that although African-Americans might no longer be enslaved, they should never aspire to be full citizens of the Republic. Within the African-American community voices arose urging accommodation and acquiescence; the most prominent, Booker T. Washington's, counseled against seeking political and social rights.

John Hope, an academic who subsequently became one of the founders of the Niagara Movement, offered a ringing rebuttal to this advice:

> In this republic, we shall be less than freemen if we have a whit less than that which thrift, education and honor afford other freemen. If equality, political, economic and social is the boon of other men in this great country of ours, then equality, political, economic and social is what we demand.

When the Niagara Movement met for the first time, it adopted a manifesto that formally rejected accommodation and courageously asserted:

> We claim for ourselves every single right that belongs to a freeborn American, political, civil and social; and until we get these rights we will never cease to protest and assail the ears of America. The battle we wage is not for ourselves alone but for all true Americans.

The movement faced truly daunting challenges. It was met by the public at large with alarm, skepticism and outright hostility—and on the part of the press, by a wall of silence. The annual meeting shifted from one place to another—from Buffalo to Harper's Ferry, to Boston and then to Oberlin, and in its last year to Sea Girt, NJ. Membership never numbered more than a few hundred; and plans to establish chapters in all thirty States were never fully realized. The movement's financial resources were painfully inadequate to the challenge it faced, and its efforts to organize were met by hostility and, worst of all, silence on the part of the press.

Although the movement sank into obscurity, a small number of scholars and commentators have recognized its importance. Among them is John Bambacus, whose 1972 master's thesis, ''W.E.B. DuBois and the Niagara Movement,'' remains a valuable introduction to the subject. Today John Bambacus serves both as the mayor of Frostburg, in Maryland's Allegany County, and also as a member of the faculty of Frostburg State University, where he is an Associate Professor and Director of Frostburg's Public Affairs Institute and Internship Program.

It is clear today that the Niagara Movement was indeed the beginning one hundred years ago of the ''mighty current'' that became the great civil rights movement of the 20th century and transformed this Nation. And when after a few years the movement faltered, the NAACP emerged in its place.

For Marylanders, the NAACP has very special significance. It is not only that the NAACP, with a membership of some 500,000, nearly 2,000 branch chapters and hundreds of college and youth chapters, has its headquarters in Baltimore. It is not only that the NAACP has worked ceaselessly since its founding 95 years ago to ensure that African-Americans will have access to all the rights and opportunities our country offers, and that by doing so it has made our country a better place for all our people. It is not just the brilliant programs the NAACP has designed and implemented over the years—among them, the historic voter registration projects and the Voter Empowerment Program that grew out of them, the critically important economic empowerment program, and the Academic, Cultural, Technological and Scientific Olympics program that sets a high standard of achievement for young people and challenges them to meet it.

It is also the legacy of Thurgood Marshall, who was born and raised in Baltimore, who received his high-school diploma from Frederick Douglass High School in Baltimore, and who returned to Baltimore after law school at Howard University. It was at Howard, where he was class valedictorian, that Thurgood Marshall became a member of the brilliant team that Dean Charles Hamilton Houston assembled for the express purpose of sweeping away ''separate but equal'' and establishing the right of African-Americans to full participation in every aspect of American life. Within a year of returning to Baltimore Thurgood Marshall joined the staff of the Baltimore branch of the NAACP. He went on to become the NAACP's chief legal officer and also director of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund.

In that capacity he led the team that successfully argued the landmark case of Brown v. Board of Education in the Supreme Court, thereby laying the indestructible foundation for transforming the principles set out by the Niagara Movement into the reality of American life.

Marshall did not rest with his triumph in the Brown case. President Kennedy appointed him to the 2nd Circuit Court of Appeals, where of Judge Marshall's 112 rulings that were appealed, every one was later upheld by the Supreme Court. Subsequently President Johnson appointed him to be Solicitor General, and then to sit on the Supreme Court as the Nation's first African-American Justice. Justice Marshall's colleague on the Supreme Court, Justice Brennan, called him—

> the voice of authority . . . the voice of reason . . . [a]nd a voice with an unwavering message: that the Constitution's protections must not be denied to anyone . . .

Thurgood Marshall was a leader among the brilliant and courageous members of the African-American community who dedicated their efforts—and in many cases their lives—to the fundamental principles of equality and respect that were set out in Buffalo 100 years ago by the Niagara Movement. We have come far, but yet we have far to go.

No one has put this more eloquently than Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. As we approach the end of African-American History Month 2005 we should remember what he told us nearly 50 years ago, in ''Facing the Challenge of a New Age'':

> . . . our world is geographically one. Now we are faced with the challenge of making it spiritually one. Through our scientific genius we have made of the world a neighborhood; now through our moral and spiritual genius we must make of it a brotherhood. We are all involved in the single process. Whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly. We are all links in the great chain of humanity.

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, today marks the end of Black History Month. Each year, we take this opportunity to

honor the heritage and extraordinary contributions that African Americans have made in building our Nation.

We have many fallen martyrs in the civil rights movement to honor: Harriet Tubman, the pioneer of the Underground Railroad; Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., a drum major for justice; Rosa Parks, mother of the civil rights movement; and recently deceased Shirley Chisholm, champion of political firsts; to name only a few.

Arkansas has its own heroes who turned their determination into opportunity for others and helped shape history as a result.

It is perhaps the Little Rock Nine who taught America that ''separate'' was not ''equal.'' Nine black students—Ernest Green, Elizabeth Eckford, Gloria Ray Karlmark, Carlotta Walls LaNier, Minnijean Borwn Trickey, Terrence Roberts, Jefferson Thomas, Thelma Mothershed Wair and Melba Pattillo Beals—defied hatred and prejudice to attend the all-white Central High School and exercise their right to a better education.

Last year, I worked closely with members of the Little Rock Nine, as well as the former Congressional Black Caucus Chairman, Elijah Cummings, to secure funding to build a Visitor's Center at the Little Rock Central High School in time to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the school's desegregation crisis. I am thrilled Congress authorized the design funding for this project. We celebrate Black History Month every February, but the Visitor's Center is open to teach stories of the civil rights movement all-year long.

Part of this Visitor's Center will tell the story of civil rights leader Daisy Gatson Bates, who paid a personal and financial price to help the Little Rock Nine succeed. Bates also made significant strides in the courtroom and increasing public awareness through her newspaper, the Arkansas State Press, about the inequality that existed in Arkansas.

Just as Arkansans broke barriers in our schools, they also played a large role in integrating our Nation's military operations, making it the most skilled military in the world. The actions of the Tuskegee Airmen are legendary. Arkansas' own Tuskegee Airmen include: Herbert Clark of Pine Bluff, Richard Caesar of Lake Village, William Mattison of Conway, Woodrow Crockett of Little Rock, James Ewing of Helena, Marsille Reed of Tillar, Jerry Hodges of Heth, and Grandville Coggs of Little Rock.

Before 1940, African Americans were barred from flying for the U.S. military. Civil rights organizations and the black press exerted pressure that resulted in the formation of an African-American flying squadron based in Tuskegee, AL., in 1941. The Tuskegee Airmen established an incredible and unprecedented flying record, most notably completing 200 bomber escort missions over most of central and southern Europe without the loss of a single bomber to enemy aircraft. By the end of World War II, almost 1,000 African Americans had won their wings at Tuskegee Army Air Field. Each airman had his own victories and valor, but in the end, the Tuskegee Airmen knew that never again would anybody deny a man or woman the opportunity to serve our country in any capacity because of the color of his or her skin.

In 1948, President Harry Truman enacted an Executive order which directed equality of treatment and opportunity in all of the U.S. Armed Forces. This order, in time, led to the end of racial segregation in the military forces.

African Americans continue to make remarkable contributions in the fields of mathematics, science, arts, politics and the Armed Forces. Arkansas is blessed to be the home to many of these trailblazers, including Pulitzer Prize winner Maya Angelou, former U.S. Secretary of Transportation Rodney Slater, and many individuals who may not be household names but who make an extraordinary difference in our communities nonetheless.

As we look back at the African Americans who brought us here today, we must also consider those who are history in the making.

The Little Rock Nine and Daisy Gatson Bates knew that education is the great equalizer. Keeping students in school and preparing them for college will pay off in dividends for communities. For students who pursue higher education, the pay margin is significant. In 2002, the average earnings for nongraduates were $18,826; for high school graduates, $27,280; for bachelor's degree holders, $51,194; and for those with advanced degrees, $72,824.

Last week, I traveled towns in the Delta, where some rural areas suffer from unemployment rates two to three times higher than the national average, the poverty rate is more than double the national average, and access to health care is abysmal. I spoke with middle school and high school students, sharing with them a message of commitment and responsibility.

Every child should know that if they take the initiative to work hard and make good grades, this body will stand by them and match that commitment. Standing by our youth means fulfilling the promises we made to them to fully fund the No Child Left Behind Act.

Most students know that the No Child Left Behind Act requires them to take more tests, but they don't understand the overall goal is to improve our schools—in poor neighborhoods and in wealthy school districts—so that they will all be able to compete in the global and technically advanced workplace.

In fulfilling Congress' commitment to our youth, it is imperative that we support programs like the Federal TRIO programs, which help low-income, first-generation college students progress through the academic pipeline from middle school to post-baccalaureate programs.

I recently learned about Jessica, a high school senior who participates in the Upward Bound Program. Through the Federal TRIO program, she received tutoring and technical assistance that she needed to attend college. Jessica took the initiative to make good grades in school, score well on her ACTs, and balance a part-time job at McDonalds. She was accepted at the University of Central Arkansas, her first choice college, and she now awaits scholarship information so she knows for sure whether UCA is in her future.

Oprah Winfrey once said ''luck is a matter of preparation meeting opportunity.'' Preparation is the most important part of the equation. For students to be prepared and compete in the workforce, Congress must support programs like title I, IDEA, TRIO, as well as programs that provide vocational preparation and technology in rural schools. When we underfund or slash funding for them, as the President proposes in his budget proposal, we take opportunity away from them.

African-American students are reaping the benefits of equal opportunity laws passed on to them through the sacrifice of their ancestors. However, too many African-American seniors struggle financially today because they simply did not have the same opportunity in their schools or in the workplace. As a result, 40 percent of African-American seniors rely on Social Security as their only source of income, and the program provides about three-quarters of all retirement income for African-American seniors. Statistics show, in fact, without Social Security, poverty rates for African-American seniors would more than double to 58 percent.

The Social Security safety net is at risk with the President's privatization plan. I hope African-American families in Arkansas and throughout the country will listen closely to the debate on Social Security's future. The President recently stated private accounts are in the best interest of African-Americans because the accounts benefit individuals with a shorter life expectancy. To me that statement means we need to reduce the health care disparity in this country, which is something I hope the Senate will take action on this year. Weakening Social Security is not the answer.

Black History Month presents an occasion to reflect on the great contributions African-Americans have made to our country, and to celebrate the steps we have taken toward equality. But too much is left to be done to simply leave it at that. We must also remind ourselves of the work ahead and meet the commitment of those who seek opportunity.

Mrs. DOLE. Mr. President, this month we mark the 79th celebration of African American Black History Month. What was launched by civil rights pioneer Dr. Carter G. Woodson in 1926 as Black History Week and observed in Black schools and churches

today is a month-long national tribute to the tremendous historical contributions of African Americans from all walks of life and professions.

I am so very proud of the rich and vibrant African-American heritage in my home State of North Carolina. Our history is full of trailblazers, including Franklin McCain, Joseph McNeil, Ezell Blair, Jr., and David Richmond, known as the Greensboro Four because of their February 1960 sit-ins at a Woolworth Store counter in Greensboro, NC. Their sit-ins were the first significant event of this type, quickly gaining momentum and attention. In less than a week, the four North Carolina A&T freshmen had been joined by 1,000 other students from local high schools and universities. As the Greensboro News & Record stated earlier this month, the Greensboro sit-in ''gave new life to the nation's civil rights movement and helped pave the way for its triumphs later in the decade.'' These individuals truly laid the foundation for the America we strive to be, where all people are given opportunity and treated fairly, regardless of their skin color.

North Carolina, with its long and proud military history, also produced 21 of the famed Tuskegee Airmen. Trained in Tuskegee, AL, these brave men made up the first African-American military flying unit in World War II. I am proud to cosponsor recently introduced legislation that authorizes the President to award a gold medal on behalf of Congress to the Tuskegee Airmen. These brave soldiers truly left their mark on history not just in battle—their great success helped pave the way for the integration of our Armed Forces in 1948.

North Carolina also has made great strides in higher education. We have 11 historically Black colleges and universities, including Shaw University in Raleigh, founded in 1865 and the oldest HBCU in the South. I was honored to give the commencement address and receive an honorary degree several years ago from Livingstone College, another outstanding historically Black college in my hometown of Salisbury. I also am so very proud that my husband Bob is serving as chairman of a $50 million fundraising campaign at Bennett College in Greensboro, one of only two historically Black women's colleges in America. Bennett College President Dr. Johnnetta Cole is a pioneer in her own right, having received 50 honorary degrees during an impressive career in academia that includes being the first African-American woman to serve as president of Spelman College. And in May 2004, Dr. Cole became the first African-American to serve as chair of the Board of United Way of America.

A short time ago Congress debated legislation to make the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., a national holiday. The floor leader for that legislation was a fellow named Bob Dole. During the final debate, I had the privilege of sitting in the gallery with Coretta Scott King, as we heard Bob deliver these words: ''A nation defines itself in many ways; in the promises it makes and the programs it enacts, the dreams it enshrines, or the doors it slams shut. Thanks to Dr. King, America wrote new laws to strike down old barriers. She built bridges instead of walls . . . there is nothing partisan about justice. It is conservative as the Constitution, as liberal as Lincoln, as radical as Jefferson's sweeping assertion that all of God's creation is equal in His eyes.'' I could not agree more.

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise again, as I have earlier this month, to honor February as Black History Month. Each February since 1926, we have recognized the contributions of Black Americans to the Nation.

This is no accident; February is a significant month in Black American history. Abolitionist Frederick Douglass, President Abraham Lincoln, and scholar and civil rights leader W.E.B. DuBois were born in the month of February. The 15th amendment to the Constitution was ratified 132 years ago this month, preventing race discrimination in the right to vote. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People was founded in February in New York City. February 1 was the 45th anniversary of the Greensboro Four's historic sit-in. And on February 25, 1870, this body welcomed its first Black senator, Hiram R. Revels of Mississippi.

In this important month, I have wanted to celebrate some of the contributions made by Black Americans in my home State of Oregon. Since Marcus Lopez, who sailed with Captain Robert Gray in 1788, became the first person of African descent known to set foot in Oregon, a great many Black Americans have helped shape the history of my State. Throughout this month, I have come to the floor to highlight some of their stories. Today, on the last day of Black History Month, I have come to honor one more.

Louis A. Southworth was a blacksmith, fiddler, and farmer. Though a combination of his contagious personality, appealing fiddle playing, and an unwavering devotion to civic duty, he became one of Oregon's most respected and well-liked citizens of his time.

Born into slavery in Tennessee in 1830, he later moved with his family to Oregon in 1851. Although slavery was officially banned in Oregon, it was still practiced with some frequency. While working in the gold mines, Southworth soon found that people greatly enjoyed his musical talents. He was able to parlay his talents on a fiddle into an extra source of income, and at age 28, bought his freedom for $1,000. The phrase ''fiddling for freedom'' soon caught on, and Louis Southworth become some what of a local hero.

In 1879, he moved with his wife and adopted son to the south bank of the Alsea River. Southworth, with his family and his fiddle, soon won over this small community. He worked as a farmer, and ferried cargo and passengers across the bay to town.

As more people began to move into the community, he donated some of his land to build a local school house and later served as chair of the school board. Along with his new life came a renewed sense of civic duty. Southworth became a dedicated political activist. During the elections of 1890, a strong storm ravaged his small town. Unafraid of the weather, Louis Southworth rigged two oil drums to his boat for buoyancy and rowed across the bay to the polling place. As it turns out, he was the only person to cast a vote in Waldport that day.

Despite the chaotic times in which he lived, Louis Southworth was embraced by his community. Before he died in 1917, his neighbors raised the $300 needed to pay off his mortgage in Corvallis, OR.

Louis Southworth provides one example of a man triumphing over seemingly insurmountable odds. As a Black man living in troubled times, his personality, compassion, work ethic, talents, generosity, and devotion to the community service allowed him to become a respected leader. He was accepted by many of his peers, of all races, religions, and ethnic backgrounds, long before this was common or expected. His legacy of service and kindness is one that lives on today, and one that should be remembered for years to come. On this last day of Black History Month, I believe it is only right to celebrate an Oregonian like Louis Southworth, whose contributions to race relations in Oregon, while great, have not yet received the attention they deserve.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

CORPORAL MATTHEW REED SMITH, USMC

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, today I rise to speak on the recent passing of Corporal Matthew Reed Smith of the United States Marine Corps. Corporal Smith was a native of West Valley City, UT, who died in a helicopter crash near the town of Rutbah, Iraq. Corporal Smith was one of 29 Marines and one Navy sailor who lost their lives in that fateful accident. Today, I know the Senate will join me in honoring their memory as heroes who died in performance of their duty. The sacrifice of these brave servicemen will be remembered forever.

Corporal Smith, during his younger years, often dreamed of being in the Armed Forces. I have been told that as a child he would play make-believe with his brothers on the hill in front of their home and that he always insisted on being the ''Marine.'' Nicknamed the ''Three Musketeers'' by their mother, Corporal Smith and his two brothers grew up doing the things they loved most, camping, hunting, wrestling, and riding their motorbikes in the mountains.

Corporal Smith joined the Marines because ''they were the first ones in there.'' As a Marine, he fought bravely to expel the insurgents from the city of

Fallujah. There were times during the fighting when he could hear the bullets whistling past his head. His best friend lost an arm and a leg in the Battle for Fallujah.

Being unable to obtain leave in order to attend the wedding of his brother last March, members of his family made a life-size cutout of Corporal Smith and moved it around the dance floor as the night progressed. On learning of Corporal Smith's death, his family placed the cutout in the living room of their home. That silhouette of Corporal Smith, dressed sharply in his Marine uniform, today remains in our hearts as a symbol that he served his country with honor and courage.

Recently, I had the opportunity to visit a website created to honor him. I was struck by the number of comments and sentiments that clearly showed that Corporal Smith was a true friend and loved by all who knew him. In one particularly moving tribute, a fellow mourner wrote that he could not imagine Corporal Smith departing this life ''in any other way than selflessly serving others.''

Mr. President, it is a privilege to learn about the extraordinary life of such a man.

SUSPENSION OF RUSSIA FROM THE G8

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I rise today, along with my good friend Senator MCCAIN, to speak about a resolution that is of great importance to the cause of democracy which we have devoted America to advance at home and around the world. In November 2003 Senator MCCAIN and I were moved by Russia's failure to adhere to democratic principles to submit a resolution to hold Russia accountable for the commitments Moscow made when first invited to participate in what became known as the G8. Since then, the situation in Russia has deteriorated. I am particularly pleased that Senators BAYH, BURNS, CHAMBLISS, SMITH, and DURBIN have joined as original co-sponsors of this resolution indicating the increasing Senatorial concern over the accelerating erosion of democratic and economic freedom in Russia. As President Bush returns from his meeting with President Putin at the summit in Bratislava, we call once again on the President of the United States and the Secretary of State to work with our partners in the G7 to condition Russia's continued participation in the G8 on Russia's compliance with basic standards of democracy and rule of law.

We have a real stake in Russia's adherence to democratic norms because our commitment to Russia's transition toward democracy is critical to secure a peaceful future with Russia. The G7 nations are highly industrialized countries bound together by fundamental principles of democracy, rule of law, a free market system, and respect for human rights.

The actions of President Putin over the past few years have raised serious concerns about Russia's commitment to these principles. There is a long list of well-documented antidemocratic developments in Russia. The Putin administration has limited freedom of expression in Russia by seizing independent media organizations and suppressing the activities of independent journalists, religious organizations, and nongovernmental organizations that are all integral components of a healthy civil society. The Russian government's dismantling of Yukos and the arrest of its founder Mikhail Khodorkovsky 16 months ago raised serious doubts about Russia's commitment to free market principles and rule of law as well as respect for property and shareholder rights. The Federal Security Services, FSB, play a strong role in Russia's power structures in a manner reminiscent of the KGB in the old regime. President Putin's support for the first fraudulent results in the Ukrainian presidential elections last year exhibited disregard for basic democratic principles. Fortunately, a democratic outcome prevailed in a new vote and Yushchenko's victory—a very positive development for Ukraine's and Russia's democrats.

We were all moved by the horrific attack on the schoolchildren and families of Beslan school last September. There can be no justification for such brutal acts and we condemn them with every fiber of our soul. Our hearts and sympathy go out to the families of these victims as they continue to cope with the loss of their loved ones. The United States condemns terrorism in all forms. But the tragedy of the Beslan school should not be used by President Putin to retreat from democratic reforms. In the wake of the Beslan crisis, President Putin abolished the popular election of regional governors in favor of presidential appointees. These changes to the Russian political system enhance the power of the executive branch, while reducing the checks and balances that make democracies work. As former Secretary of State Colin Powell said, ''We understand the need to fight against terrorism . . . but in an attempt to go after terrorists I think one has to strike a proper balance to make sure that you don't move in a direction that takes you away from the democratic reforms or the democratic process.''

Allowing Russia to continue its involvement in the G8 and to host the 2006 G8 Summit while continuing to undermine democracy makes mockery of the very principles that bind the G8 countries together. This resolution is not anti-Russian; it is a strong show of support for Russia's democrats who have long urged the United States to not turn a blind eye to undemocratic developments in Russia. Sharing a deeply personal moment from his time in Soviet Gulag, Natan Sharansky recently told a group of Senators how deeply supported he felt when President Reagan gave his famous ''evil empire'' speech that honestly addressed the oppression of the Soviet system. Since then Russia has come a long way, but we must speak openly in the face of the backsliding we are seeing.

As Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice recently said, ''The real deepening of our relations can only take place on the basis of common values.'' To do otherwise would be to shirk our responsibilities as a leader of the democratic world. And as President Bush said so eloquently in his inaugural and State of the Union addresses, America's security is advanced by the advancement of freedom. This resolution puts those sentiments into concrete action and I urge my fellow Senators to support it.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2005

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. Each Congress, Senator KENNEDY and I introduce hate crimes legislation that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society. Likewise, each Congress I have come to the floor to highlight a separate hate crime that has occurred in our country.

In December of 2004, a gay man was attacked outside of his Kansas City home by two unknown assailants. Floyd Elliot reported to authorities that two men held him down, cut him with a knife, and used the knife to burn letters into his skin. It looks as if the assailants were attempting to ''brand'' a homosexual slur onto the victim's chest. The attack is being investigated as a hate crime.

I believe that the Government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act is a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO HARRY T. CORBETT

• Mr. BOND. Mr. President, today I would like to commend Mr. Harry T. Corbett, Postmaster of the Wentzville Post Office, for his 38-year tenure with the United States Postal Service. Mr. Corbett will retire from the U.S. Postal Service on March 3, 2005. Mr. Corbett began his career with the Postal Service in March of 1967 as a substitute city carrier for the Saint Ann, Missouri Post Office. In 1980, he was named Postmaster of the Wentzville Post Office.

In the 38 years between being a substitute city carrier and Postmaster, Mr. Corbett held several positions within the postal system. In 1968, he

became a full-time city carrier and was later promoted to the position of Window Distribution Clerk in Saint Ann, Missouri. Three years later, he was reassigned to the Florissant post office as a substitute carrier, then to full-time carrier and then to Distribution Clerk Letter Sorting Machines. In 1974, Mr. Corbett was reassigned to the Saint Louis Mail Processing Plant as a Mail Sorting Machine Clerk. Mr. Corbett obtained his first position of leadership when he was promoted to Foreman Mails EAS Level 15 in December of 1974. Three years later, he was promoted to Supervisor Mails Multi-Position LSM EAS 16. The following year he was promoted to General Foreman Mails EAS 17. Mr. Corbett became Postmaster EAS 18 of the Wentzville, Missouri, Post Office on June 14, 1980. In March 1988, he reached EAS 20 level.

Mr. Corbett is involved in several area organizations and charitable causes, such as the National Association of Postmasters of the United States, the Wentzville Rotary Club, and the Wentzville Chamber of Commerce. He is a member of St. Patrick Church and sits of the Developmental Disability Resource Board of St. Charles County. In addition, he is actively involved in the Crossroads Regional Medical Center Charitable Foundation.

Mr. Corbett has been married to Nancy K. Scott Corbett for 32 years and he has two sons, Bret and Jeff Corbett. Bret is married to Courtney Carrothers Corbett. Mr. Corbett has been blessed with four grandchildren: Mackenzie, Abigail, Emma, and Kaiya. Following his retirement from the United States Postal Service, Mr. Corbett looks forward to golfing, fishing, camping, and traveling. He also plans to spend quality time with his family.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC–1084. A communication from the Chairman, Federal Election Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Implementation of the Government in the Sunshine Act Calendar Year 2004'' received on February 16, 2005; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

EC–1085. A communication from the Chair, U.S. Election Assistance Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Annual Report to Congress for Fiscal Year 2004'' received on February 17, 2005; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

EC–1086. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Report on DoD Actions to Support Voting Assistance to Armed Forces Outside the U.S.'' received on February 14, 2005; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–1087. A communication from the Publications Control Officer, Department of the Army, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Law Enforcement Reporting'' (RIN0702–AA42–U) received on February 16, 2005; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–1088. A communication from the Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Tax Procedures for Overseas Contracts'' (DFARS Case 2003–D031) received on February 17, 2005; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–1089. A communication from the Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Small Business Competitiveness Demonstration Program'' (DFARS Case 2003–D063) received on February 17, 2005; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–1090. A communication from the Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''PAN Carbon Fiber—Restriction to Domestic Sources'' (DFARS Case 2004–D002) received on February 17, 2005; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–1091. A communication from the Acting Secretary of Defense, transmitting, the report of a retirement; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–1092. A communication from the Chairman, Board of Governors, Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, its semiannual report entitled ''Monetary Policy Report'' received on February 16, 2005; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–1093. A communication from the Deputy Secretary, Division of Corporation Finance, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled, ''XBRL Voluntary Financial Reporting Program on the EDGAR System'' (RIN3235–AJ32) received on February 17, 2005; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–1094. A communication from the Inspector General, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''FY 2006 Budget Justification''; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–1095. A communication from the Board Members, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Justification of Budget Estimates for Fiscal Year 2006'' ; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–1096. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives: Raytheon Aircraft Company 90, 99, 100, 200, and 300 Airplanes'' ((2120–AA64 (2005–0100)) received on February 17, 2005; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1097. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives: Airbus Model A320 Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64 (2005–0102)) received on February 17, 2005; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1098. A communication from the Regulatory Officer, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Title VI Regulations for FMCSA Financial Assistance Recipients'' (RIN2126–AA79) received on February 17, 2005; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1099. A communication from the Acting Director, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Closure of Central GOA Inshore Pacific Cod'' received on February 17, 2005; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1100. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 15–751, ''Electronic Recording Procedures Act of 2004''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–1101. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 15–770, ''Technical Amendments Act of 2005''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–1102. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 15–742, ''Public School Enrollment Integrity Clarification and Board of Education Honoraria Amendment Act of 2004''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–1103. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 15–757, ''First Amendment Rights and Police Standards''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–1104. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 15–745, ''School Safety and Security Contracting Procedures Act of 2004''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–1105. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 15–743, ''Notice Requirement for Publicly Funded Building Projects Amendment Act of 2004''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–1106. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 15–759, ''Child and Youth, Safety and Health Omnibus Amendment Act of 2004''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–1107. A communication from the Comptroller General of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Government Accountability Office's, ''Performance and Accountability Highlights'' for fiscal year 2004; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–1108. A communication from the Director of Congressional Relations, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's

annual statement, received on February 8, 2005; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–1109. A communication from the Secretary, Smithsonian Institution, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Institute's report on competitive sourcing and competitions for fiscal years 2003 and 2004, received on January 25, 2005; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–1110. A communication from the President, James Madison Memorial Fellowship Foundation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Foundation's consolidated annual report, received on January 25, 2005; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–1111. A communication from the Executive Associate Director, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report on competitive sourcing efforts for fiscal year 2004, received on February 7, 2005; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–1112. A communication from the Office of the Director, National Gallery of Art, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report on competitive sourcing methods for fiscal year 2004, received on February 7, 2005; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–1113. A communication from the Deputy Director, Office of Administration and Information Management, Office of Government Ethics, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a change concerning a vacancy, received February 7, 2005; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–1114. A communication from the Deputy Director for Administration and Information Management, Office of Government Ethics, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report for competitions completed or initiated in fiscal year 2004, received on February 7, 2005; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–1115. A communication from the Chairman, United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Annual Report of the Administration of the Government in the Sunshine Act for Calendar Year 2004, received on February 7, 2004; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–1116. A communication from the Under Secretary for Management, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's annual Report to Congress on Fiscal Year 2004 Competitive Sourcing Efforts, received on February 7, 2005; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–1117. A communication from the Administrator, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the Administration's competitive sourcing initiative, received on February 8, 2005; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–1118. A message from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a notice stating that the emergency declared with respect to the Government of Cuba on February 24, 1996, as amended and expanded on February 26, 2004, is to continue in effect beyond March 1, 2005; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–1119. A communication from the Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Office of Public and Indian Housing, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Extension of Minimum Funding Under the Indian Housing Block Grant Program'' ((RIN2577–AC43) (FR–4825–I–03)) received February 28, 2005; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–1120. A communication from the Acting Chief Counsel, Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''31 CFR part 515, Cuban Assets Control Regulations'' received on February 28, 2005.

EC–1121. A communication from the President and Chairman, Export-Import Bank of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a transaction involving U.S. exports to Austria; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–1122. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Periodic Report on the National Emergency With Respect to Zimbabwe'' received on February 28, 2005; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–1123. A communication from the Deputy Director of Budget, Office of the Budget, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Payment in Lieu of Taxes'' (RIN1093–AA09) received on February 28, 2005; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of February 17, 2005, the following reports of committees were submitted on February 23, 2005:

By Mr. DOMENICI, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, without amendment:

S. 47. A bill to provide for the exchange of certain Federal land in the Santa Fe National Forest and certain non-Federal land in the Pecos National Historical Park in the State of New Mexico (Rept. No. 109–7).

S. 74. A bill to designate a portion of the White Salmon River as a component of the National Wilds and Scenic Rivers System (Rept. No. 109–8),

S. 153. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a resource study of the Rim of the Valley Corridor in the State of California to evaluate alternatives for protecting the resources of the Corridor, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 109–9).

S. 212. A bill to amend the Valles Caldera Preservation Act to improve the preservation of the Valles Caldera, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 109–10).

By Mr. DOMENICI, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and an amendment to the title:

S. 225. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to undertake a program to reduce the risks from and mitigate the effects of avalanches on recreational users of public land (Rept. No. 109–11).

By Mr. DOMENICI, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, without amendment:

S. 254. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain land to Lander County, Nevada, and the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain land to Eureka County, Nevada, for continued use as cemeteries (Rept. No. 109–12).

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. DOMENICI, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with amendments:

S. 156. A bill to designate the Ojito Wilderness Study Area as wilderness, to take certain land into trust for the Pueblo of Zia, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 109–13).

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

Report to accompany S. 5, a bill to amend the procedures that apply to consideration of interstate class actions to assure fairer outcomes for class members and defendants, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 109–14).

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 Mr. AKAKA (for himself, Mr. SARBANES, and Mr. CORZINE):

S. 468. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to enhance literacy in finance and economics, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER (for himself, Mr. LOTT, Mr. ROBERTS, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. BAYH, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. CORZINE, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BOND, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. HAGEL, and Mr. HATCH):

S. 469. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross income the gain from the sale of a principal residence by certain employees of the intelligence community; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. DODD (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. JOHNSON, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 470. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to expand the clinical trials drug data bank; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SPECTER (for himself, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. HATCH, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. SMITH, and Mr. KENNEDY):

S. 471. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for human embryonic stem cell research; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. LEAHY:

S. 472. A bill to criminalize Internet scams involving fraudulently obtaining personal information, commonly known as phishing; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. CANTWELL (for herself, Mr. BINGAMAN, and Mr. LIEBERMAN):

S. 473. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to promote and improve the allied health professions; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SMITH:

S. 474. A bill to establish the Mark O. Hatfield-Elizabeth Furse Scholarship and Excellence in Tribal Governance Foundation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

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

S. 475. A bill to amend the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 and other Acts to improve housing for Indians; to the Committee on Indian 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. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. ALLARD, Mr.

BROWNBACK, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. BURNS, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. COLEMAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. DEMINT, Mrs. DOLE, Mr. ENZI, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GREGG, Mr. HATCH, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. MCCAIN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SMITH, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. TALENT, Mr. THOMAS, Mr. THUNE, Mr. VITTER, Mr. WARNER, Mr. BAUCUS, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. CARPER, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. INOUYE, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KOHL, Mr. LEAHY, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. STABENOW, and Mr. JEFFORDS):

S. Res. 67. A resolution designating the second week of March 2005 as ''Extension Living Well Week''; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. REED, and Mr. KENNEDY):

S. Res. 68. A resolution designating March 2, 2005, as ''Read Across America Day''; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 8

At the request of Mr. ENSIGN, the names of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. COLEMAN) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. SMITH) were added as cosponsors of S. 8, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit taking minors across State lines in circumvention of laws requiring the involvement of parents in abortion decisions.

S. 13

At the request of Mrs. CLINTON, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 13, a bill to amend titles 10 and 38, United States Code, to expand and enhance health care, mental health, transition, and disability benefits for veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 65

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 65, a bill to amend the age restrictions for pilots.

S. 84

At the request of Mr. INOUYE, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. AKAKA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 84, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt certain sightseeing flights from taxes on air transportation.

S. 103

At the request of Mr. TALENT, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 103, a bill to respond to the illegal production, distribution, and use of methamphetamine in the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 132

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG), the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) and the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 132, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a deduction for premiums on mortgage insurance.

S. 168

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 168, a bill to reauthorize additional contract authority for States with Indian reservations.

S. 169

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. BROWNBACK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 169, a bill to amend the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 to identify a route that passes through the States of Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Kansas as a high priority corridor on the National Highway System.

S. 191

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 191, a bill to extend certain trade preferences to certain least-developed countries, and for other purposes.

S. 285

At the request of Mr. BOND, the names of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) were added as cosponsors of S. 285, a bill to reauthorize the Children's Hospitals Graduate Medical Education Program.

S. 311

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 311, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to permit States the option to provide medicaid coverage for low-income individuals infected with HIV.

S. 313

At the request of Mr. LUGAR, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. LOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 313, a bill to improve authorities to address urgent nonproliferation crises and United States nonproliferation operations.

S. 329

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. DAYTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 329, a bill to amend title 11, United States Code, to increase the amount of unsecured claims for salaries and wages given priority in bankruptcy, to provide for cash payments to retirees to compensate for lost health insurance benefits resulting from the bankruptcy of their former employer, and for other purposes.

S. 333

At the request of Mr. SANTORUM, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 333, a bill to hold the current regime in Iran accountable for its threatening behavior and to support a transition to democracy in Iran.

S. 337

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) were added as cosponsors of S. 337, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to revise the age and service requirements for eligibility to receive retired pay for non-regular service, to expand certain authorities to provide health care benefits for Reserves and their families, and for other purposes.

S. 357

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 357, a bill to expand and enhance postbaccalaureate opportunities at Hispanic-serving institutions, and for other purposes.

S. 368

At the request of Mr. LAUTENBERG, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. CHAFEE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 368, a bill to provide assistance to reduce teen pregnancy, HIV/AIDS, and other sexually transmitted diseases and to support healthy adolescent development.

S. 370

At the request of Mr. LOTT, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. BROWNBACK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 370, a bill to preserve and protect the free choice of individual employees to form, join, or assist labor organizations, or to refrain from such activities.

S. 380

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 380, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish a State family support grant program to end the practice of parents giving legal custody of their seriously emotionally disturbed children to State agencies for the purpose of obtaining mental health services for those children.

S. 382

At the request of Mr. ENSIGN, the names of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) were added as cosponsors of S. 382, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to strengthen prohibitions against animal fighting, and for other purposes.

S. 403

At the request of Mr. ENSIGN, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. DEWINE), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. LOTT), the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. COLEMAN) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. SMITH) were added as cosponsors of S. 403, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit taking minors across State lines in circumvention of laws requiring the involvement of parents in abortion decisions.

S. 407

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr.

MCCAIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 407, a bill to restore health care coverage to retired members of the uniformed services, and for other purposes.

S. 424

At the request of Mr. BOND, the names of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) and the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) were added as cosponsors of S. 424, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for arthritis research and public health, and for other purposes.

S. 427

At the request of Mr. JEFFORDS, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 427, a bill to amend the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 to provide for a Federal renewable portfolio standard.

S. 438

At the request of Mr. ENSIGN, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) and the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) were added as cosponsors of S. 438, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to repeal the medicare outpatient rehabilitation therapy caps.

S.J. RES. 4

At the request of Mr. CONRAD, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 4, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval of the rule submitted by the Department of Agriculture under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, relating to risk zones for introduction of bovine spongiform encephalopathy.

S. RES. 39

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 39, a resolution apologizing to the victims of lynching and the descendants of those victims for the failure of the Senate to enact anti-lynching legislation.

S. RES. 55

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 55, a resolution recognizing the contributions of the late Zhao Ziyang to the people of China.

S. RES. 59

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. DOLE) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 59, a resolution urging the European Union to maintain its arms export embargo on the People's Republic of China.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. AKAKA (for himself, Mr. SARBANES, and Mr. CORZINE):

S. 468. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to enhance the literacy in finance and economics, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I rise to reintroduce comprehensive legislation aimed at addressing the issue of economic and financial illiteracy on college campuses. I am referring to the worrisome problems of skyrocketing debt levels, low rates of saving, and the proliferation of unchecked predatory practices by unscrupulous financial institutions among young adults who hold our country's future in their hands. Entitled the College LIFE or College Literacy In Finance and Economics Act, this bill has the support of Senators SARBANES and CORZINE. I thank my colleagues from Maryland and New Jersey for joining me as original cosponsors of this measure. I also thank Senator ENZI, the Chairman of the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, for working with me on financial literacy as it affects all constituencies, including college students.

The problem we are working to address with the College LIFE Act is simple. Our college students are many of America's best and the brightest and will go on to become leaders—in business, education, politics, the military, the community—any area you can name. I find it wonderful that many young people are fulfilling their dreams of higher education in numbers that I did not imagine when I was in college. In fact, as reported by the Census Bureau, college enrollment was estimated at 15.9 million for the current school year, compared to 5.7 million in 1965 when the Higher Education Act was enacted. However, I am gravely concerned, both as a member of this body and particularly as a grandparent and great-grandparent, that our young people are entering college without proper direction or good skills for money management or economic decisionmaking.

As we work on increasing access to higher education, we must give students access to tools needed to make sound economic and financial decisions once they are on campus; however, the lack of personal finance and economics standards or implementation of existing standards in elementary and secondary education in a number of States results in many students arriving at college with little understanding of economic concepts like supply and demand or benefits versus costs, or personal finance concepts such as household money management or the importance of maintaining good credit history. Without this basic understanding, college students are not effectively evaluating credit alternatives, managing their debt, and preparing for long-term financial goals, such as saving for a home or retirement.

Imagine life from the point of view of a college student. A young adult leaves his home and travels many miles—thousands of miles in the case of Hawaii students attending mainland colleges—to the campus that holds his hopes and dreams. Perhaps he is not being mindful of how much money he needs for textbooks, school supplies, or student fees. He visits the campus bookstore and walks out with a bag that includes a preapproved credit card application, which he immediately completes and sends. Months later, he has joined other credit card-holding college students who, on average, have credit card balances above $3,000. Sophomore year rolls around and, instead of conferring with his parents about the details of his renewal FAFSA for student financial aid or master promissory note, he is saddled with another $20,000 loan. According to the Census Bureau, average college tuition, room, and board have increased to $29,119 for a four-year private institution and to $9,953 for a four-year public institution. The same scenario repeats itself in junior and senior year. Finally, after completing all coursework, he graduates, finds an entry-level job, and realizes that, after servicing his debt, he has little left to spend on basics such as food, transportation, and rent, much less career clothing or a new briefcase. His lack of knowledge about how to properly use credit has led him to anxiety-causing financial missteps. With appropriate financial and economic literacy, he may have known what debt load to anticipate and made wiser financing and spending decisions while in school.

Instead, she may be on the road to true financial trouble. A U.S. Public Interest Research Group and Consumer Federation of America analysis of Federal Reserve data indicates that the average household with debt carries approximately $10,000 to $12,000 in total revolving debt and has nine credit cards. From January through September of 2004, approximately 1.2 million consumers filed for bankruptcy, keeping pace with last year's record level, which is almost half of the number of college diplomas expected to be conferred this year at 2.5 million. Furthermore, the Federal Reserve Board reports that Americans currently pay more than 13 percent of after-tax income to service their debts. We must ensure that our youth make the right decisions to follow a better financial path. This is especially in light of a report cited by Dan Iannicola, Jr., Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Financial Education, at a House hearing last Congress, noting that youths spent more than $172 billion in a recent year, and figures from MarketResearch.com noting that typical 8- to 14-year-olds spend—from allowances, jobs, and gifts—nearly $1,300 a year or $25 a week.

The College LIFE Act represents a comprehensive approach to assist upcoming generations of Americans. It proposes four new grant programs that provide resources to encourage experimentation with delivery systems—innovative methods used in or out of the classroom to increase college students'

financial literacy. Another grant would allow higher education institutions to share best practices about or create personal finance courses where none exist. A third grant would assist efforts that are looking at the best ways to integrate personal finance and economic education into basic educational subjects, which is especially important as schools are facing challenges under the No Child Left Behind Act and are tempted to focus on subjects being tested for Adequate Yearly Progress. The final grant would train teachers and high school counselors toward increasing financial and economic literacy in grades K–12 so that our college students are prepared when they arrive at college campuses.

The bill also proposes a pilot program for five higher education institutions to encourage students to take a personal finance course and participate in preventive annual credit counseling, working in conjunction with State or local public, private, and nonprofit entities selected by the local education agency or the school, and measuring the effectiveness of efforts in any behavioral changes that may result. It promotes greater collaboration with and support from Federal agencies in the form of the Financial Literacy and Education Commission. Finally, the measure emphasizes the importance of personal finance and economic education and counseling by authorizing these activities as allowable uses in existing Higher Education Act programs, such as TRIO, GEAR UP, and Title III and Title V Serving Institutions.

Furthermore, I intend the reach of this bill to be beyond the traditional college student. Our returning college students are a vital part of society—many who are already community leaders and breadwinners for their families who have already gained valuable work experience that they may use as they learn a new field or continue their undergraduate study in the pursuit of a graduate or doctoral degree. In addition, older adults who are entering higher education for the first time can also be lauded for their enterprising spirit in wanting to better their lives by earning an associates or bachelors degree. I anticipate that the assistance provided through the College LIFE Act will work to provided needed help to many of these students as well.

I am looking forward to continuing to work with my colleagues to have the College LIFE Act passed or included in the upcoming Higher Education Act reauthorization. I encourage my colleagues' support for this bill.

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER (for himself, Mr. LOTT, Mr. ROBERTS, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. BAYH, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. CORZINE, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BOND, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. HAGEL, and Mr. HATCH):

S. 469. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross income the gain from the sale of a principal residence by certain employees of the intelligence community; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, today I am introducing legislation to extend an important tax benefit to the men and women of the United States Intelligence Community. I am pleased that in keeping with the bipartisan traditions of the Intelligence Committee, every member, Republican and Democrat, is listed as an original cosponsor.

Two years ago, on Veterans Day, President Bush signed into law an important modification to our tax code to ensure that it does not punish those who serve our country in the military and in the U.S. foreign service. Unfortunately, that legislation did not extend to intelligence officers, who serve alongside their military and diplomatic colleagues all around the world and who often face the same tax issues encountered by those individuals. The legislation I am introducing today makes a common sense modification to the capital gains tax exclusion rules to ensure that when selling their homes, intelligence officers do not pay more tax than they would if they did not serve their country.

The men and women of the Intelligence Community, serve with the military in Iraq, Afghanistan, Korea, and numerous other locations where we have U.S. forces deployed. They also serve in U.S. Embassies around the world. Often times they carry an added burden because they must serve undercover. Their families and friends don't know what they do. They live their cover story by day and perform their critical intelligence work by night. They work for all fifteen of the agencies included in the intelligence community and they do a remarkable job. These people are dedicated to their mission and to this country.

These patriotic individuals sacrifice a great deal on behalf of the rest of us. They uproot and relocate their families every few years. They often live in places most of us wouldn't even visit. And they rarely have the quality of life with access to modern luxuries that the rest of us take for granted. To then say that they are going to be penalized by our tax code is unacceptable.

Since 1997, our tax code has allowed Americans to sell their homes without paying taxes on up to $250,000 of capital gains. Married couples can exclude $500,000 in capital gains from taxation. This provision is specifically intended only for principle residences, and therefore, sellers are required to have lived in the homes for at least 2 of the 5 years prior to sale.

In 2003, Congress recognized that this residency requirement was often difficult for members of the armed forces and foreign service to satisfy. If they had been stationed away from home while serving their country, they were essentially punished with higher taxes on the sales of their homes. Congress addressed this injustice by allowing service personnel and foreign service officers who were stationed away from home to suspend the residency requirement for as many as ten years. This change allows, for example, a soldier who spent the last 7 years stationed in Germany to exclude from taxes the capital gains on the sale of his former home in the U.S., as long as he had lived in it for at least 2 of the 5 years prior to his service overseas. The change is effective on all sales after 1997, when the capital gains tax exclusion for home sales was provided to all Americans.

Fairness demands that Congress apply the same rules to intelligence officers serving their country away from home. My legislation simply inserts intelligence officers into the list of those allowed to suspend the 5 year residency test period for up to 10 years while they are stationed away from home.

I intend to work with my colleagues on the Intelligence Committee and the Finance Committee to ensure that this provision is enacted this year.

By Mr. DODD (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. JOHNSON, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 470. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to expand the clinical trials drug data bank; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Fair Access to Clinical Trials, FACT, Act. I want to begin by thanking Senator GRASSLEY, Senator JOHNSON, and Senator WYDEN for joining me in introducing this legislation. Our bill will create an electronic databanks for clinical trials of drugs, biological products, and medical devices. Such a databank will ensure that physicians, researchers, the general public, and patients seeking to enroll in clinical trials have access to basic information about those trials. It will require manufacturers and other researchers to reveal the results of clinical trials so that clinically important information will be available to all Americans, and physicians will have all the necessary information to make appropriate treatment decisions for their patients.

Events of the past year have made it clear that such a databank is needed. First, serious questions were raised about the effectiveness and safety of antidepressants when used in children and youth. It has now become clear that the existing data indicates that these drugs may very well put children at risk. However, because the data from antidepressant clinical trials was not publicly available, it took years for this risk to be realized. In the meantime, millions of children have been prescribed antidepressants by well-meaning physicians. While these drugs undoubtedly helped many of these children, they also led to greater suffering for others. Recently, it has been suggested that the risk of antidepressants might even extend beyond children.

The news is similarly disturbing for a popular class of painkillers known as Cox–2 inhibitors. These medicines, taken by millions of Americans, have been associated with an increased risk of cardiovascular adverse events, such as heart attack and stroke. It has been suggested that one of these medicines, which has since been pulled from the market, may be responsible for tens of thousands of deaths.

Unfortunately, antidepressants and Cox–2 inhibitors are just two examples of a story that has become all too common. It has been suggested that negative data might actually have been suppressed; and if this is discovered to be the case, those responsible should be dealt with harshly. However, because of what is known as ''publication bias,'' the information available to the public and physicians can be misleading even without nefarious motives. The simple fact is that a study with a positive result is far more likely to be published, and thus publicly available, than a study with a negative result. Physicians and patients hear the good news, but rarely the bad news. In the end, the imbalance of available information hurts patients.

Our bill would correct the imbalance of information, and prevent manufacturers from suppressing negative data. It would do so by creating a two-part databank, consisting of an expansion of clinicaltrials.gov—an existing registry that is operated by the National Library of Medicine, NLM—and a new database for clinical trial results.

Under the FACT Act, the registry would continue to operate as a resource for patients seeking to enroll in clinical trials for drugs and biological products intended to treat serious or life-threatening conditions—and for the first time, it would also include medical device trials. The new results database would include all trials, except for preliminary safety trials, and would require the submission of results data.

Our legislation would enforce the requirement to submit information to the databank in two ways. First, by requiring registration as a condition of Institutional Review Board, IRB, approval, no trial could begin without submitting preliminary information to the registry and database. This information would include the purpose of the trial, the estimated date of trial completion, as well as all of the information necessary to help patients to enroll in the trial.

Once the trial is completed, the researcher or manufacturer would be required to submit the results to the database. If they refuse to do so, they would be subject to monetary penalties or, in the case of federally funded research, a restriction on future funding. It is my belief that these enforcement mechanisms will ensure broad compliance. However, in the rare case where a manufacturer does not comply, this legislation also gives the Food and Drug Administration, FDA, the authority to publicize the required information.

Let me also say that any time you are collecting large amounts of data and making it public, protecting patient privacy and confidentiality must be paramount. Our legislation would in no way threaten that privacy. The simple fact is that under this bill, no individually identifiable information would be available to the public.

I believe that the establishment of a clinical trials databank is absolutely necessary for the health and well-being of the American public. But I would also like to highlight two other benefits that such a databank will have. First, it has the potential to reduce health care costs. Studies have shown that publication bias also leads to a bias toward new and more expensive treatment options. A databank could help make it clear that, in some cases, less expensive treatments are just as effective for patients.

In addition, a databank will ensure that the sacrifice made by patients who enroll in clinical trials is not squandered. Many patients would be less willing to participate in trials if they understood that the data are unlikely to be made public if the results of the trial are negative. We owe it to patients to make sure that their participation in a trial will benefit other individuals suffering from the same illness or condition.

The problems associated with publication bias have recently drawn more attention from the medical community, and there is broad consensus that a clinical trials registry is one of the best ways to address the issue. Accordingly, the American Medical Association, AMA, has recommended the creation of such a databank, and the major medical journals have established a policy that they will only publish the results of trials that were registered in a public database before the trial began. Our legislation meets all of the minimum criteria for a trial registry set out by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors.

To its credit, the pharmaceutical industry has also acknowledged the problem, and has created a database to which manufacturers can voluntarily submit clinical trials data. I applaud this step. However, if our objective is to provide the public with a complete and consistent supply of information, a voluntary database is unlikely to achieve that goal. Some companies will provide information, but others may decide not to participate. We need a clinical trials framework that is not just fair to all companies, but provides patients with peace of mind that they will receive complete information about the medicines they rely on.

The American drug industry is an extraordinary success story. As a result of the innovations that this industry has spawned, millions of lives have been improved and saved in our country and around the globe. Because of the importance of these medicines to our health and well-being, I have consistently supported sound public policies to help the industry to succeed. This legislation aims to build upon the successes of this industry, and help ensure that the positive changes to our health care system that prescription drugs have brought are not undermined by controversies such as the ones now surrounding antidepressants and Cox-2 inhibitors, which are at least in part based on a lack of public information. This bill will help ensure that well-informed patients will use new and innovative medicines.

I look forward to working with industry, physicians, the medical journals, patient groups, and my colleagues—including the Chairman and the Ranking Member of the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, Senator ENZI and Senator KENNEDY—to move this legislation forward. This bill has already been endorsed by the National Organization for Rare Disorders, Consumers Union, the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation, the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, the American Psychiatric Association, the New England Journal of Medicine, and the National Women's Health Network. I thank these organizations for lending their expertise as we crafted this legislation.

The creation of a clinical trials databank is a critical step toward ensuring the safety of drugs, biological products, and devices in this country—but it should not be the end of our efforts. I believe that other steps are necessary to fully restore patient confidence in the safety of the medicines they rely on. I have already announced my intention to introduce another piece of legislation that will create an Office of Patient Protection within the FDA, which will be responsible for ensuring the safety of prescription drugs once they are on the market. I look forward to introducing this bill in the coming weeks.

Clinical trials are critical to protecting the safety and health of the American public, and for this reason, trial results must not be treated as information that can be hidden from scrutiny. Recent events have made it clear that a clinical trials databank is needed. Patients and physicians agree that such a databank is in the interest of the public health. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I am hopeful that it will become law as soon as possible.

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. 470

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 ''Fair Access to Clinical Trials Act of 2005'' or the ''FACT Act''.

SEC. 2. PURPOSE.

It is the purpose of this Act—

(1) to create a publicly accessible national data bank of clinical trial information comprised of a clinical trial registry and a clinical trial results database;

(2) to foster transparency and accountability in health-related intervention research and development;

(3) to maintain a clinical trial registry accessible to patients and health care practitioners seeking information related to ongoing clinical trials for serious or life-threatening diseases and conditions; and

(4) to establish a clinical trials results database of all publicly and privately funded clinical trial results regardless of outcome, that is accessible to the scientific community, health care practitioners, and members of the public.

SEC. 3. CLINICAL TRIALS DATA BANK.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 402(j) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 282(j)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)(A), by striking ''for drugs for serious or life-threatening diseases and conditions'';

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking ''available to individuals with serious'' and all that follows through the period and inserting ''accessible to patients, other members of the public, health care practitioners, researchers and the scientific community. In making information about clinical trials publicly available, the Secretary shall seek to be as timely and transparent as possible.'';

(3) by redesignating paragraphs (4) and (5), as paragraphs (8) and (9), respectively;

(4) by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the following:

''(3) The data bank shall include the following:

''(A)(i) A registry of clinical trials (in this subparagraph referred to as the 'registry') of health-related interventions (whether federally or privately funded).

''(ii) The registry shall include information for all clinical trials conducted to test the safety or effectiveness (including comparative effectiveness) of any drug, biological product, or device (including those drugs, biological products, or devices approved or cleared by the Secretary) intended to treat serious or life-threatening diseases and conditions, except those Phase I clinical trials conducted to test solely the safety of an unapproved drug or unlicensed biological product, or pilot or feasibility studies conducted to confirm the design and operating specifications of an unapproved or not yet cleared medical device. For purposes of this section, Phase I clinical trials are trials described in section 313.12(a) of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulations).

''(iii) The registry may include information for—

''(I) Phase I clinical trials conducted to test solely the safety of an unapproved drug or unlicensed biological product, or pilot or feasibility studies conducted to confirm the design and operating specifications of an unapproved or not yet cleared medical device with the consent of the responsible person; and

''(II) clinical trials of other health-related interventions with the consent of the responsible person.

''(iv) The information to be included in the registry under this subparagraph shall include the following:

''(I) Descriptive information, including a brief title, trial description in lay terminology, trial phase, trial type, trial purpose, description of the primary and secondary clinical outcome measures to be examined in the trial, the time at which the outcome measures will be assessed, and the dates and details of any revisions to such outcomes.

''(II) Recruitment information, including eligibility and exclusion criteria, a description of whether, and through what procedure, the manufacturer or sponsor of the investigation of a new drug will respond to requests for protocol exception, with appropriate safeguards, for single-patient and expanded protocol use of the new drug, particularly in children, a statement as to whether the trial is closed to enrollment of new patients, overall trial status, individual site status, and estimated completion date. For purposes of this section the term 'completion date' means the date of the last visit by subjects in the trial for the outcomes described in subclause (I).

''(III) Location and contact information, including the identity of the responsible person.

''(IV) Administrative data, including the study sponsor and the study funding source.

''(V) Information pertaining to experimental treatments for serious or life threatening diseases and conditions (whether federally or privately funded) that may be available—

''(aa) under a treatment investigational new drug application that has been submitted to the Secretary under section 360bbb(c) of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations; or

''(bb) as a Group C cancer drug (as defined by the National Cancer Institute).

''(B)(i) A clinical trials results database (in this subparagraph referred to as the 'database') of health-related interventions (whether federally or privately funded).

''(ii) The database shall include information for all clinical trials conducted to test the safety or effectiveness (including comparative effectiveness) of any drug, biological product, or device (including those drugs, biological products, or devices approved or cleared by the Secretary), except those Phase I clinical trials conducted to test solely the safety of an unapproved drug or unlicensed biological product, or pilot or feasibility studies conducted to confirm the design and operating specifications of an unapproved or not yet cleared medical device.

''(iii) The database may include information for—

''(I) Phase I clinical trials conducted to test solely the safety of an unapproved drug or unlicensed biological product, or pilot or feasibility studies conducted to confirm the design and operating specifications of an unapproved or not yet cleared medical device with the consent of the responsible person; and

''(II) clinical trials of other health-related interventions with the consent of the responsible person.

''(iv) The information to be included in the database under this subparagraph shall include the following:

''(I) Descriptive information, including—

''(aa) a brief title;

''(bb) the drug, biological product or device to be tested;

''(cc) a trial description in lay terminology;

''(dd) the trial phase;

''(ee) the trial type;

''(gg) the trial purpose;

''(hh) the estimated completion date for the trial; and

''(ii) the study sponsor and the study funding source.

''(II) A description of the primary and secondary clinical outcome measures to be examined in the trial, the time at which the outcome measures will be assessed, and the dates and details of any revisions to such outcomes.

''(III) The actual completion date of the trial and the reasons for any difference from such actual date and the estimated completion date submitted pursuant to subclause (I)(hh). If the trial is not completed, the termination date and reasons for such termination.

''(IV) A summary of the results of the trial in a standard, non-promotional summary format (such as ICHE3 template form), including the trial design and methodology, results of the primary and secondary outcome measures as described in subclause (II), summary data tables with respect to the primary and secondary outcome measures, including information on the statistical significance or lack thereof of such results.

''(V) Safety data concerning the trial (including a summary of all adverse events specifying the number and type of such events, data on prespecified adverse events, data on serious adverse events, and data on overall deaths).

''(VI) Any publications in peer reviewed journals relating to the trial. If the trial results are published in a peer reviewed journal, the database shall include a citation to and, when available, a link to the journal article.

''(VII) A description of the process used to review the results of the trial, including a statement about whether the results have been peer reviewed by reviewers independent of the trial sponsor.

''(VIII) If the trial addresses the safety, effectiveness, or benefit of a use not described in the approved labeling for the drug, biological product, or device, a statement, as appropriate, displayed prominently at the beginning of the data in the registry with respect to the trial, that the Food and Drug Administration—

''(aa) is currently reviewing an application for approval of such use to determine whether the use is safe and effective;

''(bb) has disapproved an application for approval of such use;

''(cc) has reviewed an application for approval of such use but the application was withdrawn prior to approval or disapproval; or

''(dd) has not reviewed or approved such use as safe and effective.

''(IX) If data from the trial has not been submitted to the Food and Drug Administration, an explanation of why it has not been submitted.

''(X) A description of the protocol used in such trial to the extent necessary to evaluate the results of such trial.

''(4)(A) Not later than 90 days after the date of the completion of the review by the Food and Drug Administration of information submitted by a sponsor in support of a new drug application, or a supplemental new drug application, whether or not approved by the Food and Drug Administration, the Commissioner of Food and Drugs shall make available to the public the full reviews conducted by the Administration of such application.

''(B) Not later than 90 days after the date of the completion of a written consultation on a drug concerning the drug's safety conducted by the Office of Drug Safety, regardless of whether initiated by such Office or outside of the Office, the Commissioner of Food and Drugs shall make available to the public a copy of such consultation in full.

''(C) Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to alter or amend section 301(j) or section 1905 of title 18, United States Code.

''(D) This paragraph shall supersede section 552 of title 5, United States Code.

''(5) The information described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (3) shall be in a format that can be readily accessed and understood by members of the general public, including patients seeking to enroll as subjects in clinical trials.

''(6) The Secretary shall assign each clinical trial a unique identifier to be included

in the registry and in the database described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (3). To the extent practicable, this identifier shall be consistent with other internationally recognized and used identifiers.

''(7) To the extent practicable, the Secretary shall ensure that where the same information is required for the registry and the database described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (3), a process exists to allow the responsible person to make only one submission.''; and

(5) by adding at the end the following:

''(10) In this section, the term 'clinical trial' with respect to the registry and the database described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (3) means a research study in human volunteers to answer specific health questions, including treatment trials, prevention trials, diagnostic trials, screening trials, and quality of life trials.''.

(b) ACTIONS OF SECRETARY REGARDING CLINICAL TRIALS.—Section 402 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 282) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (k) and (l) as subsections (q) and (r), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subsection (j), the following:

''(k) FEDERALLY SUPPORTED TRIALS.—

''(1) ALL FEDERALLY SUPPORTED TRIALS.—With respect to any clinical trial described in subsection (j)(3)(B) that is supported solely by a grant, contract, or cooperative agreement awarded by the Secretary, the principal investigator of such trial shall, not later than the date specified in paragraph (2), submit to the Secretary—

''(A) the information described in subclauses (II) through (X) of subsection (j)(3)(B)(iv), and with respect to clinical trials in progress on the date of enactment of the FACT Act, the information described in subclause (I) of subsection (j)(3)(B)(iv); or

''(B) a statement containing information sufficient to demonstrate to the Secretary that the information described in subparagraph (A) cannot reasonably be submitted, along with an estimated date of submission of the information described in such subparagraph.

''(2) DATE SPECIFIED.—The date specified in this paragraph shall be the date that is 1 year from the earlier of—

''(A) the estimated completion date of the trial, as submitted under subsection (j)(3)(B)(vi)(I)(hh); or

''(B) the actual date of the completion or termination of the trial.

''(3) CONDITION OF FEDERAL GRANTS, CONTRACTS, AND COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—

''(A) CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE.—To be eligible to receive a grant, contract, or cooperative agreement from the Secretary for the conduct or support of a clinical trial described in subsection (j)(3)(B), the principal investigator involved shall certify to the Secretary that—

''(i) such investigator shall submit data to the Secretary in accordance with this subsection; and

''(ii) such investigator has complied with the requirements of this subsection with respect to other clinical trials conducted by such investigator after the date of enactment of the FACT Act.

''(B) FAILURE TO SUBMIT CERTIFICATION.—An investigator that fails to submit a certification as required under subparagraph (A) shall not be eligible to receive a grant, contract, or cooperative agreement from the Secretary for the conduct or support of a clinical trial described in subsection (j)(3)(B).

''(C) FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH CERTIFICATION.—If, by the date specified in paragraph (2), the Secretary has not received the information or statement described in paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

''(i) transmit to the principal investigator involved a notice specifying the information or statement required to be submitted to the Secretary and stating that such investigator shall not be eligible to receive further funding from the Secretary if such information or statement is not submitted to the Secretary within 30 days of the date on which such notice is transmitted; and

''(ii) include and prominently display, until such time as the Secretary receives the information or statement described in paragraph (1), as part of the record of such trial in the database described in subsection (j), a notice stating that the results of such trials have not been reported as required by law.

''(D) FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH NOTICE.—If by the date that is 30 days after the date on which the notice described in subparagraph (C) is transmitted, the Secretary has not received from the principal investigator involved the information or statement required pursuant to such notice, the Secretary may not award a grant, contract, cooperative agreement, or any other award to such principal investigator until such principal investigator submits to the Secretary the information or statement required pursuant to such notice.

''(E) SUBMISSION OF STATEMENT BUT NOT INFORMATION.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—If by the date specified in paragraph (2), the Secretary has received a statement described in paragraph (1)(B) but not the information described in paragraph (1)(A), the Secretary shall transmit to the principal investigator involved a notice stating that such investigator shall submit such information by the date determined by the Secretary in consultation with such investigator.

''(ii) FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH CERTIFICATION.—If, by the date specified by the Secretary in the notice under clause (i), the Secretary has not received the information described in paragraph (1)(B), the Secretary shall—

''(I) transmit to the principal investigator involved a notice specifying the information required to be submitted to the Secretary and stating that such investigator shall not be eligible to receive further funding from the Secretary if such information is not submitted to the Secretary within 30 days of the date on which such notice is transmitted; and

''(II) include and prominently display, until such time as the Secretary receives the information described in paragraph (1)(B), as part of the record of such trial in the database described in subsection (j), a notice stating that the results of such trials have not been reported as required by law.

''(F) FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH NOTICE.—If by the date that is 30 days after the date on which the notice described in subparagraph (E)(ii)(I) is transmitted, the Secretary has not received from the principal investigator involved the information required pursuant to such notice, the Secretary may not award a grant, contract, cooperative agreement, or any other award to such principal investigator until such principal investigator submits to the Secretary the information required pursuant to such notice.

''(G) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—For purposes of this paragraph, limitations on the awarding of grants, contracts, cooperative agreements, or any other awards to principal investigators for violations of this paragraph shall not be construed to include any funding that supports the clinical trial involved.

''(4) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prevent an investigator other than the investigator described in paragraph (3)(F) from receiving an ongoing award, contract, or cooperative agreement.

''(5) INCLUSION IN REGISTRY.—

''(A) GENERAL RULE.—The Secretary shall, pursuant to subsection (j)(5), include—

''(i) the data described in subsection (j)(3)(A) and submitted under the amendments made by section 4(a) of the FACT Act in the registry described in subsection (j) as soon as practicable after receiving such data; and

''(ii) the data described in clause (I) of subsection (j)(3)(B)(iv) and submitted under this subsection or the amendments made by section 4(a) of the FACT Act in the database described in subsection (j) as soon as practicable after receiving such data.

''(B) OTHER DATA.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall, pursuant to subsection (j)(5), include the data described in subclauses (II) through (X) of subsection (j)(3)(B)(iv) and submitted under this section in the database described in subsection (j)—

''(I) as soon as practicable after receiving such data; or

''(II) in the case of data to which clause (ii) applies, by the date described in clause (iii).

''(ii) DATA DESCRIBED.—This clause applies to data described in clause (i) if—

''(I) the principal investigator involved requests a delay in the inclusion in the database of such data in order to have such data published in a peer reviewed journal; and

''(II) the Secretary determines that an attempt will be made to seek such publication.

''(iii) DATE FOR INCLUSION IN REGISTRY.—Subject to clause (iv), the date described in this clause is the earlier of—

''(I) the date on which the data involved is published as provided for in clause (ii); or

''(II) the date that is 18 months after the date on which such data is submitted to the Secretary.

''(iv) EXTENSION OF DATE.—The Secretary may extend the 18-month period described in clause (iii)(II) for an additional 6 months if the principal investigator demonstrates to the Secretary, prior to the expiration of such 18-month period, that the data involved has been accepted for publication by a journal described in clause (ii)(I).

''(v) MODIFICATION OF DATA.—Prior to including data in the database under clause (ii) or (iv), the Secretary shall permit the principal investigator to modify the data involved.

''(6) MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.—Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of the FACT Act, the Secretary shall seek a memorandum of understanding with the heads of all other Federal agencies that conduct clinical trials to include in the registry and the database clinical trials sponsored by such agencies that meet the requirements of this subsection.

''(7) APPLICATION TO CERTAIN PERSONS.—The provisions of this subsection shall apply to a responsible person described in subsections (p)(1)(A)(ii)(II) or (p)(1)(B)(i)(II).

''(l) TRIALS WITH NON-FEDERAL SUPPORT.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The responsible person for a clinical trial described in subsection (j)(3)(B) shall, not later than the date specified in paragraph (3), submit to the Secretary—

''(A) the information described in subclauses (II) through (X) of subsection (j)(3)(B)(iv), and with respect to clinical trials in progress on the date of enactment of the FACT Act, the information described in subclause (I) of subsection (j)(3)(B)(iv); or

''(B) a statement containing information sufficient to demonstrate to the Secretary that the information described in subparagraph (A) cannot reasonably be submitted, along with an estimated date of submission

of the information described in such subparagraph.

''(2) SANCTION IN CASE OF NONCOMPLIANCE.—

''(A) INITIAL NONCOMPLIANCE.—If by the date specified in paragraph (3), the Secretary has not received the information or statement required to be submitted to the Secretary under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

''(i) transmit to the responsible person for such trial a notice stating that such responsible person shall be liable for the civil monetary penalties described in subparagraph (B) if the required information or statement is not submitted to the Secretary within 30 days of the date on which such notice is transmitted; and

''(ii) include and prominently display, until such time as the Secretary receives the information described in paragraph (1), as part of the record of such trial in the database described in subsection (j), a notice stating that the results of such trials have not been reported as required by law.

''(B) CIVIL MONETARY PENALTIES FOR NONCOMPLIANCE.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—If by the date that is 30 days after the date on which a notice described in subparagraph (A) is transmitted, the Secretary has not received from the responsible person involved the information or statement required pursuant to such notice, the Secretary shall, after providing the opportunity for a hearing, order such responsible person to pay a civil penalty of $10,000 for each day after such date that the information or statement is not submitted.

''(ii) WAIVERS.—In any case in which a responsible person described in clause (i) is a nonprofit entity, the Secretary may waive or reduce the penalties applicable under such clause to such person.

''(C) SUBMISSION OF STATEMENT BUT NOT INFORMATION.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—If by the date specified in paragraph (3), the Secretary has received a statement described in paragraph (1)(B) but not the information described in paragraph (1)(A) the Secretary shall transmit to the responsible person involved a notice stating that such responsible person shall submit such information by the date determined by the Secretary in consultation with such responsible person.

''(ii) FAILURE TO COMPLY.—If, by the date specified by the Secretary in the notice under clause (i), the Secretary has not received the information described in paragraph (1)(A), the Secretary shall—

''(I) transmit to the responsible person involved a notice specifying the information required to be submitted to the Secretary and stating that such responsible person shall be liable for the civil monetary penalties described in subparagraph (D) if such information is not submitted to the Secretary within 30 days of the date on which such notice is transmitted; and

''(II) include and prominently display, until such time as the Secretary receives the information described in paragraph (1)(A), as part of the record of such trial in the database described in subsection (j), a notice stating that the results of such trials have not been reported as required by law.

''(D) NONCOMPLIANCE.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—If by the date that is 30 days after the date on which a notice described in subparagraph (C)(ii)(I) is transmitted, the Secretary has not received from the responsible person involved the information required pursuant to such notice, the Secretary, after providing the opportunity for a hearing, order such responsible person to pay a civil penalty of $10,000 for each day after such date that the information is not submitted.

''(ii) WAIVERS.—In any case in which a responsible person described in clause (i) is a nonprofit entity, the Secretary may waive or reduce the penalties applicable under such clause to such person.

''(E) NOTICE OF PUBLICATION OF DATA.—If the responsible person is the manufacturer or distributor of the drug, biological product, or device involved, the notice under subparagraphs (A)(i) and (C)(ii)(I) shall include a notice that the Secretary shall publish the data described in subsection (j)(3)(B) in the database if the responsible person has not submitted the information specified in the notice transmitted by the date that is 6 months after the date of such notice.

''(F) PUBLICATION OF DATA.—Notwithstanding section 301(j) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, section 1905 of title 18, United States Code, or any other provision of law, if the responsible person is the manufacturer or distributor of the drug, biological product, or device involved, and if the responsible person has not submitted to the Secretary the information specified in a notice transmitted pursuant to subparagraph (A)(i) or (C)(ii)(I) by the date that is 6 months after the date of such notice, the Secretary shall publish in the registry information that—

''(i) is described in subsection (j)(3)(B); and

''(ii) the responsible person has submitted to the Secretary in any application, including a supplemental application, for the drug or device under section 505, 510, 515, or 520 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act or for the biological product under section 351.

''(3) DATE SPECIFIED.—The date specified in this paragraph shall be the date that is 1 year from the earlier of—

''(A) the estimated completion date of the trial, submitted under subsection (j)(3)(B)(vi)(I)(hh); or

''(B) the actual date of completion or termination of the trial.

''(4) USE OF FUNDS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall deposit the funds collected under paragraph (2) into an account and use such funds, in consultation with the Director of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, to fund studies that compare the clinical effectiveness of 2 or more treatments for a disease or condition.

''(B) FUNDING DECISIONS.—The Secretary shall award funding under subparagraph (A) based on a priority list established not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of the FACT Act by the Director of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality and periodically updated as determined appropriate by the Director.

''(5) INCLUSION IN REGISTRY.—

''(A) GENERAL RULE.—The Secretary shall, pursuant to subsection (j)(5), include—

''(i) the data described in subsection (j)(3)(A) and submitted under the amendments made by section 4(a) of the FACT Act in the registry described in subsection (j) as soon as practicable after receiving such data; and

''(ii) the data described in clause (I) of subsection (j)(3)(B)(iv) and submitted under this subsection in the database described in subsection (j) as soon as practicable after receiving such data

''(B) OTHER DATA.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall, pursuant to subsection (j)(5), include the data described in subclauses (II) through (X) of subsection (j)(3)(B)(iv) and submitted under this section in the database described in subsection (j)—

''(I) as soon as practicable after receiving such data; or

''(II) in the case of data to which clause (ii) applies, by the date described in clause (iii).

''(ii) DATA DESCRIBED.—This clause applies to data described in clause (i) if—

''(I) the responsible person involved requests a delay in the inclusion in the database of such data in order to have such data published in a peer reviewed journal; and

''(II) the Secretary determines that an attempt will be made to seek such publication.

''(iii) DATE FOR INCLUSION IN REGISTRY.—Subject to clause (iv), the date described in this clause is the earlier of—

''(I) the date on which the data involved is published as provided for in clause (ii); or

''(II) the date that is 18 months after the date on which such data is submitted to the Secretary.

''(iv) EXTENSION OF DATE.—The Secretary may extend the 18-month period described in clause (iii)(II) for an additional 6 months if the responsible person demonstrates to the Secretary, prior to the expiration of such 18-month period, that the data involved has been accepted for publication by a journal described in clause (ii)(I).

''(v) MODIFICATION OF DATA.—Prior to including data in the database under clause (ii) or (iv), the Secretary shall permit the responsible person to modify the data involved.

''(6) EFFECT.—The information with respect to a clinical trial submitted to the Secretary under this subsection, including data published by the Secretary pursuant to paragraph (2)(F), may not be submitted by a person other than the responsible person as part of, or referred to in, an application for approval of a drug or device under section 505, 510, 515, or 520 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act or of a biological product under section 351, unless the information is available from a source other than the registry or database described in subsection (j).

''(m) PROCEDURES AND WAIVERS.—

''(1) SUBMISSION PRIOR TO NOTICE.—Nothing in subsections (k) through (l) shall be construed to prevent a principal investigator or a responsible person from submitting any information required under this subsection to the Secretary prior to receiving any notice described in such subsections.

''(2) ONGOING TRIALS.—A factually accurate statement that a clinical trial is ongoing shall be deemed to be information sufficient to demonstrate to the Secretary that the information described in subsections (k)(1)(A) and (l)(1)(A) cannot reasonably be submitted.

''(3) INFORMATION PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED.—Nothing in subsections (k) through (l) shall be construed to require the Secretary to send a notice to any principal investigator or responsible person requiring the submission to the Secretary of information that has already been submitted.

''(4) SUBMISSION FORMAT AND TECHNICAL STANDARDS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall, to the extent practicable, accept submissions required under this subsection in an electronic format and shall establish interoperable technical standards for such submissions.

''(B) CONSISTENCY OF STANDARDS.—To the extent practicable, the standards established under subparagraph (A) shall be consistent with standards adopted by the Consolidated Health Informatics Initiative (or a successor organization to such Initiative) to the extent such Initiative (or successor) is in operation.

''(5) TRIALS COMPLETED PRIOR TO ENACTMENT.—The Secretary shall establish procedures and mechanisms to allow for the voluntary submission to the database of the information described in subsection (j)(3)(B) with respect to clinical trials completed prior to the date of enactment of the FACT Act. In cases in which it is in the interest of public health, the Secretary may require that information from such trials be submitted to the database. Failure to comply

with such a requirement shall be deemed to be a failure to submit information as required under this section, and the appropriate remedies and sanctions under this section shall apply.

''(6) TRIALS NOT INVOLVING DRUGS, BIOLOGICAL PRODUCTS, OR DEVICES.—The Secretary shall establish procedures and mechanisms to allow for the voluntary submission to the database of the information described in subsection (j)(3)(B) with respect to clinical trials that do not involve drugs, biological products, or devices. In cases in which it is in the interest of public health, the Secretary may require that information from such trials be submitted to the database. Failure to comply with such a requirement shall be deemed to be a failure to submit information as required under this section, and the appropriate remedies and sanctions under this section shall apply.

''(7) SUBMISSION OF INACCURATE INFORMATION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary determines that information submitted by a principal investigator or a responsible person under this section is factually and substantively inaccurate, the Secretary shall submit a notice to the investigator or responsible person concerning such inaccuracy that includes—

''(i) a summary of the inaccuracies involved; and

''(ii) a request for corrected information within 30 days.

''(B) AUDIT OF INFORMATION.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may conduct audits of any information submitted under subsection (j).

''(ii) REQUIREMENT.—Any principal investigator or responsible person that has submitted information under subsection (j) shall permit the Secretary to conduct the audit described in clause (i).

''(C) CHANGES TO INFORMATION.—Any change in the information submitted by a principal investigator or a responsible person under this section shall be reported to the Secretary within 30 days of the date on which such investigator or person became aware of the change for purposes of updating the registry or the database.

''(D) FAILURE TO CORRECT.—If a principal investigator or a responsible person fails to permit an audit under subparagraph (B), provide corrected information pursuant to a notice under subparagraph (A), or provide changed information under subparagraph (C), the investigator or responsible person involved shall be deemed to have failed to submit information as required under this section and the appropriate remedies and sanction under this section shall apply.

''(E) CORRECTIONS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may correct, through any means deemed appropriate by the Secretary to protect public health, any information included in the registry or the database described in subsection (j) (including information described or contained in a publication referred to under subclause (VI) of subsection (j)(3)(B)(iv)) that is—

''(I) submitted to the Secretary for inclusion in the registry or the database; and

''(II) factually and substantively inaccurate or false or misleading.

''(ii) RELIANCE ON INFORMATION.—The Secretary may rely on any information from a clinical trial or a report of an adverse event acquired or produced under the authority of section 351 of this Act or of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act in determining whether to make corrections as provided for in clause (i).

''(iii) DETERMINATIONS RELATING TO MISLEADING INFORMATION.—For purposes of clause (i)(II), in determining whether information is misleading, the Secretary shall use the standard described in section 201(n) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act that is used to determine whether labeling or advertising is misleading.

''(iv) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—This subparagraph shall not be construed to authorize the disclosure of information if—

''(I) such disclosure would constitute an invasion of personal privacy;

''(II) such information concerns a method or process which as a trade secret is entitled to protection within the meaning of section 301(j) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act;

''(III) such disclosure would disclose confidential commercial information or a trade secret, other than a trade secret described in subclause (II), unless such disclosure is necessary—

''(aa) to make a correction as provided for under clause (i); and

''(bb) protect the public health; or

''(IV) if such disclosure relates to a biological product for which no license is in effect under section 351, a drug for which no approved application is in effect under section 505(c) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, or a device that is not cleared under section 510(k) of such Act or for which no application is in effect under section 515 of such Act.

''(v) NOTICE.—In the case of a disclosure under clause (iv)(III), the Secretary shall notify the manufacturer or distributor of the drug, biological product, or device involved—

''(I) at least 30 days prior to such disclosure; or

''(II) if immediate disclosure is necessary to protect the public health, concurrently with such disclosure.

''(8) WAIVERS REGARDING CLINICAL TRIAL RESULTS.—The Secretary may waive the requirements of subsections (k)(1) and (l)(1) that the results of clinical trials be submitted to the Secretary, upon a written request from the responsible person if the Secretary determines that extraordinary circumstances justify the waiver and that providing the waiver is in the public interest or consistent with the protection of public health.

''(n) TRIALS CONDUCTED OUTSIDE OF THE UNITED STATES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—With respect to clinical trials described in paragraph (2), the responsible person shall submit to the Secretary the information required under subclauses (II) through (X) of subsection (j)(3)(B)(iv). Failure to comply with this paragraph shall be deemed to be a failure to submit information as required under this section, and the appropriate remedies and sanctions under this section shall apply.

''(2) CLINICAL TRIAL DESCRIBED.—A clinical trial is described in this paragraph if—

''(A) such trial is conducted outside of the United States; and

''(B) the data from such trial is—

''(i) submitted to the Secretary as part of an application, including a supplemental application, for a drug or device under section 505, 510, 515, or 520 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act or for the biological product under section 351; or

''(ii) used in advertising or labeling to make a claim about the drug, device, or biological product involved.

''(o) DEFINITIONS; INDIVIDUAL LIABILITY.—

''(1) RESPONSIBLE PERSON.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—In this section, the term 'responsible person' with respect to a clinical trial, means—

''(i) if such clinical trial is the subject of an investigational new drug application or an application for an investigational device exemption, the sponsor of such investigational new drug application or such application for an investigational device exemption; or

''(ii) except as provided in subparagraph (B), if such clinical trial is not the subject of an investigational new drug application or an application for an investigational device exemption—

''(I) the person that provides the largest share of the monetary support (such term does not include in-kind support) for the conduct of such trial; or

''(II) in the case in which the person described in subclause (I) is a Federal or State agency, the principal investigator of such trial.

''(B) NONPROFIT ENTITIES AND REQUESTING PERSONS.—

''(i) NONPROFIT ENTITIES.—For purposes of subparagraph (A)(ii)(I), if the person that provides the largest share of the monetary support for the conduct of the clinical trial involved is a nonprofit entity, the responsible person for purposes of this section shall be—

''(I) the nonprofit entity; or

''(II) if the nonprofit entity and the principal investigator of such trial jointly certify to the Secretary that the principal investigator will be responsible for submitting the information described in subsection (j)(3)(B) for such trial, the principal investigator.

''(ii) REQUESTING PERSONS.—For purposes of subparagraph (A)(ii)(I), if a person—

''(I) has submitted a request to the Secretary that the Secretary recognize the person as the responsible person for purposes of this section; and

''(II) the Secretary determines that such person—

''(aa) provides monetary support for the conduct of such trial;

''(bb) is responsible for the conduct of such trial; and

''(cc) will be responsible for submitting the information described in subsection (j)(3)(B) for such trial;

such person shall be the responsible person for purposes of this section.

''(2) DRUG, DEVICE, BIOLOGICAL PRODUCT.—In this section—

''(A) the terms 'drug' and 'device' have the meanings given such terms in section 201 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act; and

''(B) the term 'biological product' has the meaning given such term in section 351 of this Act.

''(3) INDIVIDUAL LIABILITY.—

''(A) LIMITATION ON LIABILITY OF INDIVIDUALS.—No individual shall be liable for any civil monetary penalty under this section.

''(B) INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE RESPONSIBLE PERSONS.—If a responsible person under subparagraph (A) or (B) of paragraph (1) is an individual, such individual shall be subject to the procedures and conditions described in subsection (k).''.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 402 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 282), as amended by this section, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''(s) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated, such sums as may be necessary to carry out this section.''.

SEC. 4. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF PROPOSALS FOR RESEARCH.

(a) AMENDMENTS.—Section 492A(a) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 289a–1(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)(A), by striking ''unless'' and all that follows through the period and inserting the following: ''unless—

''(i) the application has undergone review in accordance with such section and has been recommended for approval by a majority of

the members of the Board conducting the review;

''(ii) such Board has submitted to the Secretary a notification of such approval; and

''(iii) with respect to an application involving a clinical trial to which section 402(j) applies, the principal investigator who has submitted such application has submitted to the Secretary for inclusion in the registry and the database described in section 402(j) the information described in paragraph (3)(A) and subclause (I) of paragraph (3)(B)(iv) of such section.''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(3) COST RECOVERY.—Nonprofit entities may recover the full costs associated with compliance with the requirements of paragraph (1) from the Secretary as a direct cost of research.''.

(b) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall modify the regulations promulgated at part 46 of title 45, Code of Federal Regulations, part 50 of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations, and part 56 of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations, to reflect the amendments made by subsection (a).

SEC. 5. PROHIBITED ACTS.

Section 301 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 331) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(hh)(1) The entering into of a contract or other agreement by a responsible person or a manufacturer of a drug, biological product, or device with an individual who is not an employee of such responsible person or manufacturer, or the performance of any other act by such a responsible person or manufacturer, that prohibits, limits, or imposes unreasonable delays on the ability of such individual to—

''(A) discuss the results of a clinical trial at a scientific meeting or any other public or private forum; or

''(B) publish the results of a clinical trial or a description or discussion of the results of a clinical trial in a scientific journal or any other publication.

''(2) The entering into a contract or other agreement by a responsible person or a manufacturer of a drug, biological product, or device with an academic institution or a health care facility, or the performance of any other act by such a responsible person or manufacturer, that prohibits, limits, or imposes unreasonable delays on the ability of an individual who is not an employee of such responsible person or manufacturer to—

''(A) discuss the results of a clinical trial at a scientific meeting or any other public or private forum; or

''(B) publish the results of a clinical trial or a description or discussion of the results of a clinical trial in a scientific journal or any other publication.''.

SEC. 6. REPORTS.

(a) IMPLEMENTATION REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the status of the implementation of the requirements of the amendments made by section 3 that includes a description of the number and types of clinical trials for which information has been submitted under such amendments.

(b) DATA COLLECTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall enter into a contract with the Institute of Medicine for the conduct of a study concerning the extent to which data submitted to the registry under section 402(j) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 282(j)) has impacted the public health.

(2) REPORT.—Not later than 6 months after the date on which a contract is entered into under paragraph (1), the Institute of Medicine shall submit to the Secretary of Health and Human Services a report on the results of the study conducted under such paragraph. Such report shall include recommendations for changes to the registry, the database, and the data submission requirements that would benefit the public health.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, earlier today, Senate Bill 470 was introduced. I am pleased to sponsor the Fair Access to Clinical Trials Act of 2005, with Senator DODD. I am co-sponsoring this legislation as part of a sustained effort to restore public confidence in the Federal Government's food and drug safety agency. Enactment of this bill will be a meaningful step toward greater transparency and accountability in clinical trials and the scientific process.

The Food and Drug Administration earned its prized reputation through decades of good work on behalf of the American people. The FDA's drug approval process has long been considered the ''Good Housekeeping Seal of Approval.'' However, the Vioxx disaster and its aftermath have shaken the public's confidence. American consumers demand and deserve assurances that the medicines in their cabinets are safe. The health and safety of the public must be the FDA's first and only concern. Unfortunately, reforms at the FDA are necessary to place that mission front and center once again.

I began my oversight of the FDA last year in response to concerns about the reluctance of the FDA to provide information to the public about the increased suicidal risks for young people taking anti-depressants. Last November, I chaired a groundbreaking hearing on drug safety, the FDA and Vioxx. That hearing and other critical drug safety concerns of the past year highlighted the need for reforms and more stringent oversight of the FDA.

Sometimes congressional scrutiny of agency mismanagement can lead to necessary reforms. Sometimes an agency will act on its own to enhance its credibility. I have been pressing for reforms—both administrative and legislative—to bring about greater responsiveness and transparency at the FDA. The risks and benefits of prescription drugs should be readily available to patients and doctors seeking to make informed decisions.

The FACT Act will expand www.clinicaltrials.gov to create a publicly accessible national data bank of clinical trial information comprised of a clinical trial registry and a clinical trial results database. The legislation will foster transparency and accountability in health-related intervention research and development and ensure that the scientific community and the general public have access to basic information about clinical trials. Importantly, the FACT Act will maintain clinicaltrials.gov as a registry for patients and physicians seeking information about ongoing clinical trials for serious or life-threatening diseases and conditions. The legislation will also prevent companies from withholding clinically important information about their products.

The FACT Act will maintain a clinical trial registry accessible to patients and health care practitioners seeking information related to ongoing clinical trials for serious or life-threatening diseases and conditions; establish a clinical trials results database of all publicly and privately funded clinical trial results regardless of outcome that is accessible to the scientific community, health care practitioners, and members of the public; require the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to make internal drug approval and safety reviews publicly available; build on the successful model of www.clinicaltrials.gov, which was established in 1997. The web site will continue to be run by the National Library of Medicine at the National Institutes of Health, with assistance from the FDA; apply to clinical trials for drugs, biologics, and medical devices. All trials must be registered in the database in order to obtain approval from a U.S. Institutional Review Board; require that foreign trials that are submitted to the FDA or used in advertising to U.S. physicians be registered in the database at the time of submission; require that researchers promptly disclose the objectives, eligibility criteria, sources of funding, and anticipated timeline of clinical trials. The bill's standards will meet all of the minimum criteria for a trial registry set out by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors on September 8, 2004; mandate that the results of clinical trials be available to doctors and patients. Recognizing that the peer review process is the best safeguard for scientific accuracy, the bill provides time for researchers to publish their results. The disclosure of important trial results satisfies the recommendation of the American Medical Association; establish strong enforcement mechanisms. The bill will provide for civil monetary penalties of up to $10,000 per day for sponsors who refuse to comply. Monetary penalties will be earmarked for studies that compare clinical therapies; provide authority to audit the completeness and accuracy of the information in the registry; and ensure that the Food and Drug Administration has the authority to correct false or misleading statements about the results of clinical trials.

Later this month I will also introduce legislation to establish an independent office of drug safety in the Food and Drug Administration. Today's legislation is an important step toward reforming the FDA. I urge my colleagues to join me in this effort by cosponsoring this important legislation.

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, today I join several of my colleagues in introducing a very important piece of legislation that will improve access to information about prescription drugs for

patients and their doctors. Today, Senators DODD, GRASSLEY, WYDEN and I are introducing the Fair Access to Clinical Trials Act or FACT Act. I commend my colleagues for their hard work on this legislation. I also thank them for their commitment to ensuring that finally, objective, unbiased information can be put in the hands of consumers and doctors, reducing negative outcomes, improving patient care, and ultimately reducing costs of medications.

In recent months, we have learned that certain prescription drugs on the market today may not be as safe as we once thought. GlaxoSmithKline's antidepressant drug, Paxil, was found to increase the risk of suicide among adolescents. Further investigation of this issue indicated that some manufacturers of antidepressants highlighted positive findings of tests on youngsters, while playing down negative or inconclusive ones. In addition, the arthritis medication, Vioxx, was pulled off the market due to negative study findings, and over 27,000 sudden cardiac deaths and heart attacks may have been caused by this medication.

I find it unacceptable that current law does not require that the results of these studies on Paxil and Vioxx be made readily available to doctors and their patients. It is unacceptable that today, much of the information consumers and doctors rely on to make decisions about the medications they use are based on incomplete information. Patients are often swayed by direct-to-consumer drug advertisements and doctors must rely on the information they learn at drug company sponsored conferences. Access to complete information about prescription drugs is an important consumer issue, and that is why I am introducing this legislation that would require pharmaceutical companies to fully disclose clinical drug trial information in a public database before medications are introduced on the shelves.

Under my legislation, all studies on medicines like Paxil and Vioxx would be listed in a public drug trial registry database. The database would include all the studies, both good and bad, the studies that are conducted after the drug is already on the market, and even the studies that are discontinued. Doctors and patients would have access to all different types of information so they could make a clear decision on which drugs are best for any circumstance.

The drug trial database established under this legislation would be accessible to the public on a governmental Web site. The database will include information about the sponsor of the drug trial, the parameters of the study, and the outcome or results of the trial. Medical professionals ought to have complete information available when prescribing medications, and consumers should be aware of all the effects prescription drugs can have when taken over a period of time. Common sense tells us we need transparency in the prescription drug industry when it comes to the effectiveness of medications, and this database works towards that goal and will help to hold drug companies accountable for their products on the market.

I hope the Senate and House will take up this bill and pass it. It addresses an important consumer right-to-know issue that will help to ensure that patients and doctors have the best, most accurate information at their fingertips when making life-altering medical decisions.

By Mr. LEAHY:

S. 472. A bill to criminalize Internet scams involving fraudulently obtaining personal information, commonly known as phishing; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today I am introducing a bill, the Anti-Phishing Act of 2005, which targets a serious threat to the security of the Internet.

Phishing is a rapidly growing class of identity theft scams on the Internet that is causing both short-term losses and long-term economic damage. In the short-term, these scams defraud individuals and financial institutions. Estimated losses from phishing attacks are now in the billions of dollars, and those losses are growing. The short-term losses, however, are just a chapter in a larger story. In the long-term, phishing undermines the public's trust in the Internet. By making consumers uncertain about the integrity of the Internet's complex addressing system, phishing threatens to make us all less likely to use the Internet for secure transactions. If you can't trust where you are on the web, you are less likely to use it for commerce and communications.

Those well versed in popular culture may guess that phishing was named after the phenomenally popular Vermont band, Phish. But phishing over the Internet was in fact named from the sport of fishing, as an analogy for its technique of luring Internet prey with convincing email bait. The ''F'' is replaced by a ''P-H'' in keeping with a computer hacker tradition.

Phishing attacks usually start with emails that are, in Internet jargon, ''spoofed.'' That is, they are made to appear to be coming from some trusted financial institution or commercial entity. The spoofed email usually asks the victim to go to a website to confirm or renew private account information. These emails offer a link that appears to take the victim to the website of the trusted institution. In fact the link takes the victim to a phony website that is visually identical to that of the trusted institution, but is in fact run by the criminal. When the victim takes the bait and sends their account information, the criminal uses it—sometimes within minutes—to transfer the victim's funds or to make purchases. Phishers are the new con artists of cyberspace.

Phishing is on the rise. The Anti-Phishing Working Group reports that the number of new phishing messages climbed at a monthly rate of 38 percent in the last six months of 2004. The number of new phishing websites has climbed 24 percent per month since last August. And phishing attacks are increasingly sophisticated. Early phishing attacks were by novices, but there is now evidence that some attacks are backed by organized crime. Some of the attacks these days also include spyware, a type of software that is secretly installed on the victim's computer to surreptitiously capture account information when the victim visits legitimate websites.

In addition, the Internet faces the threat of ''pharming.'' This insidious crime does not rely on email bait. Rather, it attacks web browsers and the Internet's addressing system. The effect is that even individuals who type a desired Internet destination into their web browser may be redirected to a phony web site, with the same disastrous result as clicking on the phony link in a phishing attack.

Some phishers and pharmers can be prosecuted under wire fraud or identity theft statutes, but often these prosecutions take place only after someone has been defrauded. For most of these criminals, that leaves plenty of time to cover their tracks. It has been reported that the average phishing website is active on the Internet for less than six days. Moreover, the mere threat of these attacks undermines everyone's confidence in the Internet. When people cannot trust that websites are what they appear to be, they will not use the Internet for their secure transactions. Traditional wire fraud and identity theft statutes are not sufficient to respond to phishing and pharming.

The Anti-Phishing Act of 2005 protects the integrity of the Internet in two ways. First, it criminalizes the bait. It makes it illegal to knowingly send out spoofed email that links to sham websites with the intention of committing a crime. Second, it criminalizes the sham websites that are the true scene of both types of crime.

There are, of course, important First Amendment concerns to be protected. The Anti-Phishing Act protects parodies and political speech from being prosecuted as Phishing. We have worked closely with various public interest organizations to ensure that the Anti-Phishing Act does not impinge on the important democratic role that the Internet plays.

To many Americans, phishing and pharming are new words. They are certainly a new form of an old crime. They are also very serious, and we need to act aggressively to keep them from eroding the public's trust in online commerce and communication. I look forward to working with others in the Senate in addressing this growing threat to the Internet with effective and responsible action.

By Ms. CANTWELL (for herself, Mr. BINGAMAN, and Mr. LIEBERMAN):

S. 473. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to promote and improve the allied health professions; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, the well-being of the U.S. population depends to a considerable extent on having access to high quality health care which, in turn, requires the presence of an adequate supply of health care professionals. The Congress and the President recognized this need when we passed, and President Bush signed, the Nurse Reinvestment Act in the 107th Congress. Just as with nurses, we must also insure an adequate supply of well-prepared allied health professionals. That is why, today, I am introducing the Allied Health Reinvestment Act with my good colleagues, Senator BINGAMAN of New Mexico and Senator LIEBERMAN of Connecticut.

The allied health professions are many. Those recognized in the act include professionals in the areas of: dental hygiene, dietetics/nutrition, emergency medical services, health information management, clinical laboratory sciences/medical technology, cytotechnology, occupational therapy, physical therapy, radiologic technology, nuclear medical technology, rehabilitation counseling, respiratory therapy, and speech-language pathology/audiology. This is not an exhaustive list, as the act will leave to the discretion of the Secretary of HHS additional professions deemed eligible.

Today, many allied health professions are characterized by existing workforce shortages, declining enrollments in academic institutions, or a combination of both factors. The American Hospital Association, AHA, reports vacancy rates of 18 percent among radiology technicians, 10 percent among laboratory technologists, 15.3 percent among imaging technicians, and 12.7 percent among pharmacy technicians. In addition, the AHA indicates that hospitals are having increasing difficulties recruiting these same professionals over the preceding 2-year period.

In my own State of Washington, the Washington State Hospital Association reports vacancy rates of 14.3 percent among ultrasound technologists, 11.3 percent among radiology technicians, and 10.9 percent among nuclear medicine technologists. These vacancy rates have a real effect on the hospitals in my State. When I meet with hospital officials back home, they always tell me how the lack of technicians affects patient care.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics projected that in the period 1998–2008, the United States would need a total of 93,000 new professionals in clinical laboratory science by creating 53,000 new positions and filling the 40,000 existing vacancies. That averages 9,000 openings per year for technicians, and yet academic institutions are producing only 4,990 graduates annually. If these numbers stay constant, we will be short by 43,100 needed technicians in 2008.

According to the American Hospital Association, declining enrollment in health education programs contributes to the critical shortages of health care professionals. Similarly, data from a November 2002 study of 90 institutions by the Association of Schools of Allied Health Professions, ASAHP, shows a 3-year period of decline in enrollment in cardiovascular perfusion technology, cytotechnology, dietetics, emergency medical sciences, health administration, health information management, medical technology, occupational therapy, rehabilitation counseling, respiratory therapy, and respiratory therapy technician programs. As an indication of a worsening situation, data from the 2002–2003 academic year, alone, show that dental hygiene, physician assistant, and speech-language pathology and audiology should be added to this list.

While having an adequate number of health professionals in our country is key to ensuring access to health care for all of us, certainly one of the key populations for whom a healthy supply of health professionals is vitally important for is our senior population.

The U.S. Census Bureau reports that rapid growth of the population age 65 and over will begin in 2011 when the first of the baby boom generation reaches age 65 and will continue for many years. From 1900 to 2000, the proportion of persons 65 and over tripled, going from 4.1 percent to 12.4 percent.

The baby-boom generation's movement into middle age, a period when the incidence of heart attack and stroke increases, will produce a higher demand for therapeutic services. Medical advances now enable more patients with critical problems to survive, but in order to do so and maintain a high quality of life, these patients may need extensive therapy.

Along with the aging of the population came an increase in the number of Americans living with one, and often more than one, chronic condition. Today, it is estimated that 125 million Americans live with a chronic condition, and by 2020 as the population ages, that number will increase to an estimated 157 million, with 81 million of them having two or more chronic conditions. Twenty-five percent of individuals with chronic conditions have some type of activity limitations. Two-thirds of Medicare spending is for beneficiaries with five or more chronic conditions.

Many individuals with chronic conditions rely on family caregivers. Approximately 9 million Americans provide such services, and on the average, they spend 24 hours a week doing so. Caregivers aged 65–74 provide an average of 30.7 hours of care per week and individuals aged 75 and older provide an average of 34.5 hours per week.

Women are more likely than men to have chronic conditions, in part because they have longer life expectancies. These same women are caregivers to other chronically ill persons. In addition, 65 percent of caregivers are female, and of all caregivers, nearly 40 percent are 55 years of age and older.

Physicians report that their training does not adequately prepare them to care for this type of patient by providing education and offering effective nutritional guidance. Those aspects of care can be provided by allied health professionals, but many of them need better preparation to treat and coordinate care for patients with chronic conditions. While much emphasis is placed on curative forms of care, additional efforts must be devoted to slowing the progression of disease and its effects.

One example of the effectiveness of allied health interventions may be illustrated by a study funded by the National Institute on Aging, the National Center for Medical Rehabilitation Research, and the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research—since renamed the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. The investigation showed that significant benefits resulted from a 9-month occupational therapy intervention intended to reduce health-related declines urban, multiethnic, independent-living older adults. The majority of study participants, 73 percent, lived alone and 26 percent reported at least one disability. Important health-related benefits attributable to the intervention continued over a 6-month interval in the absence of further treatment.

The bill my colleagues and I introduce today, like the Nurse Reinvestment Act in the 107th Congress, is intended to provide incentives for individuals to seek and complete high quality allied health education and training. Furthermore, the bill will provide additional funding to ensure that such education and training can be provided to allied health students so that the U.S. healthcare industry with have a supply of allied health professionals needed to support the Nation's health care system in this decade and beyond.

The bill offers allied health education, practice, and retention grants. Education grants will be used to expand the enrollment in allied health education programs, especially by underrepresented racial and ethnic minority students, and provide educational opportunities through new technologies and methods, including distance-learning. Practice grants are intended to establish or expand allied health practice arrangements in non-institutional settings to demonstrate methods that will improve access to primary health care in rural areas and other medically underserved communities. Retention grants are intended to promote career advancement for allied health personnel.

Grants will also be made available to health care facilities to enable them to

carry out demonstrations of models and best practices in allied health for the purpose of developing innovative strategies or approaches for retention of allied health professionals. These grants will be awarded to a variety of geographic regions, and to a range of different types and sizes of facilities, including facilities located in rural, urban, and suburban areas.

Furthermore, this bill will give the Secretary of HHS, acting through the Administrator of HRSA, the authority to enter into an agreement with any institution that offers an eligible allied health education program to establish and operate a faculty loan fund to increase the number of qualified allied health faculty. Loans may be granted to faculty who are pursuing a full-time course of study or, at the discretion of the Secretary, a part-time course of study in an advanced degree program.

I am especially proud of the provisions of this legislation regarding the National Health Service Corps program, the brain child of Senator Warren Magnuson of Washington. The NHSC program, of course, encourages students in the health professions such as doctors and dentists to serve in underserved areas throughout our nation in return for loan repayment assistance. And, like the NHSC program, this Allied Health Reinvestment Act will establish a scholarship program that provides scholarships to individuals seeking allied health education in exchange for service by those individuals in rural and other medically underserved areas with allied health personnel shortages.

There are a number of organizations supporting this bill, and I thank them for that support. Among them, the list includes, but is not limited to:

Washington State Hospital Association
Health Work Force Institute (Seattle, WA)
American Association for Respiratory Care
American Association of Community Colleges
American Clinical Laboratory Association
American Dental Hygienists' Association
American Dietetic Association
American Health Information Management Association
American Hospital Association
American Physical Therapy Association
American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science
American Society for Clinical Pathology
American Society of Radiologic Technologists
Association of Academic Health Centers
College of Health Deans
Midwest Regional Deans Group
Myositis Association
National Association of EMS Educators
National Cancer Registrars Association
National Network of Health Career Programs in Two-Year Colleges
Northeast Regional Deans Group

In addition to these organizations, I would also like to express my appreciation to the Association of Schools of Allied Health Professions, ASAHP, for its support of the legislation as well as its ongoing efforts to address the need for allied health professionals and allied health faculty.

ASAHP, founded in 1967, has a membership that includes 108 institutions of higher learning throughout the United States, as well as several hundred individual members. ASAHP publishes a quarterly journal and also conducts an annual survey of member institutions. This annual survey, called the ''Institutional Profile Survey,'' is used for, among other purposes, collecting student application and enrollment data. These data substantiate that there is a pressing need to address existing allied health workforce shortages, which have been further exacerbated by declines in enrollment that have occurred for 4 straight years.

In the survey conducted during the period September–November 2004 for the 2004–2005 class starting in fall 2004, the results from 90 academic institutions indicate that in 16 of the 20 professions studied, available classroom seats were not filled. For example, only 33 percent of enrollment capacity was reached for health information management programs in these schools. Given the emphasis on increasing the use of information technology in health care such as conversion to electronic patient records, that figure is disturbingly low.

Similarly, the survey shows that enrollment levels were low in the following professions: rehabilitation counseling, 44 percent, emergency medical sciences, 66 percent, cytotechnology, 69 percent, and medical technology, 77 percent. Severe workforce shortages already exist in the two laboratory professions and emergency medical personnel will play a key role as first responders in dealing with any bioterrorism incident that might occur.

Using data from the Institutional Profile Survey, as well as the General Accounting Office, U.S. Census Bureau, and other sources, ASAHP has compiled what I believe to be a compelling rationale in its support for the Allied Health Reinvestment Act that Senators BINGAMAN, LIEBERMAN, and I introduce today. I ask unanimous consent that the text of this Rationale for an Allied Health Reinvestment Act from the Association of Schools of Allied Health Professions be printed in the RECORD.

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

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

RATIONALE FOR AN ALLIED HEALTH REINVESTMENT ACT

Led by the Association of Schools of Allied Health Professions, a Washington-DC based organization with 108 colleges and universities as members, a coalition of 30 national organizations supports the enactment of an Allied Health Reinvestment Act.

The well-being of the U.S. population depends to a considerable extent on having access to high quality health care, which requires the presence of an adequate supply of competently-prepared allied health professionals. Workforce, demographic, and epidemiologic imperatives are the driving forces behind the need to have such legislation enacted.

THE WORKFORCE IMPERATIVE

Many allied health professions are characterized by existing workforce shortages, declining enrollments in academic institutions, or a combination of both factors. Hospital officials have reported vacancy rates of 18 percent among radiologic technologists and 10 percent among laboratory technologists, plus they indicated more difficulty in recruiting these same professionals than two years prior.

Fitch, a leading global rating agency that provides the world's credit markets with credit opinions, indicates that labor expenses due to personnel shortages will continue to plague hospitals and is the biggest financial concern for that sector because it typically costs up to twice normal equivalent wages to fill gaps with temporary agency help.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) projects that in the period 1998–2008, a total of 93,000 positions in clinical laboratory science need to be provided in the form of creating 53,000 new jobs and filling 40,000 existing vacancies. Of the 9,000 openings per year, academic institutions are producing only 4,990 graduates annually. BLS projections in 2004 show that nine of the 10 fastest growing occupations are health or computer (information technology) occupations.

Accredited respiratory therapy programs in 2000 graduated 5,512 students—21% fewer than the 6,062 graduates in 1999. In 2001, the number of graduates from these schools fell another 20% to 4,437. The BLS expects employment of respiratory therapists to increase faster than the average of all occupations, increasing from 21% to 35% through 2010. The aging population and an attendant rise in the incidence of respiratory ailments, including asthma and COPD, and cardiopulmonary diseases drive this demand.

Employment growth in schools will result from expansion of the school-age population and extended services for disabled students. Therapists will be needed to help children with disabilities prepare to enter special education programs.

The American Hospital Association has identified declining enrollment in health education programs as a factor leading to critical shortages of health care professionals. That assessment is buttressed by data from 90 institutions belonging to the Association of Schools of Allied Health Professions. The following professions were unable to reach enrollment capacity over a three-year period: cardiovascular perfusion technology, cytotechnology, dietetics, emergency medical sciences, health administration, health information management, medical technology, occupational therapy, rehabilitation counseling, respiratory therapy, and respiratory therapy technician.

Given the level of anxiety over the possibility of terrorist attacks occurring in this country, in a study released by the General Accounting Office (GAO) on April 8, 2003 that focused on the nation's adequacy of preparedness against bioterrorism, it was reported that shortages in clinical laboratory personnel exist in state and local public health departments, laboratories, and hospitals. Moreover, these shortages are a major concern that is difficult to remedy.

Laboratories play a critical role in the detection and diagnosis of illnesses resulting from exposure to either biological or chemical agents. No therapy or prophylaxis can be initiated without laboratory identification and confirmation of the agent in question. Laboratories need to have adequate capacity and necessary staff to test clinical and environmental samples in order to identify an

agent promptly so that proper treatment can be started and infectious diseases prevented from spreading.

Meanwhile, the U.S population continues to become more racially and ethnically diverse. A health care workforce is needed that better reflects the population they serve. Practitioners must become more attuned to cultural differences in order to facilitate communication and enhance health care quality.

THE DEMOGRAPHIC IMPERATIVE

The U.S. Census Bureau reports that rapid growth of the population age 65 and over will begin in 2011 when the first of the baby-boom generation reaches age 65 and will continue for many years. The larger proportions of the population in older age groups result in part from sustained low fertility levels and from relatively larger declines in mortality at older ages in the latter part of the 20th century. From 1900 to 2000, the proportion of persons 65 and over went from 4.1 percent to 12.4 percent.

In the 20th century, the total population more than tripled, while the 65 years and older population grew more than tenfold, from 3.1 million in 1900 to 35.0 million in 2000.

Among the older population, the cohort 85 years and over increased from 122,000 in 1900 to 4.2 million in 2000. Since 1940, this age group increased at a more rapid rate than 65-to-74 year olds and 75-to-85 year olds in every decade. As a proportion of the older population, the 85 and over group went from being four percent of the older population to 12 percent between 1900 and 2000.

THE EPIDEMIOLOGICAL IMPERATIVE

The baby-boom generation's movement into middle age, a period when the incidence of heart attack and stroke increases, will produce a higher demand for therapeutic services. Medical advances now enable more patients with critical problems to survive. These patients may need extensive therapy.

According to Solucient, a major provider of information for health care providers, profound demographic shifts over the next twenty-five years will result in significant increases in the demand for inpatient acute care services if current utilization patterns do not change. An aging baby-boom generation, increasing life expectancy, rising fertility rates, and continued immigration will undoubtedly increase the volume of inpatient hospitalizations and significantly alter the mix of acute care services required by patients over the next quarter century. Nationwide, demographic changes alone could result in a 46 percent increase in acute care bed demand by 2027. Total acute care admissions could also increase by almost 13 million cases in the next quarter century—a growth of 41 percent from the current number of national admissions. Currently, the aged nationwide account for about 40 percent of inpatient admissions and about 49 percent of beds. By 2027, they could make up a majority of acute care services—51 percent of admissions and 59 percent of beds.

Along with the aging of the population came an increase in the number of Americans living with one, and often more than one, chronic condition. Today, it is estimated that 125 million Americans live with a chronic condition, and by 2020 as the population ages, that number will increase to an estimated 157 million, with 81 million of them having two or more chronic conditions. Twenty-five percent of individuals with chronic conditions have some type of activity limitations. Two-thirds of Medicare spending is for beneficiaries with five or more chronic conditions.

Many individuals with chronic conditions rely on family caregivers. Approximately nine million Americans provide such services, and on the average, they spend 24 hours a week doing so. Caregivers age 65–74 provide an average of 30.7 hours of care per week and individuals age 75 and older provide an average of 34.5 hours per week.

Women are more likely than men to have chronic conditions, in part because they have longer life expectancies. These same women are caregivers to other chronically ill persons. In addition, 65 percent of caregivers are female, and of all caregivers, nearly 40 percent are 55 years of age and older.

Physicians report that their training does not adequately prepare them to care for this type of patient in areas such as providing education and offering effective nutritional guidance. Allied health professionals can provide those aspects of care, but many of them need better preparation to treat and coordinate care for patients with chronic conditions. While much emphasis is placed on curative forms of care, additional efforts must be devoted to slowing the progression of disease and its effects.

S. 473

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 ''Allied Health Reinvestment Act''.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The United States Census Bureau and other reports highlight the increased demand for acute and chronic healthcare services among both the general population and a rapidly growing aging portion of the population.

(2) The calls for reduction in medical errors, increased patient safety, and quality of care have resulted in an amplified call for allied health professionals to provide healthcare services.

(3) Several allied health professions are characterized by workforce shortages, declining enrollments in allied health education programs, or a combination of both factors, and hospital officials have reported vacancy rates in positions occupied by allied health professionals.

(4) Many allied health education programs are facing significant economic pressure that could force their closure due to an insufficient number of students.

(b) PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of this Act to provide incentives for individuals to seek and complete high quality allied health education and training and provide additional funding to ensure that such education and training can be provided to allied health students so that the United States healthcare industry with have a supply of allied health professionals needed to support the health care system of the United States in this decade and beyond.

SEC. 3. AMENDMENT TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE ACT.

Title VII of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 292 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"PART G—ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

"SEC. 799C. DEFINITIONS.

''In this part:

''(1) ALLIED HEALTH EDUCATION PROGRAM.—The term 'allied health education program' means any postsecondary educational program offered by an institution accredited by an agency or commission recognized by the Department of Education, or leading to a State certificate or license or any other educational program approved by the Secretary. Such term includes colleges, universities, or schools of allied health and equivalent entities that include programs leading to a certificate, associate, baccalaureate, or graduate level degree in an allied health profession.

''(2) ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONS.—The term 'allied health professions' includes professions in the following areas at the certificate, associate, baccalaureate, or graduate level:

''(A) Dental hygiene.

''(B) Dietetics or nutrition.

''(C) Emergency medical services.

''(D) Health information management.

''(E) Clinical laboratory sciences and medical technology.

''(F) Cytotechnology.

''(G) Occupational therapy.

''(H) Physical therapy.

''(I) Radiologic technology.

''(J) Nuclear medical technology.

''(K) Rehabilitation counseling.

''(L) Respiratory therapy.

''(M) Speech-language pathology and audiology.

''(N) Any other profession determined appropriate by the Secretary.

''(3) HEALTH CARE FACILITY.—The term 'health care facility' means an outpatient health care facility, hospital, nursing home, home health care agency, hospice, federally qualified health center, nurse managed health center, rural health clinic, public health clinic, or any similar healthcare facility or practice that employs allied health professionals.

"SEC. 799C–1. PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS.

''The Secretary shall develop and issue public service announcements that shall—

''(1) advertise and promote the allied health professions;

''(2) highlight the advantages and rewards of the allied health professions; and

''(3) encourage individuals from diverse communities and backgrounds to enter the allied health professions.

"SEC. 799C–2. STATE AND LOCAL PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award grants to designated eligible entities to support State and local advertising campaigns that are conducted through appropriate media outlets (as determined by the Secretary) to—

''(1) promote the allied health professions;

''(2) highlight the advantages and rewards of the allied health professions; and

''(3) encourage individuals from disadvantaged communities and backgrounds to enter the allied health professions.

''(b) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—To be eligible to receive a grant under subsection (a), an entity shall—

''(1) be a professional, national, or State allied health association, State health care provider, or association of one or more health care facilities, allied health education programs, or other entities that provides similar services or serves a like function; and

''(2) prepare and submit to the Secretary an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require.

"SEC. 799C–3. ALLIED HEALTH RECRUITMENT GRANT PROGRAM.

''(a) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary shall award grants to eligible entities to increase allied health professions education opportunities.

''(b) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—To be eligible to receive a grant under subsection (a), an entity shall—

''(1) be a professional, national, or State allied health association, State health care provider, or association of one or more

health care facilities, allied health education programs, or other eligible entities that provides similar services or serves a like function; and

''(2) prepare and submit to the Secretary an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require.

''(c) USE OF FUNDS.—An entity shall use amounts received under a grant under subsection (a) to—

''(1) support outreach programs at elementary and secondary schools that inform guidance counselors and students of education opportunities regarding the allied health professions;

''(2) carry out special projects to increase allied health education opportunities for individuals who are from disadvantaged backgrounds (including racial and ethnic minorities that are underrepresented among the allied health professions) by providing student scholarships or stipends, pre-entry preparation, and retention activities;

''(3) provide assistance to public and nonprofit private educational institutions to support remedial education programs for allied health students who require assistance with math, science, English, and medical terminology;

''(4) meet the costs of child care and transportation for individuals who are taking part in an allied health education program at any level; and

''(5) support community-based partnerships seeking to recruit allied health professionals in rural communities and medically underserved urban communities, and other communities experiencing an allied health professions shortage.

''SEC. 799C–4. GRANTS FOR HEALTH CAREER ACADEMIES.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award grants to eligible entities to assist such entities in collaborating to carry out programs that form education pipelines to facilitate the entry of students of secondary educational institutions, especially underrepresented racial and ethnic minorities, into careers in the allied health professions.

''(b) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—To be eligible to receive a grant under subsection (a), an entity shall—

''(1) be an institution that offers allied health education programs, a health care facility, or a secondary educational institution; and

''(2) prepare and submit to the Secretary an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require.

''SEC. 799C–5. ALLIED HEALTH EDUCATION, PRACTICE, AND RETENTION GRANTS.

''(a) EDUCATION PRIORITY AREAS.—The Secretary may award grants to or enter into contracts with eligible entities to—

''(1) expand the enrollment of individuals in allied health education programs, especially the enrollment of underrepresented racial and ethnic minority students; and

''(2) provide education through new technologies and methods, including distance-learning methodologies.

''(b) PRACTICE PRIORITY AREAS.—The Secretary may award grants to or enter into contracts with eligible entities to—

''(1) establish or expand allied health practice arrangements in noninstitutional settings to demonstrate methods to improve access to primary health care in rural areas and other medically underserved communities;

''(2) provide care for underserved populations and other high-risk groups such as the elderly, individuals with HIV/AIDS, substance abusers, the homeless, and victims of domestic violence;

''(3) provide managed care, information management, quality improvement, and other skills needed to practice in existing and emerging organized health care systems; or

''(4) develop generational and cultural competencies among allied health professionals.

''(c) RETENTION PRIORITY AREAS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may award grants to and enter into contracts with eligible entities to enhance the allied health professions workforce by initiating and maintaining allied health retention programs described in paragraph (2) or (3).

''(2) GRANTS FOR CAREER LADDER PROGRAMS.—The Secretary may award grants to and enter into contracts with eligible entities for programs—

''(A) to promote career advancement for allied health personnel in a variety of training settings, cross training or specialty training among diverse population groups, and the advancement of individuals; and

''(B) to assist individuals in obtaining the education and training required to enter the allied health professions and advance within such professions, such as by providing career counseling and mentoring.

''(3) ENHANCING PATIENT CARE DELIVERY SYSTEMS.—

''(A) GRANTS.—The Secretary may award grants to eligible entities to improve the retention of allied health professionals and to enhance patient care that is directly related to allied health activities by enhancing collaboration and communication among allied health professionals and other health care professionals, and by promoting allied health involvement in the organizational and clinical decision-making processes of a health care facility.

''(B) PREFERENCE.—In making awards of grants under this paragraph, the Secretary shall give preferences to applicants that have not previously received an award under this paragraph and to applicants from rural, underserved areas.

''(C) CONTINUATION OF AN AWARD.—The Secretary shall make continuation of any award under this paragraph beyond the second year of such award contingent on the recipient of such award having demonstrated to the Secretary measurable and substantive improvement in allied health personnel retention or patient care.

''(d) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—To be eligible to receive a grant under this section, an entity shall—

''(1) be a health care facility, or any partnership or coalition containing a health care facility or allied health education program; and

''(2) prepare and submit to the Secretary an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require.

''SEC. 799C–6. DEVELOPING MODELS AND BEST PRACTICES PROGRAM.

''(a) AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary shall award grants to eligible entities to enable such entities to carry out demonstration programs using models and best practices in allied health for the purpose of developing innovative strategies or approaches for the retention of allied health professionals.

''(b) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—To be eligible to receive a grant under this section, an entity shall—

''(1) be a health care facility, or any partnership or coalition containing a health care facility or allied health education program; and

''(2) prepare and submit to the Secretary an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require.

''(c) DISTRIBUTION OF GRANTS.—In awarding grants under this section, the Secretary shall ensure that grantee represent a variety of geographic regions and a range of different types and sizes of facilities, including facilities located in rural, urban, and suburban areas.

''(d) USE OF FUNDS.—An entity shall use amounts received under a grant under this section to carry out demonstration programs of models and best practices in allied health for the purpose of—

''(1) promoting retention and satisfaction of allied health professionals;

''(2) promoting opportunities for allied health professionals to pursue education, career advancement, and organizational recognition; and

''(3) developing continuing education programs that instruct allied health professionals in how to use emerging medical technologies and how to address current and future health care needs.

''(e) AREA HEALTH EDUCATION CENTERS.—The Secretary shall award grants to area health education centers to enable such centers to enter into contracts with allied health education programs to expand the operation of area health education centers to work in communities to develop models of excellence for allied health professionals or to expand any junior and senior high school mentoring programs to include an allied health professions mentoring program.

''SEC. 799C–7. ALLIED HEALTH FACULTY LOAN PROGRAM.

''(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary, acting through the Administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration, may enter into an agreement with any institution offering an eligible allied health education program for the establishment and operation of a faculty loan fund in accordance with this section (referred to in this section as the 'loan fund'), to increase the number of qualified allied health faculty.

''(b) AGREEMENTS.—Each agreement entered into under this section shall—

''(1) provide for the establishment of a loan fund by the institution offering the allied health education program involved;

''(2) provide for deposit in the loan fund of—

''(A) the Federal capital contributions to the fund;

''(B) an amount provided by the institution involved which shall be equal to not less than one-ninth of the amount of the Federal capital contribution under subparagraph (A);

''(C) any collections of principal and interest on loans made from the fund; and

''(D) any other earnings of the fund;

''(3) provide that the loan fund will be used only for the provision of loans to faculty of the allied health education program in accordance with subsection (c) and for the costs of the collection of such loans and the interest thereon;

''(4) provide that loans may be made from such fund only to faculty who are pursuing a full-time course of study or, at the discretion of the Secretary, a part-time course of study in an advanced degree program; and

''(5) contain such other provisions determined appropriate by the Secretary to protect the financial interests of the United States.

''(c) LOAN PROVISIONS.—Loans from any faculty loan fund established pursuant to an agreement under this section shall be made to an individual on such terms and conditions as the allied health education program may determine, except that—

''(1) such terms and conditions are subject to any conditions, limitations, and requirements prescribed by the Secretary;

''(2) in the case of any individual, the total of the loans for any academic year made by

an allied health education program from loan funds established pursuant to agreements under this section may not exceed $30,000, plus any amount determined by the Secretary on an annual basis to reflect inflation;

''(3) upon completion by the individual of each of the first, second, and third year of full-time employment, as required under the loan agreement, as a faculty member in an allied health education program, the program shall cancel 20 percent of the principal and interest due on the amount of the unpaid portion of the loan on the first day of such employment;

''(4) upon completion by the individual of the fourth year of full-time employment, as required under the loan agreement, as a faculty member in an allied health education program, the program shall cancel 25 percent of the principal and interest due on the amount of the unpaid portion of the loan on the first day of such employment;

''(5) the loan may be used to pay the cost of tuition, fees, books, laboratory expenses, and other reasonable education expenses;

''(6) the loan shall be repayable in equal or graduated periodic installments (with the right of the borrower to accelerate repayment) over the 10-year period that begins 9 months after the individual ceases to pursue a course of study in an allied health education program; and

''(7) such loan shall—

''(A) beginning on the date that is 3 months after the individual ceases to pursue a course of study in an allied health education program, bear interest on the unpaid balance of the loan at the rate of 3 percent per year; or

''(B) subject to subsection (e), if the allied health education program determines that the individual will not complete such course of study or serve as a faculty member as required under the loan agreement under this subsection, bear interest on the unpaid balance of the loan at the prevailing market rate.

''(d) PAYMENT OF PROPORTIONATE SHARE.—Where all or any part of a loan (including interest thereon) is canceled under this section, the Secretary shall pay to the allied health education program involved an amount equal to the program's proportionate share of the canceled portion, as determined by the Secretary.

''(e) REVIEW BY SECRETARY.—At the request of the individual involved, the Secretary may review any determination by an allied health education program under this section.

''SEC. 799C–8. SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FOR SERVICE IN RURAL AND OTHER MEDICALLY UNDERSERVED AREAS.

''(a) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary shall establish a scholarship program (referred to in this section as the 'program') to provide scholarships to individuals seeking allied health education who agree to provide service in rural and other medically underserved areas with allied health personnel shortages.

''(b) PREFERENCE.—In awarding scholarships under this section, the Secretary shall give preference to—

''(1) applicants who demonstrate the greatest financial need;

''(2) applicants who agree to serve in health care facilities experiencing allied health shortages in rural and other medically underserved areas;

''(3) applicants who are currently working in a health care facility who agree to serve the period of obligated service at such facility;

''(4) minority applicants; and

''(5) applicants with an interest in a practice area of allied health that has unmet needs.

''(c) PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.—

''(1) CONTRACTS.—Under the program, the Secretary shall enter into contracts with eligible individuals under which such individuals agree to serve as allied health professionals for a period of not less than 2 years at a health care facility with a critical shortage of allied health professionals in consideration of the Federal Government agreeing to provide to the individuals scholarships for attendance in an allied health education program.

''(2) ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS.—In this subsection, the term 'eligible individual' means an individual who is enrolled or accepted for enrollment as a full-time or part-time student in an allied health education program.

''(3) SERVICE REQUIREMENT.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may not enter into a contract with an eligible individual under this section unless the individual agrees to serve as an allied health professional at a health care facility with a critical shortage of allied health professionals for a period of full-time service of not less than 2 years, or for a period of part-time service in accordance with subparagraph (B).

''(B) PART-TIME SERVICE.—An individual may complete the period of service described in subparagraph (A) on a part-time basis if the individual has a written agreement that—

''(i) is entered into by the facility and the individual and is approved by the Secretary; and

''(ii) provides that the period of obligated service will be extended so that the aggregate amount of service performed will equal the amount of service that would be performed through a period of full-time service of not less than 2 years.

''(d) REPORTS.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this part, and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall prepare and submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report describing the program carried out under this section, including statements regarding—

''(1) the number of enrollees by specialty or discipline, scholarships, and grant recipients;

''(2) the number of graduates;

''(3) the amount of scholarship payments made;

''(4) which educational institution the recipients attended;

''(5) the number and placement location of the scholarship recipients at health care facilities with a critical shortage of allied health professionals;

''(6) the default rate and actions required;

''(7) the amount of outstanding default funds of the scholarship program;

''(8) to the extent that it can be determined, the reason for the default;

''(9) the demographics of the individuals participating in the scholarship program; and

''(10) an evaluation of the overall costs and benefits of the program.

''SEC. 799C–9. GRANTS FOR CLINICAL EDUCATION, INTERNSHIP, AND RESIDENCY PROGRAMS.

''(a) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary shall award grants to eligible entities to develop clinical education, internship, and residency programs that encourage mentoring and the development of specialties.

''(b) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—To be eligible for a grant under this section an entity shall—

''(1) be a partnership of an allied health education program and a health care facility; and

''(2) prepare and submit to the Secretary an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require.

''(c) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity shall use amounts received under a grant under this section to—

''(1) develop clinical education, internship, and residency programs and curriculum and training programs for graduates of an allied health education program;

''(2) provide support for faculty and mentors; and

''(3) provide support for allied health professionals participating in clinical education, internship, and residency programs on both a full-time and part-time basis.

''SEC. 799C–10. GRANTS FOR PARTNERSHIPS.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award grants to eligible entities to enable such entities to form partnerships to carry out the activities described in this section.

''(b) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—To be eligible to receive a grant under this section, and entity shall—

''(1) be a partnership between an allied health education program and a health care facility; and

''(2) prepare and submit to the Secretary an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require.

''(c) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity shall use amounts received under a grant under this section to—

''(1) provide employees of the health care facility that is a member of the partnership involved advanced training and education in a allied health education program;

''(2) establish or expand allied health practice arrangements in non-institutional settings to demonstrate methods to improve access to health care in rural and other medically underserved communities;

''(3) purchase distance learning technology to extend general education and training programs to rural areas, and to extend specialty education and training programs to all areas; and

''(4) establish or expand mentoring, clinical education, and internship programs for training in specialty care areas.

''SEC. 799C–11. ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONS TRAINING FOR DIVERSITY.

''The Secretary, acting in conjunction with allied health professional associations, shall develop a system for collecting and analyzing allied health workforce data gathered by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the Health Resources and Services Administration, other entities within the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services, the Department of Defense, allied health professional associations, and regional centers for health workforce studies to determine educational pipeline and practitioner shortages, and project future needs for such a workforce.

''SEC. 799C–12. ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONS TRAINING FOR DIVERSITY.

''The Secretary shall include schools of allied health among the health professions schools that are eligible to receive grants under this part for the purpose of assisting such schools in supporting Centers of Excellence in health professions education for under-represented minority individuals.

''SEC. 799C–13. REPORTS BY GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE.

''Not later than 4 years after the date of enactment of this part, the Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct an evaluation of whether the programs carried out under this part have demonstrably increased the number of applicants to allied health education programs and prepare and submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report concerning the results of such evaluation.

"SEC. 799C–14. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

"There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this part, such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years 2006 through 2011.".

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 67—DESIGNATING THE SECOND WEEK OF MARCH 2005 AS "EXTENSION LIVING WELL WEEK"

Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. BURNS, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. COLEMAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. DEMINT, Mrs. DOLE, Mr. ENZI, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GREGG, Mr. HATCH, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. MCCAIN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SMITH, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. TALENT, Mr. THOMAS, Mr. THUNE, Mr. VITTER, Mr. WARNER, Mr. BAUCUS, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. CARPER, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. INOUYE, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KOHL, Mr. LEAHY, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. STABENOW, and Mr. JEFFORDS) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 67

Whereas the health and well-being of the family is crucial to the functioning of the Nation and to providing adults and youth with the necessary skills and knowledge to help them achieve the best quality of life possible;

Whereas psychologically, socially, and emotionally strong families provide strength for future generations;

Whereas Extension is a nationwide educational network through the land-grant universities, funded cooperatively through the Department of Agriculture, State governments, and local county, city, and parish governments;

Whereas Extension provides non-biased, research-based information through informal education to help adults, youth, families, farms, businesses, and communities;

Whereas Extension education programs are developed at the grassroots level to meet local needs, and are available in nearly every county and parish in the United States and its territories, from the biggest to the smallest;

Whereas information offered by Extension is provided by scientists and researchers at land-grant universities, and is made practical and relevant by Extension educators working at the local level;

Whereas Extension Family and Consumer Sciences educators are advocates for education for families so that the families might gain skills for a full and productive life; and

Whereas the designation of the second week of March 2005 as "Extension Living Well Week" is a fitting tribute to the National Extension Association for Family and Consumer Sciences professionals who provide education that is critical to the quality of life of adults, youth, individuals, and families, including food preparation, food safety, nutrition, financial management, healthy lifestyles, home and work environment and safety, relationship and parenting skills, and much more: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the second week of March 2005 as "Extension Living Well Week";

(2) encourages the people of the United States to take advantage of the educational opportunities that Extension Family and Consumer Sciences educators provide, education that can help them in raising kids, eating right, spending smart, and living well; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to conduct appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs to demonstrate support for Extension Family and Consumer Sciences educators as they teach adults and youth and promote optimum health and wellness of families in the United States through the "Living Well" campaign.

SENATE RESOLUTION 68—DESIGNATING MARCH 2, 2005, AS "READ ACROSS AMERICA DAY"

Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. REED, and Mr. KENNEDY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 68

Whereas reading is a basic requirement for quality education and professional success, and is a source of pleasure throughout life;

Whereas the people of the United States must be able to read if the United States is to remain competitive in the global economy;

Whereas Congress, through the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (Public Law 107–110) and the Reading First, Early Reading First, and Improving Literacy Through School Libraries programs, has placed great emphasis on reading intervention and providing additional resources for reading assistance; and

Whereas more than 40 national associations concerned about reading and education have joined with the National Education Association to use March 2, the anniversary of the birth of Theodor Geisel, also known as Dr. Seuss, to celebrate reading: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates March 2, 2005, as "Read Across America Day";

(2) honors Theodor Geisel, also known as Dr. Seuss, for his success in encouraging children to discover the joy of reading;

(3) encourages parents to read with their children for at least 30 minutes on Read Across America Day in honor of Dr. Seuss and in celebration of reading; and

(4) encourages the people of the United States to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 14. Mr. BAYH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 256, to amend title 11 of the United States Code, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 14. Mr. BAYH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 256, to amend title 11 of the United States Code, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 19, strike line 13, and insert the following:

monthly income.

"(8) Paragraph (2) shall not apply if—

"(A) the debtor, or a member of the debtor's family, is a member of the uniformed services (as defined in section 101(a)(5) of title 10); and

"(B) the filing under this title was a direct result of debts incurred as a result of a reduction of income due to a change of status from civilian employment to service on active duty (as defeind in section 101(d) of title 10) as a member of the uniformed services.".

On page 146, strike lines 6 through 19, and insert the following:

(b) RESTORING THE FOUNDATION FOR SECURED CREDIT.—Section 1325(b) of title 11, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(3) Section 506 shall not apply to a claim described in subsection (a)(5) under circumstances other than those described in section 707(b)(8)—

"(A) if—

"(i) the creditor has a purchase money security interest securing the debt that is the subject of the claim;

"(ii) the debt was incurred during the 910-day period preceding the date on which the petition was filed; and

"(iii) the collateral for that debt consists of a motor vehicle (as defined in section 30102 of title 49) acquired for the personal use of the debtor; or

"(B) if—

"(i) the debt was incurred during the 1-year period preceding the date on which the petition was filed; and

"(ii) collateral for the debt that is the subject of the claim consists of anything of value other than the collateral described in subparagraph (A)(iii).".

On page 259, between lines 7 and 8, insert the following:

SEC. 605. GAO STUDY OF CAUSES OF BANKRUPTCY FOR MEMBERS OF THE UNIFORMED SERVICES.

The Comptroller General of the United States shall—

(1) conduct a study of the frequency and causes of bankruptcy by members of the uniformed services; and

(2) provide recommendations to Congress on how to protect members of the uniformed services, and their families, who file for bankruptcy.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS/MEETINGS

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I wish to announce that the Committee on Rules and Administration will meet on Tuesday, March 8, 2004, at 9:30 a.m., to examine and discuss S. 271, a bill which reforms the regulatory and reporting structure of organizations registered under Section 527 of the Internal Revenue Code.

For further information regarding this hearing, please contact Susan Wells at the Rules and Administration Committee on 224–6352.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS AND FORESTS

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a hearing has been scheduled before the Subcommittee on Public Lands and Forests of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

The hearing will be held on Tuesday, March 8, 2004, at 10 a.m. in room SD–366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The purpose of the hearing is to receive testimony on S. 179, to provide for the exchange of land within the Sierra National Forest, California, and for other purposes; S. 213, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain Federal land to Rio Arriba County, New Mexico; S. 267, to reauthorize the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000, and for other purposes; and S. 305, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to recruit volunteers to assist with or facilitate the activities of various agencies and offices of the Department of the Interior.

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record should send two copies of their testimony to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, Washington, DC 20510–6150.

For further information, please contact Frank Gladics 202–224–2878 or Amy Millet at 202–224–8276.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask, on behalf of Senator BAUCUS, unanimous consent that Brian Townsend, a detailee from the IRS, be permitted privileges of the floor during consideration of S. 256, including all votes.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXTENSION LIVING WELL WEEK

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to consideration of S. Res. 67, which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 67) designating the second week of March 2005 as ''Extension Living Well Week''.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 67) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 67

Whereas the health and well-being of the family is crucial to the functioning of the Nation and to providing adults and youth with the necessary skills and knowledge to help them achieve the best quality of life possible;

Whereas psychologically, socially, and emotionally strong families provide strength for future generations;

Whereas Extension is a nationwide educational network through the land-grant universities, funded cooperatively through the Department of Agriculture, State governments, and local county, city, and parish governments;

Whereas Extension provides non-biased, research-based information through informal education to help adults, youth, families, farms, businesses, and communities;

Whereas Extension education programs are developed at the grassroots level to meet local needs, and are available in nearly every county and parish in the United States and its territories, from the biggest to the smallest;

Whereas information offered by Extension is provided by scientists and researchers at land-grant universities, and is made practical and relevant by Extension educators working at the local level;

Whereas Extension Family and Consumer Sciences educators are advocates for education for families so that the families might gain skills for a full and productive life; and

Whereas the designation of the second week of March 2005 as ''Extension Living Well Week'' is a fitting tribute to the National Extension Association for Family and Consumer Sciences professionals who provide education that is critical to the quality of life of adults, youth, individuals, and families, including food preparation, food safety, nutrition, financial management, healthy lifestyles, home and work environment and safety, relationship and parenting skills, and much more: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the second week of March 2005 as ''Extension Living Well Week'';

(2) encourages the people of the United States to take advantage of the educational opportunities that Extension Family and Consumer Sciences educators provide, education that can help them in raising kids, eating right, spending smart, and living well; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to conduct appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs to demonstrate support for Extension Family and Consumer Sciences educators as they teach adults and youth and promote optimum health and wellness of families in the United States through the ''Living Well'' campaign.

READ ACROSS AMERICA DAY

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The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 68) designating March 2, 2005, as ''Read Across America Day''.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 68) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 68

Whereas reading is a basic requirement for quality education and professional success, and is a source of pleasure throughout life;

Whereas the people of the United States must be able to read if the United States is to remain competitive in the global economy;

Whereas Congress, through the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (Public Law 107–110) and the Reading First, Early Reading First, and Improving Literacy Through School Libraries programs, has placed great emphasis on reading intervention and providing additional resources for reading assistance; and

Whereas more than 40 national associations concerned about reading and education have joined with the National Education Association to use March 2, the anniversary of the birth of Theodor Geisel, also known as Dr. Seuss, to celebrate reading: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates March 2, 2005, as ''Read Across America Day'';

(2) honors Theodor Geisel, also known as Dr. Seuss, for his success in encouraging children to discover the joy of reading;

(3) encourages parents to read with their children for at least 30 minutes on Read Across America Day in honor of Dr. Seuss and in celebration of reading; and

(4) encourages the people of the United States to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 2005

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:45 a.m. on Tuesday, March 1. I further ask that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved, and the Senate then proceed to a period for morning business for 1 hour, with the first 30 minutes under the control of the majority leader or his designee, and the second 30 minutes under the control of the Democratic leader or his designee, and that the Senate then resume consideration of S. 256, the Bankruptcy Reform Act. I further ask consent that at 12:30 p.m., the Senate recess until 2:15 p.m. for the weekly party luncheons.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, tomorrow, the Senate will resume consideration of the bankruptcy bill. Today we were able to accommodate several opening statements on the bill, and I hope that we can make real progress in the amendment process tomorrow. We anticipate that amendments will be offered prior to the policy luncheon recess. However, as I mentioned earlier today, I do not anticipate a vote on any amendment until after the policy luncheons. Again, I encourage all Members who may have amendments to the bill to contact the cloakrooms.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The minority leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, at approximately 11 o'clock tomorrow, when we finish morning business, Senator DURBIN will be here to offer the first amendment. We have had good opening statements by the two managers of the bill. I do not know if Senator HATCH will be managing the bill or Senator SPECTER. It was good to see him here. A long statement by Senator LEAHY, the ranking member of the committee, was given today.

We are going to start offering amendments, and if people want to make statements, there will be time during this bill—there will be quorum calls and they will be able to do that. We are going to try to limit those as much as we can and move forward. Senator DURBIN's amendment will be one relative to bankruptcy.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, in terms of scheduling a vote—we will have more information on that tomorrow—again, it will be after the policy luncheon on the first amendment.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:45 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 4:37 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, March 1, 2005, at 9:45 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate February 28, 2005:

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

JOHN C. DUGAN, OF MARYLAND, TO BE COMPTROLLER OF THE CURRENCY FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS, VICE JOHN D. HAWKE, JR., RESIGNED.

METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON AIRPORTS AUTHORITY

WILLIAM COBEY, OF NORTH CAROLINA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON AIRPORTS AUTHORITY FOR A TERM EXPIRING MAY 30, 2010, VICE JOHN PAUL HAMMERSCHMIDT, TERM EXPIRED.

CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

NANCY ANN NORD, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A COMMISSIONER OF THE CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 26, 2005, VICE MARY SHEILA GALL, RESIGNED.

NANCY ANN NORD, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A COMMISSIONER OF THE CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION FOR A TERM OF SEVEN YEARS FROM OCTOBER 27, 2005. (REAPPOINTMENT)

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

JEFFREY CLAY SELL, OF TEXAS, TO BE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF ENERGY, VICE KYLE E. MCSLARROW, RESIGNED.

OVERSEAS PRIVATE INVESTMENT CORPORATION

CHRISTOPHER J. HANLEY, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE OVERSEAS PRIVATE INVESTMENT CORPORATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 17, 2006, VICE GEORGE J. KOURPIAS, TERM EXPIRED.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

LINDA MORRISON COMBS, OF NORTH CAROLINA, TO BE CONTROLLER, OFFICE OF FEDERAL FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT, OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET, VICE LINDA M. SPRINGER.

IN THE COAST GUARD

FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER TO SERVE AS THE DIRECTOR OF THE COAST GUARD RESERVE PURSUANT TO TITLE 14, U.S.C. SECTION 53 IN THE GRADE INDICATED:

To be rear admiral

RADM SALLY BRICE-O'HARA, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 14, U.S.C., SECTION 271:

To be rear admiral

REAR ADM. (LH) LARRY L. HERETH, 0000
REAR ADM. (LH) ROBERT J. PAPP, 0000
REAR ADM. (LH) CLIFFORD I. PEARSON, 0000
REAR ADM. (LH) JAMES C. VAN SLICE, 0000

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be general

LT. GEN. WILLIAM R. LOONEY III, 0000

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be brigadier general

COL. BENJAMIN J. SPRAGGINS, 0000

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADES INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. DONNA L. DACIER, 0000

To be brigadier general

COL. CHARLES K. EBNER, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be brigadier general

COL. JAMES O. BARCLAY III, 0000
COL. ARTHUR M. BARTELL, 0000
COL. DONALD M. CAMPBELL, JR., 0000
COL. DENNIS E. ROGERS, 0000

IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS RESERVE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. ANDREW B. DAVIS, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS RESERVE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be brigadier general

COL. MARK W. BIRCHER, 0000
COL. JOHN M. CROLEY, 0000
COL. DARRELL L. MOORE, 0000

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

CAPT. DONALD R. GINTZIG, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVAL RESERVE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

CAPT. RAYMOND P. ENGLISH, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

CAPT. RICHARD R. JEFFRIES, 0000
CAPT. DAVID J. SMITH, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

CAPT. MARK F. HEINRICH, 0000
CAPT. CHARLES M. LILLI, 0000

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED STUDENTS FOR REGULAR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 531 AND 2114.

To be captain

ERIK L. ABRAMES, 0000
ANGELA M. ALBRECHT, 0000
MICHAEL A. AROCHO, 0000
MICAH J. BAHR, 0000
CHRISTOPHER W. BATES, 0000
DAVID K. BIGELOW, 0000
BRANDON J. BINGHAM, 0000
SUSAN J. BITTEL, 0000
DANIEL J. BROWN, 0000
NATHAN F. CLEMENT, 0000
JAMES R. COONEY, 0000
SUSANNAH C. COOPER, 0000
SPENCER J. CURTIS, 0000
JONATHAN A. DAY, 0000
MELISSA J. DOOLEY, 0000
STACY F. FLETCHER, 0000
SCOTT H. FRYE, 0000
JOHN G. GANCAYCO, 0000
HEATHER M. GERST, 0000
JOSE GOROSPE, 0000
FREDERICK P. GROIS III, 0000
SVEN M. HOCHHEIMER, 0000
KYLE F. JARNAGIN, 0000
JULIE C. JERABEK, 0000
ROY L. JOHNSON III, 0000
NANCY L. KESEK, 0000
BRIAN D. LARSON, 0000
JOHN LICHTENBERGER III, 0000
ELEANE M. LEISEMER, 0000
APRIL LIGATO, 0000
LISA R. LOMBARDO, 0000
SHANNON M. MARCHEGIANI, 0000
MARIA E. MAURICIO, 0000
JEFFREY C. MCCLEAN, 0000
RYAN G. K. MIHATA, 0000
MANUEL A. NUNEZ, 0000
VALERIE C. OBRIEN, 0000
ADAM D. PERRY, 0000
KRISTINE K. PIERCE, 0000
BRANDON W. PROPPER, 0000
BEVERLY A. READER, 0000
ANDREW G. REES, 0000
GAIL SKIPPER, 0000
CANDACE S. STAUBITZ, 0000
TRAVIS A. STEPHENSEN, 0000
ROBERT C. SWIFT, 0000
ROGER S. THOMAS, 0000
PAUL A. TILTON, 0000
JAMES R. TOWNLEY, 0000
CHRISTOPHER J. WILHELM, 0000
GREGORY J. WILLIAMS, 0000
PHILIP A. WIXOM, 0000
EMILY B. WONG, 0000
DUOJIA XU, 0000

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be colonel

WILLIAM T. MONACCI

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

BRIAN J. TENNEY, 0000
KAREN T. WELDEN, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

DAVID J. BRICKER, 0000
JOHN C. GIUFFRIDA, 0000
PAUL E. JOHNSON, 0000
JAMES L. C. MCKENZIE, 0000
WAYNE A. STELTZ, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

LARRY N BARBER, 0000
GLYGER G BEACH, 0000
DEWAYNE L BREWER, 0000
RONALD A CASTEEL, 0000
DOUGLAS A CASTLE, 0000
THOMAS G COBBS, 0000
TODD W COMBEE, 0000
JAMES R DONNELLY, 0000
JAMES A ELLISON, 0000
ROBERT E FRIEND, JR, 0000
TOMMY W FULLER, 0000
JOHN M HIGGINS, 0000
BRYCE E HOLBROOK, 0000
DONALD W HOLDRIDGE, SR, 0000
GARY W HOWARD, 0000
JOEL P JENKINS, JR, 0000
THOMAS JOSEPH, 0000
KENNETH G KIRK, 0000
LANCE L KITTLESON, 0000
BERT S KOZEN, 0000
IRA I KRONENBERG, 0000
JON K MAAS, 0000
MICHAEL C METCALF, 0000
WILLIAM C METZDORF, 0000
RODNEY K MILLER, 0000
THOMAS W PHELAN, SR, 0000
JOHN C POWLEDGE, 0000
STANLEY E PUCKETT, 0000
DALLAS E SPEIGHT, 0000
DORIAN M STOKER, 0000
JOHN L TROUT, 0000
RICHARD R UHLER, JR, 0000
MICHAEL D WILSON, 0000
STEVEN A WILSON, 0000
DAVID D WORCESTER, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

To be major

HAYS L. ARNOLD, 0000
WILLIAM C. OTTO, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

To be major

JOHN P. GUERREIRO, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

To be major

EVELYN I. RODRIGUEZ, 0000

FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY DENTAL CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624 AND 3064:

To be major

DEMETRES WILLIAM, 0000

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR REGULAR APPOINTMENT IN GRADES INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531:

To be captain

DONALD R BENNETT, 0000
TERESA M BUESCHER, 0000
DANIEL E FREDERICK, 0000
JAMES R MARTIN, 0000
STEPHEN R MERRILL, 0000
BLAINE E MOWREY, 0000
THOMAS L RICHIE, 0000

To be commander

BRIAN A ALEXANDER, 0000
STEPHEN C ARCHER, 0000
KEVIN P BARRETT, 0000
KEVIN J BEDFORD, 0000
GREGORY S BLASCHKE, 0000
JEFFREY A CONWELL, 0000
MIGUEL A CUBANO, 0000
JAMES R DUNNE, 0000
ELISE T GORDON, 0000
BRADEN R HALE, 0000
MAUREEN T KENNEDY, 0000
WILLIAM J KLORIG, 0000
TREYCE S KNEE, 0000
THOMAS J MARSHALL, JR, 0000
STEVEN W MOLL, 0000
LOUIS D OROSZ, 0000
JOHN G RAHER, 0000
JONATHAN W RICHARDSON, 0000
JOEL A ROOS, 0000
MARY K RUSHER, 0000
KEVIN L RUSSELL, 0000
JOHN B SHAPIRA, 0000
DANIEL P SHMORHUN, 0000
ERIC P SMITH, 0000
JOEL A SMITHWICK, 0000
BERNARD P WANG, 0000

To be lieutenant commander

BILLY M APPLETON, 0000
PETER J BREWSTER, 0000
DAVID O BYNUM, 0000
LYNN M CARLTON, 0000
GREGORY R CARON, 0000
PHILLIP E CLARK, 0000
RONALD A COOLEY, 0000
TED L CRANDALL, 0000
DAVID R CRUMBLEY, 0000
CURTIS A CULWELL, 0000
DORMAN C DOWLING, 0000
JOHN M ELLWOOD, 0000
CAMERON H FISH, 0000
ROBERT J FITKIN, 0000
DOUGLAS W FLETCHER, 0000
STANLEY W FORNEA, 0000
BRYCE M GIBB, 0000
KATHERINE E GOODE, 0000
MICHAEL L GREENWALT, 0000
MICHAEL E HALL, 0000
THOMAS R HUNT, JR, 0000
TIMOTHY J JANNING, 0000
CARL P KOCH, 0000
MARCUS E LAWRENCE, 0000
MELISSA B MCGUIRE, 0000
GEORGE J MENDES, 0000
JEFFREY S MILNE, 0000
CINDY A MURRAY, 0000
DAVID L NUNNALLY, 0000
MICHAEL J OTT, 0000
JAMES E PATREY, 0000
EDWARD S PEASE, 0000
JAMES C PIERCE, 0000
STEPHEN J SHAW, 0000
FAWN R SNOW, 0000
STEVEN L SOUDERS, 0000
WILLIAM D STALLARD, 0000
EDWARD L TANNER, 0000
ROBERT J VANCE, 0000
ROGER E VANDERWERKEN, 0000
SHANE A VATH, 0000
ROBERT J WERNER, 0000
MARIA T WILKE, 0000
GLEN WOOD, 0000
ERNEST W WORMAN III, 0000
GEORGE B YOUNGER, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR REGULAR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531:

To be lieutenant

MATTHEW S. GILCHRIST, 0000

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, March 1, 2005 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MARCH 2

9 a.m.
Foreign Relations
To hold an oversight hearing to examine foreign assistance.
SD–419

9:30 a.m.
Environment and Public Works
Business meeting to consider S. 131, to amend the Clean Air Act to reduce air pollution through expansion of cap and trade programs, to provide an alternative regulatory classification for units subject to the cap and trade program.
SD–406

Appropriations
Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2006 for the Department of Education.
SD–124

10 a.m.
Appropriations
Defense Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2006 for the defense budget.
SD–192

Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2006 for the Forest Service.
SD–366

10:30 a.m.
Appropriations
Homeland Security Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2006 for states citizenship and immigration services/customs and border protection/immigration and customs enforcement.
SD–138

4:30 p.m.
Armed Services
To receive a closed briefing regarding Department of Defense human intelligence activities.
S–407, Capitol

MARCH 3

9:30 a.m.
Armed Services
To resume hearings to examine the proposed Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2006 and the Future Years Defense Program.
SH–216

Foreign Relations
Business meeting to consider an original resolution entitled Foreign Relations Authorization Act, fiscal years 2006 and 2007, to authorize appropriations for the Department of State and international broadcasting activities for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for foreign assistance programs for fiscal years 2006 and 2007.
SD–419

Appropriations
Interior Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2006 for the U.S. Forest Service.
SD–124

Judiciary
Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.
SD–226

Appropriations
VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2006 for the Department of Veterans Affairs.
SD–138

10 a.m.
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
To hold oversight hearings to examine the Terrorism Risk Insurance Program.
SD–538

Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2006 for the Department of Energy.
SD–366

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
To hold hearings to examine ensuring drug safety.
SD–106

2:30 p.m.
Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Terrence W. Boyle, of North Carolina, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit, James C. Dever III, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of North Carolina, and Robert J. Conrad, Jr., to be United States District Judge for the Western District of North Carolina.
SD–226

Aging
To hold hearings to examine implementation of the Medicare Modernization Act regarding delivering prescription drugs to dual eligibles.
SD–628

MARCH 7

2 p.m.
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Michael Jackson, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security.
SD–342

MARCH 8

9:30 a.m.
Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine military strategy and operational requirements in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2006.
SH–216

Rules and Administration
To hold hearings to examine S. 271, to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to clarify when organizations described in section 527 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 must register as political committees.
SR–301

10 a.m.
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
To hold hearings to examine the reauthorization of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission.
SD–106

Energy and Natural Resources
Public Lands and Forests Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine S. 179, to provide for the exchange of land within the Sierra National Forest, California, S. 213, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain Federal land to Rio Arriba County, New Mexico, S. 267, to reauthorize the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000, and S. 305, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to recruit volunteers to assist with or facilitate the activities of various agencies and offices of the Department of the Interior.
SD–366

2 p.m.
Veterans' Affairs
To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of the Disabled American Veterans.
345 CHOB

MARCH 9

10 a.m.
Veterans' Affairs
To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.
SH–216

MARCH 10

10 a.m.
Veterans' Affairs
To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans Affairs to examine the legislative presentations of the Blinded Veterans Association, the Non-Commissioned Officers Association, the Military Order of the Purple Heart, the Paralyzed Veterans of America and the Jewish War Veterans.
345 CHOB

MARCH 15

9:30 a.m.
Armed Services
To resume hearings to examine military strategy and operational requirements from combatant commanders in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2006.
SD–106

MARCH 17

9:30 a.m.
Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine current and future worldwide threats to the national security of the United States; to be followed by a closed hearing in SH–219.
SD–106

APRIL 14

10 a.m.
Veterans' Affairs
To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans Affairs to examine the legislative presentations of the Military Officers Association of America, the National Association of State Director of Veterans Affairs, AMVETS, the American Ex-Prisoners of War, and Vietnam Veterans of America.
345 CHOB

APRIL 21

10 a.m.
Veterans' Affairs
To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans Affairs to examine the legislative presentations of the Fleet Reserve Association, the Air Force Sergeants Association, the Retired Enlisted Association, and the Gold Star Wives of America.
345 CHOB

SEPTEMBER 20

10 a.m.
Veterans' Affairs
To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of the American Legion.
345 CHOB

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S1725–S1812

Measures Introduced: Eight bills and two resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 468–475, and S. Res. 67–68. **Pages S1794–95**

Measures Reported:

Reported on Wednesday, February 23, during the adjournment:

S. 47, to provide for the exchange of certain Federal land in the Santa Fe National Forest and certain non-Federal land in the Pecos National Historical Park in the State of New Mexico. (S. Rept. No. 109–7)

S. 74, to designate a portion of the White Salmon River as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. (S. Rept. No. 109–8)

S. 153, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a resource study of the Rim of the Valley Corridor in the State of California to evaluate alternatives for protecting the resources of the Corridor. (S. Rept. No. 109–9)

S. 212, to amend the Valles Caldera Preservation Act to improve the preservation of the Valles Caldera. (S. Rept. No. 109–10)

S. 225, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to undertake a program to reduce the risks from and mitigate the effects of avalanches on recreational users of public land, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 109–11)

S. 254, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain land to Lander County, Nevada, and the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain land to Eureka County, Nevada, for continued use as cemeteries. (S. Rept. No. 109–12) **Page S1794**

Reported on Monday, February 28:

S. 156, to designate the Ojito Wilderness Study Area as wilderness, to take certain land into trust for the Pueblo of Zia, with amendments. (S. Rept. No. 109–13) **Page S1794**

Measures Passed

Extension Living Well Week: Senate agreed to S. Res. 67, designating the second week of March 2005 as "Extension Living Well Week". **Page S1811**

Read Across America Day: Senate agreed to S. Res. 68, designating March 2, 2005, as "Read Across America Day". **Page S1811**

Bankruptcy Reform Act: Senate began consideration of S. 256, a bill to amend title 11 of the United States Code. **Pages S1726–88**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for the consideration of the bill at 10:45 a.m., on Tuesday, March 1, 2005.

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

John C. Dugan, of Maryland, to be Comptroller of the Currency for a term of five years.

William Cobey, of North Carolina, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority for a term expiring May 30, 2010.

Nancy Ann Nord, of the District of Columbia, to be a Commissioner of the Consumer Product Safety Commission for the remainder of the term expiring October 26, 2005.

Nancy Ann Nord, of the District of Columbia, to be a Commissioner of the Consumer Product Safety Commission for a term of seven years from October 27, 2005.

Jeffrey Clay Sell, of Texas, to be Deputy Secretary of Energy.

Christopher J. Hanley, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation for a term expiring December 17, 2006.

Linda Morrison Combs, of North Carolina, to be Controller, Office of Federal Financial Management, Office of Management and Budget.

2 Air Force nominations in the rank of general.

6 Army nominations in the rank of general.

5 Coast Guard nominations in the rank of admiral.

4 Marine Corps nominations in the rank of general.

6 Navy nominations in the rank of admiral.

Routine lists in the Air Force, Army, Navy. **Pages S1811–12**

Executive Communications: Pages S1793–94
Additional Cosponsors: Pages S1795–96
Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: Pages S1796–S1810
Additional Statements: Pages S1792–93
Amendments Submitted: Page S1810
Notices of Hearings/Meetings: Pages S1810–11
Privilege of the Floor: Page S1811

Adjournment: Senate convened at 2 p.m., and adjourned at 4:37 p.m., until 9:45 a.m., on Tuesday, March 1, 2005. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of Majority Leader in today's Record on page S18111.)

Committee Meetings

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

The House was not in session today. Pursuant to H. Con. Res. 66, the House stands adjourned until 2 p.m. on Tuesday, March 1.

Committee Meetings

No committee meetings were held.

NEW PUBLIC LAWS

(For last listing of Public Laws, see DAILY DIGEST, *p. D20)*

S. 5, to amend the procedures that apply to consideration of interstate class actions to assure fairer outcomes for class members and defendants. Signed on February 18, 2005. (Public Law 109–2)

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD

Week of March 1 through March 5, 2005

Senate Chamber

On *Tuesday,* at 10:45 a.m., Senate will continue consideration of S. 256, Bankruptcy Reform Act.

During the balance of the week Senate will consider any other cleared legislative and executive business.

Senate Committees

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Committee on Appropriations: March 2, Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services,and Education, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2006 forthe Department of Education, 9:30 a.m., SD–124.

March 2, Subcommittee on Defense, to hold hearings to examine proposedbudget estimates forfiscal year 2006 for the defense budget, 10 a.m., SD–192.

March 2, Subcommittee on Homeland Security, to hold hearings to examine proposed budgetestimates for fiscal year 2006 for states citizenship and immigration services/customs and borderprotection/immigration and customs enforcement, 10:30 a.m., SD–138.

March 3, Subcommittee on Interior, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates forfiscal year 2006 for the U.S. Forest Service, 9:30 a.m., SD–124.

March 3, Subcommittee on VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies, to hold hearings to examineproposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2006 for the Department of Veterans Affairs, 9:30 a.m.,SD–138.

Committee on Armed Services: March 1, to hold hearings to examine military strategy and operational requirements from combatant commanders in review of the Defense AuthorizationRequest for fiscal year 2006, 9:30 a.m., SH–216.

March 2, Full Committee, to receive a closed briefing regarding Department of Defense humanintelligence activities, 4:30 p.m., S–407, Capitol.

March 3, Full Committee, to resume hearings to examine the proposed Defense AuthorizationRequest for Fiscal Year 2006 and the Future Years Defense Program, 9:30 a.m., SH–216.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: March 1, to hold hearings to examine thenomination of Ronald Rosenfeld, of Oklahoma, to be a Director of the Federal Housing FinanceBoard, 2 p.m., SD–538.

March 3, Full Committee, to hold oversight hearings to examine the Terrorism Risk InsuranceProgram, 10 a.m., SD–538.

Committee on the Budget: March 1, to hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budgetfor fiscal year 2006 for defense, 10 a.m., SD–608.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: March 1, to hold hearings to examine thePresident's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2006 for the Department of the Interior, 10a.m., SD–366.

March 2, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget requestfor fiscal year 2006 for the Forest Service, 10 a.m., SD–366.

March 3, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget requestfor fiscal year 2006 for the Department of Energy, 10 a.m., SD–366.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: March 2, business meeting to consider S. 131, toamend the Clean Air Act to reduce air pollution through expansion of cap and trade programs, toprovide an alternative regulatory classification for units subject to the cap and trade program,9:30 a.m., SD–406.

Committee on Finance: March 1, to hold hearings to examine the financial status of PensionBenefit Guaranty Corporation and the Administration's Defined Benefit Plan Funding Proposal,2:15 p.m., SD–215.

Committee on Foreign Relations: March 2, to hold an oversight hearing to examine foreignassistance, 9 a.m., SD–419.

March 3, Full Committee, business meeting to consider an original resolution entitled ForeignRelations Authorization Act, fiscal years 2006 and 2007, to authorize appropriations for theDepartment of State and international broadcasting activities for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, forforeign assistance programs for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, 9:30 a.m., SD–419.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: March 1, to hold hearings to examineFood and Drug Administration's drug approval process, 9:30 a.m., SD–160.

March 3, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine ensuring drug safety, 10 a.m., SD–106.

Committee on the Judiciary: March 1, to hold hearings to examine the nomination of WilliamGerry Myers III, of Idaho, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit, 9:30 a.m., SD–226.

March 3, Full Committee, business meeting to consider pending calendar business, 9:30 a.m.,SD–226.

March 3, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Terrence W. Boyle, ofNorth Carolina, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit, James C. Dever III, to beUnited States District Judge for the Eastern District of North Carolina, and Robert J. Conrad, Jr.,to be United States District Judge for the Western District of North Carolina, 2:30 p.m., SD–226.

Special Committee on Aging: March 3, to hold hearings to examine implementation of theMedicare Modernization Act regarding delivering prescription drugs to dual eligibles, 2:30 p.m.,SD–628.

House Chamber

Program to be announced.

House Committees

Committee on Agriculture, March 1, hearing to Review the USDA's rule providing for Canadian beef and cattle imports, 2 p.m., 1300 Longworth.

March 3, Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities and Risk Management, hearing on the Reauthorization of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, 10 a.m., 1300 Longworth.

Committee on Appropriations, March 1, Subcommittee on Science, the Departments of State, Justice, and Commerce, and Related Agencies, on Attorney General, 10 a.m., 2359 Rayburn.

March 2, Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies, on Under Secretary for Food and Safety, 9:30 a.m., 2362A Rayburn.

March 2, Subcommittee on Defense, on Army Posture, 1:30 p.m., H–140 Capitol.

March 2, Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Agencies, on HIV/AIDS Budget, 10 a.m., 2359 Rayburn.

March 2, Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, on Secretary of the Interior, 10 a.m., B–308 Rayburn.

March 2, Subcommittee on Military Quality of Life, and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies, on Department of Defense Privatization Issues, 10 a.m., and on Department of Defense Budget Overview, 1:30 p.m., H–143 Capitol.

March 2, Subcommittee on Science, the Departments of State, Justice, and Commerce, and Related Agencies, on Secretary of Commerce, 2 p.m., 2359 Rayburn.

March 3, Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies, on Under Secretary for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services, 9:30 a.m., 2362A Rayburn.

March 3, Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies, on U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 10 a.m., and on Bureau of Reclamation, 2 p.m., 2362B Rayburn.

March 3, Subcommittee on the Department of Homeland Security, on Secretary of Homeland Security, 10 a.m., and on Transportation Security Administration, 2 p.m., 2359 Rayburn.

March 3, Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, oversight hearing on U.S. Geological Survey/Hazards: tsunamis, landslides, earthquakes, 10 a.m., and on Forest Service, 2 p.m., B–308 Rayburn.

March 3, Subcommittee on the Department of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies, on Secretary of Health and Human Services, 10 a.m., 2358 Rayburn.

March 3, Subcommittee on Military Quality of Life, and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies, on Army Budget, 9:30 a.m., and on Central Command, 1:30 p.m., H–143 Capitol.

Committee on Armed Services, March 2, to continue hearings on the Fiscal Year 2006 National Defense Authorization budget request, 10 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

March 2, Subcommittee on Projection Forces, hearing on the Fiscal Year 2006 National Defense Authorization budget request—Navy Research and Development: Programs in Support of the War on Terrorism, Naval Transformation, and Future Naval Capabilities, 2 p.m., 2212 Rayburn.

March 2, Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, hearing on the National Defense Authorization budget request, 2 p.m., 2118 Rayburn.

March 3, Subcommittee on Military Personnel, hearing on the Care of Injured and Wounded Service Members, 10 a.m., 2212 Rayburn.

March 3, Subcommittee on Readiness, hearing on the Fiscal Year 2006 National Defense Authorization budget request on the Adequacy of the Budget to Meet Readiness Needs, 2 p.m., 2118 Rayburn.

March 3, Subcommittee on Tactical and Land Forces, hearing on the Fiscal Year 2006 National Defense Authorization budget request on the Department of Navy and Department of the Air Force Aviation Acquisition Programs, 9 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

March 3, Subcommittee on Terrorism, Unconventional Threats and Capabilities, hearing on the Fiscal Year 2006 National Defense Authorization budget request on Tactical C–4 Systems: Why Does the DOD Have So Many Different Systems Performing the Same Functionality? 3 p.m., 2212 Rayburn.

Committee on the Budget, March 2, hearing on the Economic Outlook and Current Fiscal Issues, 10 a.m., 210 Cannon.

March 3, hearing on Members' Day, 2 p.m., 210 Cannon.

Committee on Education and the Workforce, March 1, hearing entitled ''Enforcement of Federal Anti-Fraud Laws in For-Profit Education,'' 2 p.m., 2175 Rayburn.

March 2, hearing entitled ''The Retirement Security Crisis: The Administration's Proposal for Pension Reform and its Implications for Workers and Taxpayers,'' 10:30 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, March 2, hearing entitled ''Competition in the Communications Marketplace: How Technology is Changing the Structure of the Industry,'' 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

March 2, Subcommittee on Energy and Air Quality, hearing entitled ''Clean Air Act Transportation Conformity Provisions Contained in H.R. 3, Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users,'' 2 p.m., 2123 Rayburn.

March 3, Subcommittee on Commerce, Trade, and Consumer Protection, hearing on the United States Boxing Commission Act, 11:30 a. m., 2322 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, March 2, oversight hearing on the Department of Housing and Urban Development, including the Department's budget request for fiscal year 2006, 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Government Reform, March 1, Subcommittee on Federalism and the Census, hearing entitled ''Strengthening Our Communities—Is it the Right Step toward Greater Efficiency and Improved Accountability?'' 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

March 2, Subcommittee on Federal Workforce and Agency Organization, hearing entitled ''The Countdown to Completion: Implementing the New Department of Homeland Security Personnel System,'' 10 a.m., 2247 Rayburn.

March 2, Subcommittee on Government Management, Finance, and Accountability, hearing entitled ''Protecting Pensions and Ensuring the Solvency of PBGC,'' 2 p.m., 2247 Rayburn.

March 2, Subcommittee on National Security, Emergency Threats and International Relations, hearing entitled ''Emerging Threats: Overclassification and Psuedoclassification,'' 1 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

March 3, full Committee, hearing entitled ''Making Networx Work: Countdown to the RFP for the Federal Government's Telecommunications Program,'' 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, March 2, Subcommittee on Economic Security, Infrastructure Protection and Cybersecurity, hearing entitled ''Proposed FY 2006 Budget: Integrating Homeland Security Screening Operations,'' 2 p.m., 2325 Rayburn.

Committee on International Relations, March 1, Subcommittee on Africa, Global Human Rights and International Operations, briefing followed by a hearing on United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo: A Case for Peacekeeping Reform, 1 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

March 2, Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, hearing on the Crisis in Nepal, 1:30 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

March 2, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing on United Nations Operations: Integrity and Accountability, 10:30 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

March 3, Subcommittee on Africa, Global Human Rights and International Operations and the Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere, joint hearing on Year Two of Castro's Brutal Crackdown on Dissidents, 1:30 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

March 3, Subcommittee on International Terrorism and Nonproliferation, hearing on Algeria's Struggle Against Terrorism, 2 p.m., 2200 Rayburn.

Committee on the Judiciary, March 3, Subcommittee on the Constitution, hearing on H.R. 748, Child Interstate Abortion Notification Act, 2:30 p.m., 2141 Rayburn.

March 3, Subcommittee on Immigration, Border Security, and Claims, oversight hearing entitled ''The Immigration Enforcement Resources Authorized in the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Act of 2004,'' 11:30 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Resources, March 1, Subcommittee on Fisheries and Oceans, oversight hearing on the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000, 1 p.m., 1324 Longworth.

March 3, Subcommittee on Water and Power, oversight hearing entitled ''President's Fiscal Year 2006 Budget Request for the Bureau of Reclamation and the Water Division of the U.S. Geological Survey,'' 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Rules, March 1, to consider the following: H.R. 841, Continuity in Representation Act of 2005; and H.R. 27, Job Training Improvement Act of 2005, 5 p.m., H–313 Capitol.

Committee on Science, March 3, hearing on H.R. 798, Methamphetamine Remediation Research Act of 2005, 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Small Business, March 2, hearing entitled ''Prescriptions for Health Care Solutions,'' 2 p.m., 311 Cannon.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, March 2, to consider H.R. 3, Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users, 11 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

March 3, Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation, hearing on the Fiscal Year 2006 Budget for Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Programs, and H.R. 889, Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2005, 12 p.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, March 2, executive, hearing on the Budget, 1:30 p.m., H–405 Capitol.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

9:45 a.m., Tuesday, March 1

Senate Chamber

Program for Tuesday: After the transaction of any routine morning business (not to extend beyond 60 minutes), Senate will continue consideration of S. 256, Bankruptcy Reform Act.

(Senate will recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. for their respective party conferences.)

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 p.m., Tuesday, March 1

House Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Program to be amended.

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