

S. 3825

At the request of Mr. BURNS, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. STEVENS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3825, a bill to end the flow of methamphetamine and precursor chemicals coming across the border of the United States.

S. 3828

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. BUNNING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3828, a bill to amend title 4, United States Code, to declare English as the official language of the Government of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. CON. RES. 71

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 71, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that States should require candidates for driver's licenses to demonstrate an ability to exercise greatly increased caution when driving in the proximity of a potentially visually impaired individual.

S. CON. RES. 97

At the request of Mr. SALAZAR, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. JEFFORDS), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SANTORUM) were added as cosponsors of S. Con. Res. 97, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that it is the goal of the United States that, not later than January 1, 2025, the agricultural, forestry, and working land of the United States should provide from renewable resources not less than 25 percent of the total energy consumed in the United States and continue to produce safe, abundant, and affordable food, feed, and fiber.

S. CON. RES. 101

At the request of Mr. SANTORUM, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 101, a concurrent resolution condemning the repression of the Iranian Baha'i community and calling for the emancipation of Iranian Baha'is.

S. RES. 494

At the request of Mr. SANTORUM, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 494, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the creation of refugee populations in the Middle East, North Africa, and the Persian Gulf region as a result of human rights violations.

S. RES. 552

At the request of Mr. SESSIONS, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) and the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 552, a resolution designating September 2006 as "National Prostate Cancer Awareness Month".

AMENDMENT NO. 4764

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the name of the Senator from New Jersey

(Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 4764 intended to be proposed to H.R. 5631, a bill making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS—AUGUST 3, 2006

By Mr. SMITH (for himself, Mr. BINGAMAN, and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 3813. A bill to permit individuals who are employees of a grantee that is receiving funds under section 330 of the Public Health Service Act to enroll in health insurance coverage provided under the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I am pleased to be an original coauthor of the Community Health Center Employee Health Coverage Act of 2006 with Senators SMITH and MURKOWSKI. I ask for unanimous consent that a fact sheet with respect to the legislation be printed in the RECORD.

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

FACT SHEET

Problem: Like many small businesses, health centers have seen their health insurance premiums sky-rocket. Although they delivered comprehensive primary and preventive care to more than 15 million people in 2004, more than 6 million of whom had no health insurance coverage, these rising costs will have detrimental impacts on health centers as they are forced to channel federal grant dollars (which are intended for the uninsured and underinsured) to pay for the increasing insurance expenditures. If this continues, health centers may eventually be forced to either reduce the coverage of their own employees or reduce the availability of health care in their already underserved communities.

Fortunately, employees of health centers are generally healthy individuals and largely do not have chronic diseases or high medical bills. The irony here is that at the same time that health center employees are providing quality care to the uninsured and very poor, they are often unable to afford health insurance themselves. Furthermore, health centers have cited affordable health care as a key concern in recruiting and retaining quality employees and clinical staff.

Solution: This bipartisan legislation, introduced by Senators Smith, Bingaman, and Murkowski, would reduce health centers' rising health insurance costs and also improve coverage in many cases and therefore save taxpayer grant money that would otherwise be used to pay health insurance premiums. The bill would enable health centers to use scarce funds to continue providing care in their communities. In addition, extending coverage under FEHBP to health centers would allow health centers to continue to offer health insurance to their employees so they too don't join the ranks of the uninsured.

This bill would not set a precedent. The law currently provides for Federal Employees Health Benefit Program (FEHBP) coverage for other individuals who are not federal employees but do receive federal grant

funds for their operations, such as Gallaudet University or USDA grant recipients comprised of local farmers. Currently FEHBP covers over nine million federal employees, while Health Centers employ nearly 100,000 people across the country.

This would be a logical extension of the health centers' Federal Tort Claims Act (FTCA) legislation, where health center staffers are deemed as federal employees for medical malpractice coverage purposes. This bill would extend the same mechanism for health insurance purposes.

Benefit: This bill will aid in the continuation of providing quality health care to those who need it most. It would also provide relief to community health centers in the form of lower premiums and better coverage for their employees by deeming them as federal employees for purposes of the Federal Employee Health Benefit Program (FEHBP). There should be no federal cost for this bill as health centers will pay the health care premiums for their employees but at a less expensive cost.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. KYL (for himself, Mr. ENSIGN, Mr. REID, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 3841. A bill to authorize appropriations for the Bureau of Reclamation to carry out the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program in the States of Arizona, California, and Nevada, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, today I am pleased to join with Senators ENSIGN, FEINSTEIN and REID to introduce the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program Act. This bipartisan legislation is designed to protect and maintain wildlife habitat on the lower Colorado River and to provide assurances to the affected water and power agencies of Arizona, California, and Nevada that their river operations may continue upon compliance with the underlying program.

The Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program, otherwise known as the MSCP, is a comprehensive, cooperative effort among 50 Federal and non-Federal entities in Arizona, California, and Nevada whose purposes are to: 1. protect the lower Colorado River environment while ensuring the certainty of existing river water and power operations; 2. protect threatened and endangered wildlife under the Endangered Species Act; and 3. prevent the listing of additional species on the lower Colorado River.

To accomplish these goals, the MSCP will create more than 8,100 acres of riparian, marsh, and backwater habitat and implement additional measures to protect 26 endangered, threatened and sensitive species. The program covers approximately 400 miles, including the full-pool elevations of Lake Mead to the United States-Mexico Southerly International Boundary.

The program costs will be spread over 50 years, and split 50/50 between the Federal Government and the non-