

3621, a bill to permit certain local law enforcement officers to carry firearms on aircraft.

S. 3656

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3656, a bill to provide additional assistance to combat HIV/AIDS among young people, and for other purposes.

S. 3668

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3668, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the expansion and improvement of traumatic brain injury programs, and for other purposes.

S. 3696

At the request of Mr. BROWNBACK, the names of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) and the Senator from Utah (Mr. BENNETT) were added as cosponsors of S. 3696, a bill to amend the Revised Statutes of the United States to prevent the use of the legal system in a manner that extorts money from State and local governments, and the Federal Government, and inhibits such governments' constitutional actions under the first, tenth, and fourteenth amendments.

S. 3737

At the request of Mr. LIEBERMAN, the names of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. ALLEN) and the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON) were added as cosponsors of S. 3737, a bill to amend the National Trails System Act to designate the Washington-Rochambeau Route National Historic Trail.

S. 3766

At the request of Mr. SANTORUM, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. ENSIGN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3766, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a tax credit for donations to non-profit scholarship organizations and educational improvement organizations.

S. 3771

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. SALAZAR), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. AKAKA), the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. OBAMA), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. DOMENICI), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BAYH), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) were added as cosponsors of S. 3771, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide additional authorizations of appropriations for the health centers program under section 330 of such Act.

S. 3795

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the names of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) and the Senator from

New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) were added as cosponsors of S. 3795, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for a two-year moratorium on certain Medicare physician payment reductions for imaging services.

S. 3855

At the request of Mr. CONRAD, the names of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) and the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) were added as cosponsors of S. 3855, a bill to provide emergency agricultural disaster assistance, and for other purposes.

S. 3874

At the request of Mr. DEWINE, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) and the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. HAGEL) were added as cosponsors of S. 3874, a bill to provide in statute for the conduct of electronic surveillance of suspected terrorists for the purposes of protecting the American people, the Nation, and its interests from terrorist attack while ensuring that the civil liberties of United States citizens are safeguarded, and for other purposes.

S. 3877

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SPECTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3877, a bill entitled the "Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Improvement and Enhancement Act of 2006".

S.J. RES. 14

At the request of Mr. BROWNBACK, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 14, a joint resolution providing for the recognition of Jerusalem as the undivided capital of Israel before the United States recognizes a Palestinian state, and for other purposes.

S. CON. RES. 84

At the request of Mr. KYL, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. ALLARD) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 84, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress regarding a free trade agreement between the United States and Taiwan.

S. RES. 559

At the request of Mr. BIDEN, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BOND), the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 559, a resolution calling on the President to take immediate steps to help stop the violence in Darfur.

AMENDMENT NO. 4919

At the request of Mr. STEVENS, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. DEWINE) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 4919 proposed to H.R. 4954, a bill to improve maritime and cargo security through enhanced layered defenses, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. INOUE, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr.

AKAKA) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 4919 proposed to H.R. 4954, supra.

AMENDMENT NO. 4922

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the names of the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON) and the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 4922 proposed to H.R. 4954, a bill to improve maritime and cargo security through enhanced layered defenses, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. LUGAR:

S. 3884. A bill to impose sanctions against individuals responsible for genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity, to support measures for the protection of civilians and humanitarian operations, and to support peace efforts in the Darfur region of Sudan, and for other purposes; read the first time.

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce a bill that is a product of a significant amount of consideration and work within our Congress over the last year and a half. The Darfur Peace and Accountability Act of 2006 has had many iterations since both the Senate and the House introduced legislation by the same name in 2005. Each piece of legislation that has been introduced has contributed to Congress's understanding of this issue and has ensured a more complete and thoughtful response.

There is a consensus within Congress that the genocidal policies of the Bashir regime in Sudan must be condemned and opposed. Many Members have introduced bills and resolutions dealing with the crisis, and Members have been vocal about the urgency of this issue through hearings, statements, visits to the region, and other activities. This consensus has been supported by numerous groups and individual Americans who have lent their voices to the effort to prevent genocide and their resources to provide relief to those in the region who are facing violence and bleak circumstances.

The legislation I am introducing today is intended to provide a vehicle upon which Members can quickly concur and consolidate their efforts in providing needed authorities for our State Department and targeted sanctions to compel Khartoum to comply with their agreements. Regrettably, the Darfur Peace Agreement appears to be faltering with the ill-advised rejection of the U.N. resolution establishing a U.N. peacekeeping force to transition from the overburdened African Union mission in Sudan. The situation has become insecure for humanitarian operations and as threatening to the people of the region as it has ever been. The United Nations Security Council resolution authorizing a peacekeeping force for Darfur is a unanimous signal that the international community is

committed to seeing no further violence take place in Darfur. Sudan, as a member of the United Nations, must abide by this decision of the international community. Their national and international responsibility is to serve and protect their people, and the suffering and killing in Darfur must end. The gargantuan humanitarian effort to provide basic necessities for more than 2 million displaced persons requires unrestricted access by national and international aid organizations, as well as the U.N.-mandated peacekeeping force to ensure their security.

This legislation also seeks to help consolidate the difficult road to recovery in southern Sudan in accordance with the Comprehensive Peace Agreement for Sudan. I have included additional authorities for our officials to provide assistance to southern Sudan, as well as Darfur. Such economic and military assistance is necessary and requires close consultation with Congress to ensure assistance is not manipulated or misdirected. The bill also sustains existing sanctions on Sudan in direct response to their violation of agreements they have made. The President will have the authority to waive these restrictions if he determines such action is in our national interest; so the flexibility he requires is there as well.

Finally, in further support of peace and to assist U.S. diplomats, targeted sanctions are authorized on individuals whom the President determines are "complicit in, or responsible for, acts of genocide, war crimes, or crimes against humanity in Darfur." These sanctions include blocking assets and refusing to grant individuals entry to the United States. Further, this legislation encourages the President to prevent entry at our ports to certain ships in order to deny the Government of Sudan oil revenues and access to deliveries of military equipment. The only exception to such entry should be for those vessels providing assistance in carrying out the elements of the Sudan peace agreements or humanitarian assistance.

Shifting circumstances on the ground in Sudan and at the United Nations have complicated our efforts to achieve consensus on legislation that would help our diplomats resolve the Darfur crisis. I believe this legislation can win majority support in the Senate, and I hope it will receive favorable consideration in the House.

By Mr. DORGAN (for himself, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. LEAHY, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. KERRY, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mr. LIEBERMAN):

S. 3887. A bill to prohibit the Internal Revenue Service from using private debt collection companies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, today I am joined by Senator MURRAY and seven of our Senate colleagues in intro-

ducing legislation to stop the Internal Revenue Service's plan to outsource part of its tax collection responsibilities to private collection companies.

It would be a serious mistake for the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to move ahead with its controversial tax debt collection privatization plan. When the IRS attempted a similar plan in 1996, it failed miserably. Mistakes were made at every turn. Taxpayers were harassed by private debt collectors. In many instances, private debt collectors violated Federal debt collection laws and confidential taxpayer information was not properly secured.

Serious concerns have been raised by tax experts, including the National Taxpayer Advocate, that the new IRS initiative will suffer from the same kinds of maladies. It is my understanding that the IRS intends to share more than 2.5 million taxpayer accounts with ten private collection companies when its new plan is fully implemented. There is troubling evidence which suggests that the IRS plan may not have adequate safeguards in place to protect confidential taxpayer information.

Just over two years ago, a Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (TIGTA) investigation found that a contractor's employees committed security violations, placing IRS equipment and taxpayer data at risk. In some cases, TIGTA officials found that contractors "blatantly circumvented IRS policies and procedures even when security personnel had identified inappropriate practices."

It is also troubling that the IRS has agreed to pay very large commissions of 21 to 24 percent of the amount of the tax debt collected by three private collection firms at the outset of its initiative. Some tax experts understand what others are choosing to ignore: paying a commission based on the firms' success increases the potential for overzealous collection practices and the misuse of sensitive taxpayer information. Private debt collection agencies are driven by profit motives, not public service.

In addition, the IRS admits that if it hired more employees for this purpose, not private collectors, far more revenues would be deposited in the U.S. Treasury fund. It is astounding that the IRS appears ready to pay nearly a quarter for every dollar collected by private collection firms, when internal IRS reports suggest that it would cost the Federal Government just 3 pennies on a dollar to have trained IRS employees collect tax debts that are owed. At a time of exploding deficits and Federal debt, the IRS plan to use of private debt collectors would be an inexcusable waste of taxpayer money.

Everybody needs to pay the taxes they owe. If they do not, however, professional IRS employees, not private collectors in search of profits, should be the ones to ensure that outstanding tax debts are paid. If the IRS now says it needs more resources for tax enforce-

ment and collection activities, then Congress should consider providing them.

I fully agree with the independent Taxpayer Advocacy Panel's recent recommendation that the IRS "should abandon all plans to outsource any taxpayer debts and restrict collection activities to properly trained and proficient IRS personnel." Indeed, the IRS should immediately reverse course and indefinitely suspend the implementation of its private debt collection plan.

It was recently reported in the press that IRS Commissioner Everson has said the IRS will "immediately stand down" if the House and Senate act to revoke its authority to outsource tax debt collections to private companies. The House of Representatives has already voted to kill new funding for this IRS initiative. I will be pushing for a vote on this proposal by the full Senate at the first available opportunity.

The IRS should act on its own to stop its planned use of private debt collectors and save any further expenditures of taxpayer money for this purpose. If not, however, I will do everything in my power to put the brakes on this plan in the U.S. Senate.

There is an old adage: "Those who cannot learn from history are doomed to repeat it." Someone needs to remind the Internal Revenue Service and even some in the Congress of that. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this legislation and help us get it enacted into law.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I am glad to join my colleague, Senator DORGAN, and other cosponsors, in introducing legislation which would prevent the use of private collection agencies by the Internal Revenue Service. As Ranking Member of the Transportation, Treasury, the Judiciary, HUD, and Related Agencies (TTHUD) Appropriations Subcommittee, I have consistently opposed allowing the IRS the authority to hire private debt collectors. During Subcommittee hearings with the IRS, I have had the opportunity to discuss this issue at length with the current IRS Commissioner, Mark Everson. What I have learned during those conversations has not changed my mind.

When Chairman BOND and I finally are allowed to bring the Fiscal Year 2007 Transportation/Treasury Appropriations bill to the Senate Floor, I intend to offer an amendment that would effectively prohibit the IRS from going forward with this initiative. My amendment will be very similar to the bill we introduce today and the language that is already included in the House-passed Transportation/Treasury bill. I would point out, that the House Transportation/Treasury bill cleared the House of Representatives with the support of more than 400 Members.

There is no question that people who owe back taxes must pay their debt to the government. At the same time, every taxpayer should have the right to interact with a professional IRS agent when it comes to dealing with contested tax liabilities.

I'm against the use of private collection agencies (PCAs) because, first, I don't believe that taxpayer privacy will be adequately protected. When the IRS attempted the use of PCAs once before in the 1990s, it was a dismal failure. The IRS has not had a good track record of protecting taxpayer information and the Treasury Department's performance in providing information security protections to protect data confidentiality has worsened.

Second, I am concerned that private debt collectors will not show the level of professionalism, sensitivity, and respect that taxpayers deserve. In 2005, the Federal Trade Commission received more consumer complaints about private debt collectors than any other industry.

Due to the nature of the debts that the IRS intends to transfer to PCAs, the likely result will be that these agencies will end up going after the most vulnerable taxpayers in our society. We should not allow a system to emerge where better-off taxpayers get the benefit of interacting with a professional IRS agent, while economically-disadvantaged taxpayers are relegated to the harassing tactics of private collection agencies.

Third, I am deeply concerned with the cost-effectiveness of this initiative. The IRS Commissioner, himself, testified that it would be more cost-effective for the IRS to collect these debts than to contract them out to PCAs. Initially, I am told that it will require 55 IRS personnel to oversee 75 private tax collectors. Taken as a whole, I have to wonder whether the Federal Treasury will really benefit at all from this initiative.

Finally, the IRS should not be moving ahead with this activity while Congress is still debating its merits. More than 400 Members of the House approved a bill that included a prohibition on outsourcing tax collection. The IRS should suspend this effort immediately until the Congress has debated its fate and reached a final judgment.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 565—EX-PRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE UPON THE FIVE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE TERRORIST ATTACKS AGAINST THE UNITED STATES ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

Mr. FRIST (for himself, Mr. REID, Mr. KYL, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. BAYH, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. BOND, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. BURNS, Mr. BURR, Mr. BYRD, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CHAFEE, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. COBURN, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. COLEMAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DAYTON, Mr. DEMINT, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. DODD, Mrs.

DOLE, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ENSIGN, Mr. ENZI, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. GREGG, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. HATCH, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. INOUE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KERRY, Mr. KOHL, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. LOTT, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. MIKULSKI, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, Mr. OBAMA, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. REED, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. SANTORUM, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. SMITH, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. SPECTER, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. SUNUNU, Mr. TALENT, Mr. THOMAS, Mr. THUNE, Mr. VITTER, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. WARNER, and Mr. WYDEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 565

Whereas on September 11, 2001, terrorists hijacked four civilian aircraft; crashed two of them into the towers of the World Trade Center in New York City; and crashed the third into the Pentagon outside Washington, D.C.;

Whereas the fourth hijacked plane, United Airlines flight 93, crashed in Somerset County, Pennsylvania, near the town of Shanksville, after the passengers and crew of that flight struggled with the terrorist-hijackers to take back control of the plane, ultimately preventing the flight from reaching its likely destination in Washington, DC;

Whereas the heroic actions of the rescue workers, volunteers, federal, state and local officials who responded to the attacks with courage, determination, and skill is to be commended;

Whereas thousands of innocent Americans, and civilians from many other countries, were killed and injured as a result of these attacks;

Whereas Congress declared, in the aftermath of the attacks, September 12, 2001 to be a National Day of Unity and Mourning;

Whereas there has not been a terrorist attack on the United States homeland since the terrorist attacks five years ago; but al Qaeda has perpetrated terrorist attacks throughout the world against U.S. persons, facilities, and interests, as well as U.S. allies during that time;

Now, therefore, be it *Resolved*, That the Senate

(1) commemorates the life of each individual who died as a result of the attacks of September 11, 2001;

(2) extends its deepest condolences to the victims of these attacks, as well as to their families, friends, and loved ones;

(3) once again condemns in the strongest possible terms the attacks, the terrorists who perpetrated them, and their sponsors;

(4) commits to support the necessary steps to interdict and defeat terrorists who plot to do harm to the American people;

(5) recommits itself and the nation to bringing to justice the perpetrators of the attacks, along with their sponsors;

(6) honors and expresses its gratitude to members of its Armed Forces, law enforcement personnel, first responders, members of intelligence community and others who have bravely and faithfully participated in the War on Terrorism since September 11, 2001;

(7) declares September 11, 2006 to be a National Day of Remembrance, in commemoration of the terrorist attacks against the United States on September 11, 2001;

(8) declares that when the Senate adjourns today, it stand adjourned as a further mark of respect to each individual who died as a result of the attacks of September 11, 2001.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 4924. Mr. ROCKEFELLER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4954, to improve maritime and cargo security through enhanced layered defenses, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4925. Mr. SHELBY (for himself, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. SANTORUM, Mr. REED, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mrs. CLINTON, and Mr. LIEBERMAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4954, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4926. Mr. STEVENS (for himself, Mr. INOUE, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. LAUTENBERG, and Mrs. CLINTON) proposed an amendment to amendment SA 4922 submitted by Mr. MCCAIN (for himself, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. BIDEN, and Mr. LIEBERMAN) to the bill H.R. 4954, supra.

SA 4927. Mr. STEVENS (for Mr. DEMINT (for himself, Mr. STEVENS, and Mr. INOUE)) proposed an amendment to amendment SA 4921 proposed by Mr. DEMINT to the bill H.R. 4954, supra.

SA 4928. Mr. BINGAMAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4954, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 4924. Mr. ROCKEFELLER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4954, to improve maritime and cargo security through enhanced layered defenses, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

SEC. —. ESTABLISHMENT OF COMPETITIVE RESEARCH PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title III of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 181 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following: “SEC. 314. COMPETITIVE RESEARCH PROGRAM.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—

“(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary, acting through the Under Secretary for Science and Technology, shall establish a competitive research program within the Directorate.

“(2) DIRECTOR.—The program shall be headed by a Director, who shall be appointed by the Secretary. The Director shall report to the Under Secretary.

“(3) DUTIES OF DIRECTOR.—In the administration of the program, the Director shall—

“(A) establish a cofunding mechanism for States with academic facilities that have not fully developed security-related science and technology to support burgeoning research efforts by the faculty or link them to established investigators;

“(B) provide for conferences, workshops, outreach, and technical assistance to researchers and institutions of higher education in States on topics related to developing science and technology expertise in areas of high interest and relevance to the Department;

“(C) monitor the efforts of States to develop programs that support the Department's mission;