

CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor 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. 3814

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. SALAZAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3814, a bill to amend part B of title XVIII of the Social Security Act to restore the Medicare treatment of ownership of oxygen equipment to that in effect before enactment of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005.

S. 3910

At the request of Mrs. CLINTON, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER), the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES) were added as cosponsors of S. 3910, a bill to direct the Joint Committee on the Library to accept the donation of a bust depicting Sojourner Truth and to display the bust in a suitable location in the Capitol.

S. 3920

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. COLEMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3920, a bill to amend part B of title XVIII of the Social Security Act to assure access to durable medical equipment under the Medicare Program.

S. 3936

At the request of Mr. FRIST, the names of the Senator from Utah (Mr. BENNETT) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) were added as cosponsors of S. 3936, a bill to invest in innovation and education to improve the competitiveness of the United States in the global economy.

S. 3962

At the request of Mr. DOMENICI, the names of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. HAGEL) and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. DEMINT) were added as cosponsors of S. 3962, a bill to enhance the management and disposal of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste, to assure protection of public health and safety, to ensure the territorial integrity and security of the repository at Yucca Mountain, and for other purposes.

S. 3972

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. COLEMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3972, a bill to amend title XXI of the Social Security Act to reduce funding shortfalls for the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) for fiscal year 2007.

S. 3980

At the request of Mr. DODD, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3980, a bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services, in consultation with the Secretary of Edu-

cation, to develop a policy for managing the risk of food allergy and anaphylaxis in schools, to establish school-based food allergy management grants, and for other purposes.

S. 4014

At the request of Mr. LUGAR, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VOINOVICH), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. DEWINE), the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. COLEMAN), the Senator from Florida (Mr. MARTINEZ), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. SUNUNU) and the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. HAGEL) were added as cosponsors of S. 4014, a bill to endorse further enlargement of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and to facilitate the timely admission of Albania, Croatia, Georgia, and Macedonia to NATO, and for other purposes.

S. 4015

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4015, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the amount of gain excluded from the sale of a principal residence.

S. 4043

At the request of Mrs. HUTCHISON, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4043, a bill to amend the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 to designate a portion of Interstate Route 14 as a high priority corridor, and for other purposes.

S. CON. RES. 84

At the request of Mr. KYL, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. DEMINT) 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.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. LEIBERMAN, Mr. LEAHY, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. COLEMAN, Mr. COBURN, Mr. KERRY, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. SUNUNU, Mr. KENNEDY, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. BYRD, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. WARNER, Ms. SNOWE, and Mr. BENNETT):

S. 4046. A bill to extend oversight and accountability related to United States reconstruction funds and efforts in Iraq by extending the termination date of the Office of the Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, today Senator FEINGOLD and I are introducing the Iraq Reconstruction Accountability Act of 2006. This bipartisan legislation, is co-sponsored by Senators LIEBERMAN, LEAHY, COLEMAN,

CANTWELL, SALAZAR, KERRY and COBURN, has a single purpose: to ensure continuing, vigorous oversight of American tax dollars in Iraq by repealing the premature termination date for the Office of the Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction (SIGIR).

This legislation would restore SIGIR's termination date to its previous schedule of 10 months after 80 percent of Iraq reconstruction funds have been expended. It would repeal conference language in the 2007 Defense Authorization Bill that would close SIGIR on October 1, 2007, and transfer oversight to the Inspectors General of the Departments of State, Defense, and the U.S. Agency for International Development.

Departmental and agency Inspectors General perform an important service with dedication and expertise. However, those offices are configured to provide audits, inspections, and investigations of continuing government operations. The traditional approach of IG oversight—extensive inquiries, lengthy preparation and delivery of reports, recommendations for corrective action—is thorough. But it also is time-consuming and can allow wasteful or fraudulent practices to continue for some time.

Iraq reconstruction is a unique situation, with enormous amounts of money being spent in a relatively short period of time on a specific range of programs and operations. A number of agencies across the federal government are active in Iraq reconstruction, including the Department of Defense, the Department of State, the U.S. Agency for International Development, the Department of Justice and others. Reconstruction managers, and ultimately the taxpayers, do not have the luxury of waiting months to receive recommendations to correct wasteful or fraudulent practices. Oversight of Iraq reconstruction requires that the Inspector General be able to cross departmental boundaries and deliver the results of his work quickly and efficiently.

Effective oversight of Iraq reconstruction requires the unique approach provided by the SIGIR. Special Inspector General Stuart Bowen described this approach in testimony before the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee in a hearing on August 2. SIGIR's auditors and inspectors provide on-the-spot guidance to managers as soon as problems are discovered, so corrective action can begin immediately. This "real time" method allows most of his reports to document not only how problems were detected, but also how they were corrected.

This method works. It should continue as long as American funds are being used for Iraq reconstruction, not terminate on some arbitrary and premature date. As of October 30, 2006, SIGIR estimates that the financial impact of its audit operations is \$441 billion, its investigative operations is \$20 million and its inspection operations is

\$1.44 billion. It has achieved these results while costing the taxpayer \$72 million. This means that for every dollar SIGIR has spent there has been a financial impact of \$25 dollars, a very impressive ratio. SIGIR has also opened 256 cases thus far, and has either referred for prosecution or cleared 164. SIGIR has an impressive record. The Office has 92 open cases, with 25 of them at the Department of Justice. SIGIR has issued 73 audit reports and 65 project assessments. Its work has led to the arrests of five people, and the convictions of four, with more than \$17 million in assets seized. During the current quarter, SIGIR investigators opened 20 new cases and closed 10.

There is no question that SIGIR has proven itself to be a much-needed watchdog, auditing reconstruction contracts in Iraq and spotlighting numerous cases of waste, fraud and abuse. We must keep this watchdog on the job.

In addition, SIGIR has taken on a mission that will benefit our nation long after the Iraq reconstruction efforts conclude. Through its Lessons Learned Initiative, the experience gained in Iraq—and the methods developed to track, evaluate, and correct programs—will provide critical guidance to managers and policymakers in the future. The efficient and speedy SIGIR approach would have helped the initial urgent stages of Katrina recovery immeasurably, and it will be invaluable in the aftermath of new disasters to come.

SIGIR has performed admirably in the most difficult of circumstances. Mr. Bowen and his exemplary staff have put themselves in harm's way numerous times. This incredible dedication is reflected in their work, which provides a high degree of oversight and accountability that is essential for Iraq reconstruction to succeed, and it is creating a template for success in the challenges that lie ahead. I urge my colleagues to support the Iraq Reconstruction Accountability Act. I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 4046

*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 "Iraq Reconstruction Accountability Act of 2006".

#### SEC. 2. MODIFICATION OF THE TERMINATION DATE FOR THE OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL INSPECTOR GENERAL FOR IRAQ RECONSTRUCTION.

Section 3001(o) of the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense and for the Reconstruction of Iraq and Afghanistan, 2004 (Public Law 108-106; 117 Stat. 1238; 5 U.S.C. App., note to section 8G of Public Law 95-452), as amended by section 1054(b) of the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 (Public Law 109-364), is amended to read as follows:

"(o) TERMINATION.—(1)(A) The Office of the Inspector General shall terminate 10 months after 80 percent of the funds appropriated or

otherwise made available to the Iraq Relief and Reconstruction Fund have been expended.

"(B) For purposes of calculating the termination of the Office of the Inspector General under this subsection, any United States funds appropriated or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2006 for the reconstruction of Iraq, irrespective of the designation of such funds, shall be deemed to be amounts appropriated or otherwise made available to the Iraq Relief and Reconstruction Fund.

"(2) The Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction shall, prior to the termination of the Office of the Special Inspector General under paragraph (1), prepare a final forensic audit report on all funds deemed to be amounts appropriated or otherwise made available to the Iraq Relief and Reconstruction Fund."

#### AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 5122. Mr. STEVENS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5385, making appropriations for the military quality of life functions of the Department of Defense, military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5123. Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. LEAHY, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. COLEMAN, Mr. COBURN, Mr. WARNER, Mr. KERRY, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. SUNUNU, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. SNOWE, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. BYRD, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mr. BENNETT) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 5385, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5124. Mr. REID submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5385, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5125. Mr. REED submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5385, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5126. Mrs. FEINSTEIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 5385, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5127. Mrs. FEINSTEIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 5385, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5128. Mr. AKAKA (for himself and Mr. OBAMA) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 5385, supra.

SA 5129. Mr. CRAIG submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5385, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5130. Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5385, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5131. Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5385, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5132. Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5385, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5133. Mr. FRIST (for Mr. MCCAIN) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 3501, to amend the Shivwits Band of the Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah Water Rights Settlement Act to establish an acquisition fund for the water rights and habitat acquisition program.

SA 5134. Mr. BAUCUS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the

bill H.R. 5385, making appropriations for the military quality of life functions of the Department of Defense, military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5135. Mrs. HUTCHISON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 5385, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5136. Mrs. HUTCHISON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 5385, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

#### TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 5122. Mr. STEVENS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5385, making appropriations for the military quality of life functions of the Department of Defense, military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes, which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 82, between lines 19 and 20, insert the following:

SEC. 126. (a) Of the amount appropriated or otherwise made available by this title under the heading "FAMILY HOUSING OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, ARMY", \$7,500,000 may be available for the lease of not more than 300 additional housing units in the vicinity of Fairbanks, Alaska. Such funds may not be available for the construction or purchase of such units.

(b)(1) The total cost of a unit leased under subsection (a), including the cost of utilities, maintenance, and operation, may not exceed \$25,000 per year.

(2) A lease entered into under subsection (a) may not exceed 5 years in duration or include an option to extend the lease beyond the 5-year period beginning on the date the lease commences.

SA 5123. Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. LEAHY, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. COLEMAN, Mr. COBURN, Mr. WARNER, Mr. KERRY, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. SUNUNU, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. SNOWE, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. BYRD, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mr. BENNETT) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 5385, making appropriations for the military quality of life functions of the Department of Defense, military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes, which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 82, between lines 19 and 20, insert the following:

SEC. 126. Section 3001(o) of the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense and for the Reconstruction of Iraq and Afghanistan, 2004 (Public Law 108-106; 117 Stat. 1238; 5 U.S.C. App., note to section 8G of Public Law 95-452), as amended by section 1054(b) of the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 (Public Law 109-364), is amended to read as follows:

"(o) TERMINATION.—(1)(A) The Office of the Inspector General shall terminate 10 months