

EC-3980. A communication from the Acting Chief Executive Officer, Millennium Challenge Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2009, through September 30, 2009; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. LIEBERMAN, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, without amendment:

S. 1755. A bill to direct the Department of Homeland Security to undertake a study on emergency communications (Rept. No. 111-105).

By Mr. INOUE, from the Committee on Appropriations:

Special Report entitled "Further Revised Allocation to Subcommittees of Budget Totals from the Concurrent Resolution, Fiscal Year 2010" (Rept. No. 111-106).

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. HARKIN for the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

*Jacqueline A. Berrien, of New York, to be a Member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for a term expiring July 1, 2014.

*Chai Rachel Feldblum, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for a term expiring July 1, 2013.

*P. David Lopez, of Arizona, to be General Counsel of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for a term of four years.

*Victoria A. Lipnic, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for the remainder of the term expiring July 1, 2010.

*Victoria A. Lipnic, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for a term expiring July 1, 2015.

*Adele Logan Alexander, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2014.

*Sara Manzano-Diaz, of Pennsylvania, to be Director of the Women's Bureau, Department of Labor.

*Patrick Alfred Corvington, of Maryland, to be Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation for National and Community Service.

*Lynnae M. Rutledge, of Washington, to be Commissioner of the Rehabilitation Services Administration, Department of Education.

By Mr. LEAHY for the Committee on the Judiciary.

Denny Chin, of New York, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit.

Rosanna Malouf Peterson, of Washington, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Washington.

William M. Conley, of Wisconsin, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Wisconsin.

Paul R. Verkuil, of Florida, to be Chairman of the Administrative Conference of the United States for the term of five years.

Richard G. Callahan, of Missouri, to be United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Missouri for the term of four years.

John Gibbons, of Massachusetts, to be United States Marshal for the District of Massachusetts for the term of four years.

John Leroy Kammerzell, of Colorado, to be United States Marshal for the District of Colorado for the term of four years.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN for the Select Committee on Intelligence.

*Philip S. Goldberg, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Intelligence and Research).

*Caryn A. Wagner, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis, Department of Homeland Security.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

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. PRYOR:

S. 2863. A bill to provide that an outbreak of infectious disease or act of terrorism may be a major disaster under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122 et seq.), and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. PRYOR:

S. 2864. A bill to provide for the enhancement of United States preparedness for outbreaks of infectious disease to protect homeland security; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. LIEBERMAN (for himself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 2865. A bill to reauthorize the Congressional Award Act (2 U.S.C. 801 et seq.), and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. BURRIS:

S. 2866. A bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to reauthorize the juvenile accountability block grants program through fiscal year 2014; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. MURRAY:

S. 2867. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to provide assistance to community depository institutions under the Public-Private Investment Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. LIEBERMAN:

S. 2868. A bill to provide increased access to the General Services Administration's Schedules Program by the American Red Cross and State and local governments; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. LANDRIEU (for herself and Ms. SNOWE):

S. 2869. A bill to increase loan limits for small business concerns, to provide for low interest refinancing for small business concerns, and for other purposes.

By Mr. INOUE (for himself, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. BEGICH, and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 2870. A bill to establish uniform administrative and enforcement procedures and penalties for the enforcement of the High Seas Driftnet Fishing Moratorium Protection Act and similar statutes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. INOUE:

S. 2871. A bill to make technical corrections to the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Convention Implementation Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 583

At the request of Mr. PRYOR, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 583, a bill to provide grants and loan guarantees for the development and construction of science parks to promote the clustering of innovation through high technology activities.

At the request of Mr. JOHANNIS, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 583, supra.

S. 812

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 812, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the special rule for contributions of qualified conservation contributions.

S. 848

At the request of Mrs. MCCASKILL, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 848, a bill to recognize and clarify the authority of the States to regulate intrastate helicopter medical services, and for other purposes.

S. 864

At the request of Mr. DORGAN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 864, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand tax-free distributions from individual retirement accounts for charitable purposes.

S. 941

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 941, a bill to reform the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, modernize firearm laws and regulations, protect the community from criminals, and for other purposes.

S. 1067

At the request of Mr. FEINGOLD, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1067, a bill to support stabilization and lasting peace in northern Uganda and areas affected by the Lord's Resistance Army through development of a regional strategy to support multilateral efforts to successfully protect civilians and eliminate the threat posed by the Lord's Resistance Army and to authorize funds for humanitarian relief and reconstruction, reconciliation, and transitional justice, and for other purposes.

S. 1076

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1076, a bill to improve the accuracy of fur product labeling, and for other purposes.

S. 1129

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1129, a bill to authorize the Secretary of Education to award grants to local educational agencies to improve college enrollment.

S. 1160

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1160, a bill to provide housing assistance for very low-income veterans.

S. 1243

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1243, a bill to require repayments of obligations and proceeds from the sale of assets under the Troubled Asset Relief Program to be repaid directly into the Treasury for reduction of the public debt.

S. 1439

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1439, a bill to provide for duty-free treatment of certain recreational performance outerwear, and for other purposes.

S. 1932

At the request of Mr. BENNET, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1932, a bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to allow members of the Armed Forces who served on active duty on or after September 11, 2001, to be eligible to participate in the Troops-to-Teachers Program, and for other purposes.

S. 2747

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2747, a bill to amend the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 to provide consistent and reliable authority for, and for the funding of, the land and water conservation fund to maximize the effectiveness of the fund for future generations, and for other purposes.

S. 2755

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2755, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an investment credit for equipment used to fabricate solar energy property, and for other purposes.

S. 2796

At the request of Mr. ENZI, the names of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. JOHANNIS) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2796, a bill to extend the authority of the Secretary of Education to purchase guaranteed student loans for an additional year, and for other purposes.

S. 2816

At the request of Mr. BUNNING, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr.

BAYH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2816, a bill to repeal the sunset of the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001 with respect to the expansion of the adoption credit and adoption assistance programs and to allow the adoption credit to be claimed in the year expenses are incurred, regardless of when the adoption becomes final.

S. 2853

At the request of Mr. GREGG, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2853, a bill to establish a Bipartisan Task Force for Responsible Fiscal Action, to assure the long-term fiscal stability and economic security of the Federal Government of the United States, and to expand future prosperity growth for all Americans.

At the request of Mr. CONRAD, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WEBB) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2853, *supra*.

S. RES. 316

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 316, a resolution calling upon the President to ensure that the foreign policy of the United States reflects appropriate understanding and sensitivity concerning issues related to human rights, ethnic cleansing, and genocide documented in the United States record relating to the Armenian Genocide, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2789

At the request of Mr. COBURN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2789 intended to be proposed to H.R. 3590, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the first-time homebuyers credit in the case of members of the Armed Forces and certain other Federal employees, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2793

At the request of Mr. BEGICH, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2793 proposed to H.R. 3590, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the first-time homebuyers credit in the case of members of the Armed Forces and certain other Federal employees, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2878

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. UDALL) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 2878 intended to be proposed to H.R. 3590, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the first-time homebuyers credit in the case of members of the Armed Forces and certain other Federal employees, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2909

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a

cosponsor of amendment No. 2909 intended to be proposed to H.R. 3590, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the first-time homebuyers credit in the case of members of the Armed Forces and certain other Federal employees, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2923

At the request of Mr. DORGAN, the names of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 2923 intended to be proposed to H.R. 3590, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the first-time homebuyers credit in the case of members of the Armed Forces and certain other Federal employees, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2928

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. FEINGOLD) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2928 intended to be proposed to H.R. 3590, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the first-time homebuyers credit in the case of members of the Armed Forces and certain other Federal employees, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2938

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2938 intended to be proposed to H.R. 3590, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the first-time homebuyers credit in the case of members of the Armed Forces and certain other Federal employees, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2947

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. FEINGOLD) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2947 intended to be proposed to H.R. 3590, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the first-time homebuyers credit in the case of members of the Armed Forces and certain other Federal employees, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2991

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the names of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 2991 intended to be proposed to H.R. 3590, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the first-time homebuyers credit in the case of members of the Armed Forces and certain other Federal employees, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3011

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3011 intended to be proposed to H.R. 3590, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the first-time homebuyers credit in

the case of members of the Armed Forces and certain other Federal employees, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3030

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 3030 intended to be proposed to H.R. 3590, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the first-time homebuyers credit in the case of members of the Armed Forces and certain other Federal employees, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3046

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) and the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 3046 intended to be proposed to H.R. 3590, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the first-time homebuyers credit in the case of members of the Armed Forces and certain other Federal employees, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3051

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3051 intended to be proposed to H.R. 3590, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the first-time homebuyers credit in the case of members of the Armed Forces and certain other Federal employees, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3069

At the request of Mr. KOHL, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3069 intended to be proposed to H.R. 3590, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the first-time homebuyers credit in the case of members of the Armed Forces and certain other Federal employees, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3071

At the request of Mrs. HAGAN, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3071 intended to be proposed to H.R. 3590, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the first-time homebuyers credit in the case of members of the Armed Forces and certain other Federal employees, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3085

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3085 intended to be proposed to H.R. 3590, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the first-time homebuyers credit in the case of members of the Armed Forces and certain other Federal employees, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3102

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr.

BURRIS) and the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 3102 intended to be proposed to H.R. 3590, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the first-time homebuyers credit in the case of members of the Armed Forces and certain other Federal employees, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. PRYOR:

S. 2863. A bill to provide that an outbreak of infectious disease or act of terrorism may be a major disaster under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122 et seq.), and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce two pieces of legislation to address gaps in our preparedness and ability to respond to widespread infectious disease outbreaks and biological attacks.

The H1N1 outbreak demonstrated to us how investments in pandemic preparedness activities, such as the creation of pandemic influenza strategies, can lessen the effects of a pandemic and improve our response. However, we have learned from the H1N1 pandemic that we still have gaps in our ability to prepare for and respond to these types of events and that state and local entities are uncertain in their abilities to respond to a more severe event.

Apart from shortcomings in government coordination and planning, there is also a glaring deficiency in an important statute that underpins our nation's response to disasters. When a natural disaster such as flooding in Arkansas occurs, local and State government resources can be quickly overextended. When that occurs a governor can request and the President can issue a major disaster declaration, which triggers the maximum amount of resources from the Federal disaster response system.

Sometimes the system works well and other times not as well, but we know for certain that without a disaster declaration and effective Federal intervention a natural disaster can have devastating effects on life, property, and our economy.

Unfortunately, due to a lack of clarification of the definition of a major disaster in the Stafford Act, there is no precedent for the President to issue a major disaster declaration when local medical resources are overwhelmed by the exponential spread of life-threatening diseases, or alternatively, a deliberate biological attack by terrorists. The bills that I am introducing today will help to address preparedness shortcomings as well as the deficiency in law.

My first bill, S. 2863, entitled The Emergency Response Act, addresses

this shortcoming in law. It will ensure the Federal Government can provide the maximum amount of support to State and local governments by allowing pandemics, acts of terrorism or other man-made disasters to be considered a major disaster under the Stafford Act. This clarification in law will permit the President to issue a major disaster declaration and allow Federal agencies to coordinate their efforts, give technical assistance, give advisory assistance, and work with local authorities and people in the private sector for events such as pandemics, biological attacks or chemical releases.

The second bill, S. 2864, entitled The Defense Against Infectious Disease Act, requires the Federal government to periodically update the National Strategy for Pandemic Influenza and the National Pandemic Implementation plan with the assistance of State, Local and Tribal stakeholders in order to ensure our preparedness plans are up to date and incorporate the latest technologies, medical developments and logistical challenges.

This bill addresses concerns raised by the U.S. Government Accountability Office about both the completeness of these emergency plans and the need for them to be updated. Most Americans may not even know that these emergency plans exist, but they do understand that strong planning is the foundation for effective action. An out-of-date plan is not a plan, and after watching the spread of H1N1 and the missteps in our government's response, Americans can easily imagine what it would be like in the event of an even more serious disease outbreak, and the importance of planning for such an emergency.

This bill will also help address the situation I described previously in which a severe infectious disease outbreak can overwhelm our local medical facilities, many of which have limited resources to handle even their every day needs. To address situations which will over extend local resources, my bill also requires the Federal Government to identify alternative medical care facilities and other resources such as medical equipment, daily supplies and personnel to ensure we know what assets we have to help State and local communities.

The idea here is preparation. We should make the best of the H1N1 outbreak and learn from this experience. That is why I introduced the Emergency Response Act and the Defense Against Infectious Diseases Act. I ask that my colleagues support these bills to ensure that we are prepared for the next pandemic.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a bill summary be printed in the RECORD.

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