

Whereas, Predatory PAEs have a detrimental impact on the economy and innovation. PAE activities cost businesses \$29 billion directly, mostly borne by small- and medium-sized businesses; and

Whereas, The growth of patent litigation is directly tied to aggressive PAEs in recent years. In 2010, PAEs were responsible for 29 percent of patent litigation, and by 2012 PAEs represented 62 percent of all patent suits; and

Whereas, The California economy is especially vulnerable to lawsuits directed at information technology patents; and

Whereas, Federal legislation is necessary to prevent and deter abusive patent litigation; Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of California, jointly,* That the Legislature urges the President and the Congress of the United States to craft a balanced and workable approach to reduce incentives for and minimize unnecessary patent litigation while ensuring that legitimate patent enforcement rights are protected and maintained; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, the Speaker and Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, the Majority Leader and Minority Leader of the Senate, and each member of the California delegation to the United States Congress.

POM-98. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of California urging the United States Congress to further amend the GI Bill of Rights to make benefits available to veterans for use as startup capital in the establishment of first businesses; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

#### ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION No. 7

Whereas, Men and women of the State of California volunteer to serve in the Armed Forces of the United States in greater numbers than those from any other state; and

Whereas, California is currently home to more than 1,800,000 veterans of our Armed Forces; and

Whereas, California veterans have been grateful recipients of the financial support of their fellow Americans through the Veterans Administration and the GI Bill; and

Whereas, The Congress of the United States passed, and President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed, the GI Bill of Rights in 1944 to support our veterans of World War II in their transition back to civilian life; and

Whereas, The Congress of the United States in 2008 added significant new benefits for those who enlisted to serve the nation in the wake of the attacks on the United States on September 11, 2001; and

Whereas, Up to 10 percent of veterans choose to start, run, and own their own businesses; and

Whereas, Over 30 percent of veterans of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom, and other fronts on the war against terrorism are receiving disability ratings from the federal Veterans Administration; and

Whereas, More than five million Americans, including over one-half million Californians, served in those conflicts; and

Whereas, The State of California is the recognized national leader in the establishment and success of veteran business owner procurement support programs, and

Whereas, Veteran businesses make a significant contribution to the state's economy and serve as a source of employment for fellow veterans; and

Whereas, Finding enough capital to successfully launch a new business or buy an existing business is the largest challenge that

new business owners face: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of California, jointly,* That the Legislature requests that the Congress of the United States of America further amend the GI Bill of Rights to make benefits available, with all appropriate safeguards, to all veterans for use as startup capital in the establishment of first businesses; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the Majority Leader of the Senate, and to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. JOHNSON, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment:

S. 1868. A bill to extend by 15 years the authority of the Secretary of Commerce to conduct the quarterly financial report program (Rept. No. 114-157).

#### 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 Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 2194. A bill to promote the use of clean cookstoves and fuels to save lives, improve livelihoods, empower women, and protect the environment by creating a thriving global market for clean and efficient household cooking solutions; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. PAUL:

S. 2195. A bill to prohibit the indefinite detention of persons by the United States and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mr. COCHRAN):

S. 2196. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the non-application of Medicare competitive acquisition rates to complex rehabilitative wheelchairs and accessories; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CRAPO (for himself, Mr. BENNET, and Mr. ISAKSON):

S. 2197. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve the risk adjustment under the Medicare Advantage program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Ms. WARREN, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. KAINE, and Mr. MURPHY):

S. 2198. A bill to establish a grant program to encourage States to adopt certain policies and procedures relating to the transfer and possession of firearms; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ENZI (for himself, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. CRAPO, and Mr. DAINES):

S. 2199. A bill to require agencies to conform to concurrent resolutions when promulgating rules; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mrs. FISCHER:

S. 2200. A bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to strengthen equal pay requirements; read the first time.

By Mr. CORKER (for himself and Mr. CARDIN):

S. 2201. A bill to promote international trade, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mr. TESTER):

S. 2202. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to treat certain farming business machinery and equipment as 5-year property for purposes of depreciation; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. SANDERS, and Ms. WARREN):

S. 2203. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make residents of Puerto Rico eligible for the earned income tax credit and to provide equitable treatment for residents of Puerto Rico with respect to the refundable portion of the child tax credit; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. BOXER:

S. 2204. A bill to respect the Constitutional entitlement to liberty by recognizing the right of an individual to have personal control over the medical assistance and treatment necessary to alleviate intolerable physical suffering; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself and Mr. FRANKEN):

S. 2205. A bill to establish a grant program to assist tribal governments in establishing tribal healing to wellness courts, and for other purposes; 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 Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. BOXER, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CASEY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. UDALL, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WYDEN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. Res. 292. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the availability of high-quality childcare for working parents should be increased; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, Ms. AYOTTE, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. Res. 293. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, commending domestic violence victim advocates, domestic violence victim service providers, crisis hotline staff, and first responders serving victims of domestic violence for their compassionate support of victims of domestic violence, and expressing the sense of the Senate that Congress should continue to support efforts to end domestic violence and hold perpetrators of domestic violence accountable; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HOEVEN (for himself, Mr. TESTER, Mr. ROBERTS, Ms. HEITKAMP, and Mr. PETERS):

S. Res. 294. A resolution designating October 26, 2015, as Day of the Deployed; considered and agreed to.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mr. VITTER, Mr. COONS, Mr. GARDNER, Mr.

MARKEY, Mr. RUBIO, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. PETERS, Mr. RISCH, Mrs. FISCHER, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. Res. 295. A resolution designating the week of November 2 through November 6, 2015 as "National Veterans Small Business Week"; considered and agreed to.

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 441

At the request of Mr. NELSON, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. DONNELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 441, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to clarify the Food and Drug Administration's jurisdiction over certain tobacco products, and to protect jobs and small businesses involved in the sale, manufacturing and distribution of traditional and premium cigars.

S. 553

At the request of Mr. CORKER, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 553, a bill to marshal resources to undertake a concerted, transformative effort that seeks to bring an end to modern slavery, and for other purposes.

S. 564

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 564, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to include licensed hearing aid specialists as eligible for appointment in the Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 579

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the names of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) were added as cosponsors of S. 579, a bill to amend the Inspector General Act of 1978 to strengthen the independence of the Inspectors General, and for other purposes.

S. 746

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mrs. ERNST) was added as a cosponsor of S. 746, a bill to provide for the establishment of a Commission to Accelerate the End of Breast Cancer.

S. 804

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 804, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to specify coverage of continuous glucose monitoring devices, and for other purposes.

S. 864

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 864, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish direct care registered nurse-to-patient staffing ratio requirements in hospitals, and for other purposes.

S. 946

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr.

CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 946, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to prohibit the transportation of horses in interstate transportation in a motor vehicle containing 2 or more levels stacked on top of one another.

S. 1122

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1122, a bill to provide that chapter 1 of title 9 of the United States Code, relating to the enforcement of arbitration agreements, shall not apply to enrollment agreements made between students and certain institutions of higher education, and to prohibit limitations on the ability of students to pursue claims against certain institutions of higher education.

S. 1195

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1195, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to update reporting requirements for institutions of higher education and provide for more accurate and complete data on student retention, graduation, and earnings outcomes at all levels of post-secondary enrollment.

S. 1539

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1539, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to establish a permanent, nationwide summer electronic benefits transfer for children program.

S. 1562

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) and the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1562, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reform taxation of alcoholic beverages.

S. 1565

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1565, a bill to allow the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection to provide greater protection to servicemembers.

S. 1617

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1617, a bill to prevent Hizballah and associated entities from gaining access to international financial and other institutions, and for other purposes.

S. 1757

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1757, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to promote health care technology innovation and access to medical devices and services for which patients choose to self-pay under

the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 1775

At the request of Mr. MURPHY, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1775, a bill to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to accept additional documentation when considering the application for veterans status of an individual who performed service as a coastwise merchant seaman during World War II, and for other purposes.

S. 1961

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1961, a bill to amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to make improvements to the treatment of the United States territories under the Medicare and Medicaid programs, and for other purposes.

S. 2015

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2015, a bill to clarify the treatment of two or more employers as joint employers under the National Labor Relations Act.

S. 2066

At the request of Mr. SASSE, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2066, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit a health care practitioner from failing to exercise the proper degree of care in the case of a child who survives an abortion or attempted abortion.

S. 2067

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) were added as cosponsors of S. 2067, a bill to establish EUREKA Prize Competitions to accelerate discovery and development of disease-modifying, preventive, or curative treatments for Alzheimer's disease and related dementia, to encourage efforts to enhance detection and diagnosis of such diseases, or to enhance the quality and efficiency of care of individuals with such diseases.

S. 2075

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2075, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the excise tax on high cost employer-sponsored health coverage and to express the sense of the Senate that the resulting revenue loss should be offset.

S. 2103

At the request of Mr. DONNELLY, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2103, a bill to modify a provision relating to adjustments of certain State apportionments for Federal highway programs, and for other purposes.

S. 2119

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Michigan