

the treatment of Lake Champlain; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. TORRICELLI (for himself and Mr. LAUTENBERG):

S. 1824. A bill to amend the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States to provide duty-free treatment for certain skating boots used for in-line skates; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mr. MURKOWSKI, and Mr. SARBANES):

S. 1825. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide sufficient funding to assure a minimum size for honor guard details at funerals of veterans of the Armed Forces, to establish the minimum size of such details, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. MOYNIHAN (for himself, Mr. D'AMATO, Mr. LAUTENBERG, and Mr. TORRICELLI):

S. 1826. A bill to amend the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States to suspend temporarily the duty on personal effects of participants in the 1999 Women's World Cup; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HELMS:

S. 1827. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on dialkylphthalene sulfonic acid sodium salt; to the Committee on Finance.

S. 1828. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on sodium N-methyl-N-oleoly taurate; to the Committee on Finance.

S. 1829. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on O-(6-chloro-3-phenyl-4-pyridazinyl)-S-octyl-carbonothioate; to the Committee on Finance.

S. 1830. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on 4-cyclopropyl-6-methyl-2-phenylamino-pyrimidine; to the Committee on Finance.

S. 1831. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on O,O-Dimethyl-S-(5-methoxy-2-oxo-1,3,4-thiadiazol-3(2H)-yl-methyl)-dithiophosphate; to the Committee on Finance.

S. 1832. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on (Ethyl (2-(4-phenoxyphenoxy) ethyl) carbamate; to the Committee on Finance.

S. 1833. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on 1-(4-methoxy-6-methyl-triazin-2-yl)-3-(2-(3,3,3-trifluoropropyl)-phenylsulfonyl)-urea; to the Committee on Finance.

S. 1834. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on 3-(4,6-Bis (difluoromethoxy)-pyrimidin-2-yl)-1-(methoxy-carbonylphenylsulfonyl) urea; to the Committee on Finance.

S. 1835. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on 3-(6-methoxy-4-methyl-1,3,5-triazin-2-yl)-1-(2-(2-chloroethoxy)-phenylsulfonyl)-urea; to the Committee on Finance.

S. 1836. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on ((2S,4R)/(2R,4S)/(2R,4R)/(2S,4S))-1-(2-(4-(4-chloro-phenoxy)-2-chlorophenyl)-4-methyl-1,3-dioxolan-2-yl-methyl)-1H-1,2,4-triazole; to the Committee on Finance.

S. 1837. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on 2,4 dichloro 3,5 dinitro benzotrifluoride; to the Committee on Finance.

S. 1838. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on streptomycin sulfate; to the Committee on Finance.

S. 1839. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on 2-chloro-N-(2,6-dinitro-4-(trifluoromethyl) phenyl)-N-ethyl-6-fluorobenzenemethanamine; to the Committee on Finance.

S. 1840. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on chloroacetone; to the Committee on Finance.

S. 1841. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on orthonitrophenyl; to the Committee on Finance.

S. 1842. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on acetic acid, ((2-chloro-4-fluoro-5-

((tetrahydro-3-oxo-1h,3H-(1,3,4)

thiadiazolo(3,4-A)pyridazin-1-ylidene)amino)phenyl)thio)-,methyl ester; to the Committee on Finance.

S. 1843. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on acetic acid, ((5-chloro-8-quinolinyloxy)-1-methyhexyl ester; to the Committee on Finance.

S. 1844. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on calcium oxytetracycline; to the Committee on Finance.

S. 1845. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Tinopal CBS-X; to the Committee on Finance.

S. 1846. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on 2,4 dichloro 3,5 dinitro benzotrifluoride; to the Committee on Finance.

S. 1847. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on streptomycin sulfate; to the Committee on Finance.

S. 1848. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on propanoic acid, 2-(4-(5-chloro-3-fluor-2-pyridinyl)oxy)-phenoxy)-2-propynyl ester; to the Committee on Finance.

S. 1849. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on trifluoromethylaniline; to the Committee on Finance.

S. 1850. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on mucochloric acid; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MACK (for himself and Mr. GRAHAM):

S. 1851. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain rocket engines; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. THURMOND:

S. 1852. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on parts for use in the manufacture of loudspeakers; to the Committee on Finance.

S. 1853. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on loudspeakers not mounted in their enclosures; to the Committee on Finance.

S. 1854. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain electrical transformers for use in the manufacture of audio systems; to the Committee on Finance.

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

S. 1855. A bill to require the Occupational Safety and Health Administration to recognize that electronic forms of providing MSDSs provide the same level of access to information as paper copies; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

## SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. TORRICELLI:

S. Res. 199. A resolution designating the last week of April of each calendar year as "National Youth Fitness Week"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

## STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. THURMOND.

S. 1852. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on parts for use in the manufacture of loudspeakers; to the Committee on Finance.

S. 1853. A bill to temporarily the duty on loudspeakers not mounted in their enclosures; to the Committee on Finance.

S. 1854. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain electrical transformers for use in the manufacture of audio systems; to the Committee on Finance.

## DUTY SUSPENSION LEGISLATION

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce three bills which will temporarily suspend the duties on parts used to manufacture loudspeakers. Currently, these parts are imported into the United States.

The three items which will receive temporary duty suspensions are certain electrical transformers, loudspeakers not mounted in their enclosures, and parts for loudspeakers. The tariffs on these items are scheduled for elimination in the Information Technology Agreement II that is currently being negotiated in the World Trade Organization.

Mr. President, suspending the duty on these items will allow a South Carolina industry to be competitive in the world marketplace. I hope the Senate will consider these measures expeditiously.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bills be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the bills were ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1852

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

### SECTION 1. SUSPENSION OF DUTY ON PARTS FOR USE IN THE MANUFACTURE OF LOUDSPEAKERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 99 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States is amended by inserting in numerical sequence the following new subheading:

<p>“9902.85.18 Parts for use in the manufacture of loudspeakers (provided for in subheading 8518.90.80) .....</p>	Free	No change	No change	On or before 12/31/2002”.
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(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) applies with respect to goods entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after the 15th day after the date of enactment of this Act.

S. 1853

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

### SECTION 1. SUSPENSION OF DUTY ON LOUDSPEAKERS NOT MOUNTED IN THEIR ENCLOSURES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 99 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States is amended by inserting in numerical sequence the following new subheading:

<p>“9902.85.19 Loudspeakers not mounted in their enclosures (provided for in subheading 8518.29.80) .....</p>	Free	No change	No change	On or before 12/31/2002”.
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(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) applies with respect to goods entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after the 15th day after the date of enactment of this Act.

S. 1854

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. SUSPENSION OF DUTY ON CERTAIN ELECTRICAL TRANSFORMERS FOR USE IN THE MANUFACTURE OF AUDIO SYSTEMS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 99 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States is amended by inserting in numerical sequence the following new sub-heading:

<p>"9902.85.04 Electrical transformers having a power handling capacity less than 1 kVA for use in the manufacture of audio systems (provided for in sub-heading 8504.31.40) .....</p>	<p>Free</p>	<p>No change</p>	<p>No change</p>	<p>On or before 12/31/2002".</p>
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(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) applies with respect to goods entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after the 15th day after the date of enactment of this Act.

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

S. 1855. A bill to require the Occupational Safety and Health Administration to recognize that electronic forms of providing MSDSs provide the same level of access to information as paper copies; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

**THE WORKPLACE INFORMATION READABILITY AND ELECTRONIC DISSEMINATION ACT**

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, today, I am introducing legislation that would improve and modernize the current system for accessing information about hazardous chemicals in the workplace. This legislation will make it easier for workers to protect themselves against chemical exposure risks in their workplaces by giving them online access to essential safety information. It will also make this information more quickly accessible in the event of an emergency.

Under current regulations, employers are required to have available in the workplace Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) describing every chemical ever used at the site. The MSDS contains information about the chemical and what to do in the event a worker is exposed by ingesting it, having it splash on the skin or in the eyes.

Employers typically keep MSDS sheets in hug binders making them difficult to access quickly during actual exposure incidents. As a result, emergency personnel may have to flip through page after page of information to find out how to respond to the specific chemical exposure. This complies with the law, but it's not the best way to get critical information in an emergency.

The better approach is to have the information accessible online. This can greatly reduce the time it takes to get essential information on the proper first aid procedures in the event of exposure. In some cases, this faster response can literally mean the difference between life and death.

The bill I am introducing today allows—but does not require—electronic access to MSDS information, so there is no mandate that employers have to switch to an electronic system. This legislation simply updates the current workplace safety system to recognize the widespread use of computers in the workplace. It merely provides an additional option that can yield better protection for workers with less hassle for employers.

My legislation requires chemical hazard information to be written in plain English, so that workers and emergency personnel can better understand the risks and what to do in an emergency. The MSDS sheets now in use are typically written by lawyers to protect the chemical manufacturers from liability. Because they are often written in legalese, it is difficult for workers to understand MSDS, especially in emergencies.

For example, instead of simply stating, "Keep this material away from your eyes," the instructions on one MSDS say "Avoid ocular contact." Workplace safety information should be understandable to all employees without having to look up every other word in the dictionary.

My legislation addresses this problem by requiring information on new hazardous chemicals brought into the workplace to be written in easily understandable English.

This legislation has the support of Oregon OSHA officials, industry and union safety officials. A companion bill introduced in the House this week has bipartisan support. I urge my colleagues to support this common sense workplace safety initiative.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I am pleased to join my colleague from Oregon, Senator WYDEN, in introducing the Workplace Information, Readability and Electronic Dissemination (or WIRED) Act, which will significantly improve the ability of both workers and employers to use and understand the Material Safety Data Sheets that accompany potentially hazardous chemicals used in the workplace.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration rightly requires employers to provide information to their employees about hazardous chemicals used in the workplace on Material Safety Data Sheets, or MSDSs. These MSDSs, which are provided by the manufacturer, must be "readily accessible" to employees during each work shift and must include information about the manufacturer, the physical properties of the chemical, health precautions that should be taken, and instructions on how to handle spills and other emergencies.

OSHA issued the rule requiring MSDSs in the workplace in the early 1980s, well before computers and fax machines became routine fixtures in virtually every workplace. As a consequence, employers are required to keep huge, loose-leaf notebooks or file

cabinets filled with handwritten or printed MSDSs in the workplace at all times. More often than not, the MSDSs are tattered, stained and out-of-date since, in an average inventory, as many as 7 percent will become obsolete within a month. Finding the right MSDS quickly in an emergency under these circumstances can be a real challenge, particularly since they can easily be misfiled.

In this age of electronic communication, there simply are better ways for employers and employees to maintain and access this important safety information. Currently, there are a number of different products on the market such as CD-ROMs and fax-on-demand response systems that provide all the MSDS information an employer or employee might need within minutes of the request. Businesses contend that these services are more efficient, since they allow an independent service to maintain the information and the employees to access the information instantaneously and at will. Not only are computer systems faster, but they also enable employees to cross-reference different chemicals. These electronic systems are certainly better than the current paper system required by OSHA, which requires fumbling through a notebook or file cabinet, hoping that the MSDSs are current and filed correctly.

Unfortunately, OSHA will not allow employers to replace their paper MSDS systems with electronic access. As a consequence, many employers have been reluctant to take advantage of these superior new systems. The legislation we are introducing today will enable employers to bring their MSDS system into the 21st century by clarifying that employers have the option of replacing their paper system with electronic access, as long as the new system is readily available to all employees.

Another problem with the current system is that the information presented on a MSDS is extremely technical and complicated, making it difficult for many employees to understand, particularly when an accident has occurred and time is of the essence. Not only is the information on the MSDS itself technical, but it is also presented in language that is too advanced for the vast majority of manufacturing workers to understand. According to a review of the National Center for Education Statistics 1992 Adult Literacy Survey, the information on a typical MSDS requires a Level 5 reading proficiency, while the same survey shows that manufacturing workers typically read at a Level 2.

This situation is complicated by the fact that there is no standard format for MSDSs and different manufacturers have different formats for presenting the same information. This makes it difficult for employees who must look at more than one MSDS to find the information they need quickly, and quick

information is particularly important in an emergency. The legislation we are introducing today will therefore require OSHA not only to standardize the format for MSDSs, but also to ensure that they are written at a literacy level that is appropriate for the typical industrial worker.

Mr. President, the legislation we are introducing today will not only make it easier for employers to comply with important OSHA safety standards, but it will also ensure that their employees have better access to accurate and up-to-date safety information that they can both read and understand. Enactment of the WIRED Act will result in safer, more efficient workplaces, and I encourage all of my colleagues to join us as cosponsors.

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 314

At the request of Mr. THOMAS, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 314, a bill to require that the Federal Government procure from the private sector the goods and services necessary for the operations and management of certain Government agencies, and for other purposes.

S. 1260

At the request of Mr. GRAMM, the names of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. ROBB), and the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. FORD) were added as cosponsors of S. 1260, a bill to amend the Securities Act of 1933 and the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to limit the conduct of securities class actions under State law, and for other purposes.

S. 1284

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1284, a bill to prohibit construction of any monument, memorial, or other structure at the site of the Iwo Jima Memorial in Arlington, Virginia, and for other purposes.

S. 1600

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1600, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to waive in the case of multiemployer plans the section 415 limit on benefits to the participant's average compensation for his high 3 years.

S. 1677

At the request of Mr. CHAFEE, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. DASCHLE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1677, a bill to reauthorize the North American Wetlands Conservation Act and the Partnerships for Wildlife Act.

S. 1737

At the request of Mr. MACK, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. BROWNBACK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1737, a bill to amend the Internal

Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a uniform application of the confidentiality privilege to taxpayer communications with federally authorized practitioners.

S. 1811

At the request of Mr. FAIRCLOTH, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. HELMS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1811, a bill to prohibit the Secretary of Health and Human Services from promulgating any regulation, rule, or other order if the effect of such regulation, rule, or order is to eliminate or modify any requirement under the Medicare program under title XVIII of the Social Security Act for physician supervision of anesthesia services, as such requirement was in effect on December 31, 1997.

#### SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 84

At the request of Mr. KEMPTHORNE, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of Senate Concurrent Resolution 84, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the Government of Costa Rica should take steps to protect the lives of property owners in Costa Rica, and for other purposes.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 2077

At the request of Mr. LEVIN the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2077 proposed to S. 1768, an original bill making emergency supplemental appropriations for recovery from natural disasters, and for overseas peacekeeping efforts, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 199—DESIGNATING "NATIONAL YOUTH FITNESS WEEK"

Mr. TORRICELLI submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 199

Whereas we are witnessing a historic decrease in the health of our Nation's adolescents with only 22 percent of our children physically active for the recommended 30 minutes each day and nearly 15 percent of American youths almost completely inactive;

Whereas even physical education classes are on the decline with 75 percent of students in America not attending daily physical education classes and 25 percent of students not participating in any form of physical education in schools, which is a decrease in participation of almost 20 percent in just 4 years;

Whereas more than 60,000,000 people, 1/3 of the Nation's population, are overweight and even more disturbing, the percentage of overweight adolescents has doubled in the last 30 years;

Whereas these serious trends have resulted in a decrease in the self-esteem of, and an increase in the risk of future health problems for, our Nation's adolescents;

Whereas adolescents represent the future of the Nation and the decrease in physical fitness in the United States may destroy our future potential unless we invest in our youthful population today to increase our productivity and stability tomorrow;

Whereas regular physical activity has proven effective in fighting depression, anxiety, premature death, diabetes, heart disease, high blood pressure, colon cancer, and a variety of weight problems;

Whereas physical fitness campaigns help encourage consideration of the mental and physical health of our Nation's youth; and

Whereas Congress should take steps to reverse a trend which, if not resolved, could destroy future opportunities for millions of today's youth because a healthy child makes a healthy, happy, and productive adult: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week beginning with the last Sunday in April of each calendar year as "National Youth Fitness Week";

(2) urges parents, families, caregivers, and teachers to encourage and help adolescents to participate in athletic activities and to teach adolescents to engage in healthy lifestyles; and

(3) requests the President to issue a proclamation each calendar year designating such week as "National Youth Fitness Week" and encouraging the people of the United States to observe this week with appropriate activities and celebrations.

Mr. TORRICELLI. Mr. President, I rise today to address a crisis facing our youngest citizens. Physical inactivity among our children is threatening the very foundation of the health of our nation. Physical inactivity and poor diet together account for at least 300,000 deaths in the United States each year. Only tobacco use contributes to more preventable deaths. More than 58 million American adults, one third of the population, are overweight or obese. Even more alarming, childhood obesity rates are rising with 22 percent of children now overweight, a percentage that has doubled in the past 30 years.

This growing trend of inactivity is especially dangerous for our younger generations. According to the National Center for Health Statistics, nearly half of our young people aged 12-21 do not engage in vigorous physical activity on a regular basis. In fact, only 22 percent of American children are physically active for the recommended 30 minutes each day and nearly 15 percent are completely inactive. As the Centers for Disease Control point out, these destructive behaviors established during youth are likely to extend into adulthood. We must be proactive in setting a positive example for our children and stop the negative behavior before it starts.

To plant the seed for a healthy future, we must continue to cultivate and educate our children. Fostering enjoyment of exercise in our adolescents will spur them to maintain a healthy lifestyle into adulthood. The result will be fewer physical and mental disorders and increased productivity. As Dr. C. Everett Koop recently pointed out "this is not an issue requiring additional fact-finding before action is taken." The time for action is now.

A national commitment to lifetime fitness must be fostered. Congress has the opportunity and the responsibility to step forward and take a crucial leadership role. Several programs are currently addressing this important issue