SEC. 3. TEACHER TESTING AND MERIT PAY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a State may use Federal education funds—

(1) to carry out a test of each elementary school or secondary school teacher in the State with respect to the subjects taught by the teacher; or

(2) to establish a merit pay program for the teachers.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the terms ''elementary school'' and ''secondary school'' have the meanings given the terms in section 14101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 8801).

Mr. D'AMATO. Mr. President, I rise with my friend and colleague, Senator MACK, to introduce the MERIT Act. The MERIT Act seeks to reward those teachers who provide, day in and day out, magic in the classrooms, to reward them with a salary to match their importance. We should develop a methodology of rewarding those truly outstanding teachers and seeing to it that we keep them, retain them. Truly outstanding teachers are the unsung heroes of our communities. Unfortunately, however, great education does not take place for every child in every classroom, and that is sad. But it is something we can strive for and work to change.

The bill that Senator MACK and I introduce comes on the heels of receiving some discouraging news, news from Massachusetts where a test of prospective teachers was given and nearly 60 percent of them failed. It was a test at the eighth-grade level. I firmly believe that most New York teachers are very good. But, nonetheless, I must ask the question, Why not have the best? Why not reach out to them? Why not attract them?

The Massachusetts test was a good idea, but we should also give periodic competency tests to teachers who are already in the system. Most teachers are very dedicated and highly competent, but some are not. Some teachers who are highly skilled in one or two subject areas may be forced to teach other subjects in which they lack the competence. When that happens, our children are the ones who suffer.

Another desperately needed reform is merit pay for outstanding teachers. We must reward the best teachers. In most of our Nation's schools there is no financial incentive for the truly outstanding teachers. Great teachers, who help our children achieve educational excellence, should be rewarded.

The measure introduced today by Senator MACK and myself, the MERIT Act, is the same measure that passed the Senate on April 21 by a vote of 63 to 35. This legislation provides incentives for States to establish periodic teacher assessments and merit rewards. Incentives are provided through the Eisenhower Professional Development Program. The measure sets aside 50 percent of the funds appropriated over the fiscal year 1999 levels in the program, and then distributes them to States that have established teacher testing and merit pay. Last year, fiscal year 1998, Congress appropriated $335 million for this program to subsidize training for teachers. That is an increase of $25 million from the year before. Should we not be able to use this program to ensure that teachers are actually improving their teaching skills, as well as substantive knowledge? Teacher testing will help accomplish that goal.

But let me be clear. As the Eisenhower Professional Development Program funding increases, so will each State and local government's share, with 50 percent of the increase reserved for those States that put in place a mechanism by which to periodically measure the ability, knowledge, and skills of teachers, and implement a pay scale to reward those determined and dedicated teachers. When we look at reforming our public schools, one thing must always be kept foremost in our efforts, and that is, we must put our children first. Our children are the best and the brightest. They are our most precious resource.

So, when it comes to recruiting and retaining the best young professionals, I believe, in order to do that, we are going to have to pay them adequately. We are going to have to reward their accomplishments and see to it that the truly outstanding are rewarded with merit pay so we can assure our children get that opportunity. I hope our colleagues will join in this effort to improve America's schools and help prepare our children for the 21st century.

By Mr. ABRAHAM:

S. 2423. A bill to improve the accuracy of the budget and revenue estimates of the Congressional Budget Office by creating an independent CBO Economic Council and requiring full disclosures of the methodology and assumptions used by CBO in producing the estimates; to the Committee on the Budget and the Committee on Governmental Affairs, jointly, pursuant to the order of August 4, 1977, that if one Committee reports, the other Committee have thirty days to report or be discharged.

THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1998

• Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I introduce legislation to improve the accuracy of Congressional Budget Office estimates.

Congress places enormous demands on the professionals working in the CBO. Day after day, year after year these dedicated men and women are asked to provide estimates and projections on which legislators rely in carrying out their public responsibilities. Their hard work and professionalism are well known and they deserve our gratitude for the excellent job they do.

However, Mr. President, CBO estimates and projections are only as good as the assumptions on which they are based. No matter how dedicated and hard-working they are, they are limited by the tools at their disposal. And recent experience shows that those tools require improvement.

Mr. President, there was a great deal of surprise, both in this Chamber and across the country, when the CBO released its latest estimates regarding federal budget surpluses. In January of this year the CBO had projected a $5 billion deficit for 1998, with surpluses of $127 billion for the period 1998–2003 and $655 billion for the period 1998–2008. But in its July budget update, the CBO projected a $63 billion surplus for 1998, a $583 billion surplus for the period 1998–2003, and a $1,611 billion surplus for the period 1998–2008.

Those are massive discrepancies, Mr. President, and they have a significant impact on our ability to legislate. Coming so late in the session, these new estimates are not as helpful as they could have been in helping shape our fiscal policies. What they mean, in essence, is that Congress has been determining its budgets and appropriations with inaccurate revenue estimates.

What is more, Mr. President, it does not appear that the accuracy of CBO projections will improve without Congressional action. Current CBO policy calls for basing estimates on the assumption that federal revenues will grow more slowly than Gross Domestic Product. This despite the long-standing trend of revenues outpacing GDP. Thus we can look forward to revenue estimates in the future that remain significantly lower than actual revenues.

Without accurate revenue estimates, Mr. President, we cannot properly address tax reform and general fiscal policy. Indeed, without knowing the level of federal revenues with a significant degree of accuracy we cannot properly and responsibly budget for the federal government. We must establish a fair and accurate mechanism for estimating federal revenue.

That is why I am introducing the CBO Improvement Act. This legislation is based on a bill introduced in the 102nd Congress by Representatives NEWT GINGRICH, DICK ARMEY and Robert Michel. It would provide CBO with the expert, hands-on oversight necessary to improve the accuracy of its estimates.

To begin with, Mr. President, this legislation would establish a Congressional Budget Board to provide general oversight of CBO operations, oversee studies and publications that may be necessary in addition to those CBO is required by law to produce, and provide guidance to the CBO Director in the formulation and implementation of procedures and policies. This board would be made up of 6 members each from the Senate and the House of Representatives, half from each party.

In addition to its oversight function, the Board will establish an Economic Advisory Council. This Council will evaluate CBO research for the Board. It will be composed of 12 members, each prominent in the fields of public finance, economics of taxation and microeconomics and macroeconomics.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, under this legislation any CBO report to Congress or the public that contains an estimate of the effect that legislation will have on revenues or expenditures shall be accompanied by a written statement fully disclosing the economic, technical, and behavioral assumptions that were made in producing the estimate. By making these assumptions public, we can provide an opportunity for outside experts, whether in business or academia, to evaluate them and offer suggestions for improvement.

By establishing this kind of oversight and accountability, Mr. President, we can ensure that in the future the CBO will base its revenue estimates on assumptions that better reflect reality. No one is questioning the dedication or skill of CBO employees. But we must see to it that they are given the appropriate tools to carry out their jobs in the best manner possible. Only in this way can Congress fulfill its duty to pass legislation in keeping with economic reality as well as the best interests of the American people.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that two articles, one written by economist Bruce Bartlett and appearing in the July 6 Washington Times, the other a Congressional advisory dated July 22 from the Institute for Research on the Economics of Taxation, be printed in the RECORD.

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

[From the Washington Times, July 6, 1998]

REVENUE PITCH LOW AND INSIDE

(By Bruce Bartlett)

Many Republicans believe the main barrier to enactment of a large tax cut this year is the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), because it is low-balling its forecast of future federal revenues. They think revenues next year will come in substantially higher than CBO is predicting, allowing for a significantly larger tax cut than Congress is currently contemplating, without endangering the balanced budget. They note that last year CBO underestimated federal revenues by $72 billion and they suspect revenues may be underestimated by a similar magnitude this year.

On June 23, CBO Director June O'Neill responded to her critics in a letter to House Speaker Newt Gingrich. She argued that everyone, not just the CBO, underestimated revenues last year.

Mrs. O'Neill pointed out that CBO's deficit forecasts were close to those made by the Office of Management and Budget and private forecasters. In short, CBO did as well as economic science allowed and should not be singled out for blame when no one else did much better.

This is a strong argument. Nevertheless, CBO's estimate of future revenues does seem to be unusually conservative. As the figure indicates, CBO is predicting that revenues will grow more slowly than gross domestic product (GDP) over the next decade. Generally, because our tax system is progressive, revenues grow faster than GDP. Throughout the postwar period revenues grew by 0.6 percent per year more than GDP. In the last 10 years, revenues grew even faster—0.9 percent more than GDP. If CBO's GDP estimate is correct, one would ordinarily expect between 5.2 percent and 5.5 percent growth in future revenues, rather than the 4.5 percent growth that is projected.

Mrs. O'Neill does not give a satisfactory explanation for why revenues are expected to grow so much more slowly than they have grown historically. Her main point seems to be that there is bound to be a recession some time in the next decade and that this will cause revenue growth to slow. But the impact of past recessions is already incorporated into the historical data on growth of actual revenues. So it seems odd for the CBO in effect to predict a future recession will have an impact on revenues much greater than those in the past.

No one is suggesting that the CBO is deliberately fudging its numbers for some political purpose. However, Congress is entitled to raise questions about the accuracy of the numbers it must rely upon when making important decisions about taxing and spending. The questions that have been raised about CBO's revenue forecasts are legitimate and deserve a better response than it has provided.

IRET CONGRESSIONAL ADVISORY

(By Michael A. Schuyler)

ARE CBO BUDGET PROJECTIONS STILL UNDERSTATED?

Confronted with a torrent of tax dollars, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has revised its surplus projections upward several times in 1998. In January, the CBO had projected a $5 billion deficit for 1998 but surpluses of $127 billion for 1998–2003 and $655 billion for 1998–2008. In March, the CBO changed its 1998 forecast to an $8 billion surplus but added only $11 billion to projected surpluses for all subsequent years. In May, as tax revenues continued to pour into Washington, the CBO upped its 1998 forecast to a $43–$63 billion surplus, raised its 1999 forecast to a $30–$40 billion surplus, but said it expected the changes for years beyond then to be ''smaller amounts.'' In its July budget update, the CBO projects a $63 billion surplus for 1998, an $80 billion surplus for 1999, a $583 billion surplus for 1998–2003, and a $1,611 billion surplus for 1998–2008. These are enormous numbers, but they may still be too low.

For several years, federal revenues have climbed substantially more rapidly than nominal gross domestic product (GDP). Between fiscal years 1995 and 1998, for example, nominal GDP growth averaged a 5.3% annually while revenue growth topped that by 3 percentage points yearly, averaging 8.3% annually; for fiscal year 1998 alone, nominal GDP is expected to increase 5.2% while revenues jump 8.7%. The CBO's projections, however, assume that this pattern is suddenly about to reverse itself. According to the CBO, revenues will increase only slightly more rapidly than nominal GDP in 1999, considerably more slowly than nominal GDP in fiscal years 2000, 2001, 2002, and 2003, and generally no faster than nominal GDP in subsequent years.

If the CBO had projected that revenue growth would merely match nominal GDP growth, the 1998–2003 surplus would be $167 billion greater than it currently projects and the 1998–2008 surplus would be $570 billion greater, boosting the 11-year total to more than $2.1 trillion.

The surpluses currently being projected indicate that policymakers now have a major opportunity to reform the troubled U.S. tax system in ways that would substantially reduce both its inefficiencies and its complexity. If the actual surpluses prove to be higher, the opportunity to make positive tax changes would be even greater. Unfortunately, unreasonably low CBO projections may deter policymakers from acting on this opportunity.

Another consideration for policymakers is that, except for a brief period during World War II, federal revenues have never commandeered a larger share of GDP than they are now (20.5%). It is only by postulating that revenues will suddenly grow more slowly than GDP that the CBO can project a reduction in the revenue-GDP ratio without the need for a tax cut. If the historical relationship holds and taxes are not reduced, the government will be setting new records every year in the share of people's productive output it is taking away in taxes.

Despite the CBO's projection, two lines of reasoning suggest that, unless there is tax relief, revenues are likely to continue growing faster than nominal GDP is attributable to inflation, and inflation would push up taxes and nominal GDP at equal rates even if the tax code were fully indexed for inflation. In actuality, because many tax provisions lack inflation protection (some examples are the alternative minimum tax's exempt amount, the income threshold for taxing social security benefits, the computation of capital gains, and the corporate income tax's progressive rate schedule), the government reaps an inflation dividend from taxpayers (albeit a much smaller inflation dividend from taxpayers (albeit a much smaller inflation dividend that before the Reagan Administration introduced inflation indexing in the 1980s.) thus, to the extent nominal GDP increases because of inflation, federal revenues would be expected to increase as rapidly or more rapidly than nominal GDP.

In addition, nominal GDP increases because of real growth in the economy. Some real growth occurs simply because population is increasing. Real growth from this source tends to increase federal revenues at the same rate as GDP. Real growth also occurs, though, because people are becoming more productive over time, resulting in rising wages and incomes. Because the tax system is progressive, real growth per capita pushes people into higher tax brackets, which causes the government to take a larger share of their incomes. (Tax indexing does not cover real wage growth. In fact, even if the CPI slightly overstated inflation, tax indexing does not fully offset the combined effects on real tax collections of productivity-related wage hikes and inflation.) Thus, the portion of real growth attributable to higher population will tend to raise federal revenues in line with GDP increases and the portion attributable to higher productivity will tend to boost revenues relative to GDP. Either way, there is no explanation for revenues growing more slowly than GDP.

The Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997 (TRA–97) included some tax reductions phased in over several years. Could the phased-in tax cuts of TRA–97 explain why the CBO is projecting such slow relative growth in federal revenues? No, even if TRA–97's changes are added back to revenues, the CBO is still projecting that revenues will grow more slowly than nominal GDP.

Another possible explanation for revenues suddenly growing more slowly than GDP would be a redistribution of GDP from taxpayers subject to high tax rates to taxpayers subject to low tax rates. Among those taxed at higher rates are corporations, and the CBO does project that corporate profits as a share of GDP will decline somewhat over the next five years. But this does not explain the revenue slowdown. The CBO's projection for revenue growth, excluding corporate income taxes, is not quite as slow as the CBO's projected growth rate for all revenues, but it still trails GDP growth for several years starting in 2000 and then in later years grows no more rapidly.

Tax collections have been running much higher than the CBO had previously forecast mainly in the area of personal income not subject to withholding. Due to the government's slowness in analyzing tax return data, the sources of that taxable income are not yet known with certainty. Two often-mentioned possibilities are non-corporate business income and capital gains realizations. Business income has been strong and capital gains realizations have been bolstered by lower tax rates and a strong stock market. If business income and capital gains realizations are the sources of the robust revenue growth, there is no reason to expect them to evaporate, barring undesirable policy changes such as higher taxes, more government regulations, or higher inflation.

The CBO argues, however, that because the sources of the higher-than-it-expected taxable income are not yet entirely clear, the income from those sources should be assumed to be atypically high in 1998, and the CBO arbitrarily excludes part of it in projecting future taxable income and tax collections. This arbitrary exclusion is a key reason the CBO projects that revenues will increase more slowly than GDP for several years and then increase no more rapidly. As explained, this result is peculiar because, unless taxes are cut from time to time, revenues tend to increase relative to GDP due to inflation and real growth.

The uncertainty about the source of higher-than-anticipated current revenues could be resolved very quickly if the Internal Revenue Service immediately analyzed a sample of recently received tax returns. With literally billions of dollars of tax relief perhaps hanging in the balance, such a sample should be examined at once.

In the discussion thus far, it has been assumed that the CBO's assumptions about GDP growth are accurate. In reality, they may be too pessimistic—especially if pro-productivity tax relief is enacted to invigorate the U.S. economy. The CBO assumes that real GDP will grow less than 2.2% annually over the next decade and that for most of the period the unemployment rate will be more than a percentage point higher than it is presently. The CBO is apparently still wedded to the idea of the Phillips curve and cannot believe that unemployment much under 6% can coexist for very long with low inflation. If the CBO did not assume the economy would expand so little in the future, its revenue projection would be much higher (the size of the economy is one of the most powerful determinants of tax revenues), leading to far larger surpluses.

The strong possibility that the CBO is still underestimating budget surpluses underscores the desirability of tax relief. As surpluses mount, there is less and less reason to endure tax inefficiencies and complexities that could be corrected through well designed relief.

Changes that ease anti-production tax biases will tend to strengthen the economy and sustain the economic expansion, leading to further benefits for everyone, and recouping much of the static revenue loss in the process. In contrast, if tax relief is not forthcoming, the American people may be condemned to paying a steadily mounting share of their incomes and output to the government, weakening the economy and income growth in the process. Further, while some claim that Washington will use the projected surpluses to pay off the federal debt, a more realistic appraisal is that Washington will soon channel into increased government spending whatever it does not relinquish through tax cuts, notwithstanding the waste, inefficiency, and perverse incentives of many government spending programs.

Note: Nothing here is to be construed as necessarily reflecting the views of IRET or as an attempt to aid or hinder the passage of any bill before the Congress.●

By Mr. SESSIONS (for himself, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. MCCONNELL, and Mr. COVERDELL):

S. 2425. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide additional tax incentives for education; to the Committee on Finance.

''THE COLLEGIATE LEARNING AND STUDENT SAVINGS ACT''

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce ''The Collegiate Learning and Student Savings Act'' a common sense piece of legislation which will help more than 2.5 million students afford a college education.

This legislation, cosponsored by Senators BOB GRAHAM, MITCH MCCONNELL and PAUL COVERDELL, will allow private colleges and universities to establish prepaid tuition plans and allow a family's investment in ALL state or private tuition savings and prepaid plans to be tax-free.

Let me take a few minutes to discuss the concept of prepaid tuition plans and why they are critically important to America's families.

As a parent who has put two children through college and who has another currently enrolled in college, I know first-hand that America's families are struggling to meet the rising costs of higher education. In fact, American families have already accrued more college debt in the 1990s than during the previous three decades combined. The reason is twofold: the federal government subsidizes student debt with interest rate breaks and penalizes educational savings by taxing the interest earned on that savings.

In recent years, however, many families have tackled rising tuition costs by taking advantage of pre-paid college tuition plans. These plans allow families to purchase tuition credits years in advance. Thanks to innovative programs already established by 17 states, like my home state of Alabama, parents can actually lock in today's tuition rates for tomorrow's education.

Congress has supported participating families by expanding the scope of the pre-paid tuition plans and by deferring the taxes on the interest earned until the student goes off to college.

My legislation, modeled after the efforts of the House Ways and Means Chairman BILL ARCHER and Senator COVERDELL's efforts on the ''A+ Education Accounts'' bill, will make earnings in state AND private education pre-paid plans completely tax-free.

Currently, most of the interest earned by families saving for college is taxed twice. Families are taxed on the income they earn and then again on the interest they earn through savings. On the other hand, the federal government subsidizes student loans by deferring interest payments until graduation. It is no wonder that families are struggling to save for college and instead are going heavily into debt. This trend must not continue.

In order to provide families a new alternative, ''The Collegiate Learning and Student Savings Act'' will provide tax-free treatment to all pre-paid plans for public and private colleges and universities. This would place all savings plans and all schools on an equal playing field.

This bipartisan piece of legislation would not only provide American families with more than $1 billion dollars in much-needed tax relief over the next decade, but would also help control the cost of college for all students. In fact, the track record of existing state prepaid plans indicates that working, middle-income families, not the rich, benefit the most from pre-paid plans.

Mr. President, It is erroneous to assume that tuition savings and prepaid plans benefit mainly the wealthy. In fact, the experience of existing state plans indicates that working, middle-income families benefit most. For example, families with an annual income of less than $35,000 purchased 62 percent of the prepaid tuition contracts sold by Pennsylvania in 1996. The average monthly contribution to a family's college savings account during 1995 in Kentucky was $43.

Prepaid tuition plans must become law. The federal government can no longer subsidize student debt with interest rate breaks and penalize educational savings by taxing the interest earned by families who are trying to save for college. Both public and private prepaid tuition plans should be held equal by the federal government and must be completely tax free. If these goals are achieved, the federal government would be providing families the help they need to meet the cost of college through savings rather than through debt.

Mr. President, American families accumulated more college debt during the first five years of the 1990s than in the previous three decades combined. Recognizing that this trend cannot continue, several states have established tuition savings and prepaid tuition plans. Now, a nationwide consortium of more than 50 private schools, with more than 1 million alumni, has launched a similar plan for private institutions. These plans are extremely popular with parents, students, and alumni. They make it easier for families to save for college, and the prepaid tuition plans also take the uncertainty out of the future cost of college.

''The Collegiate Learning and Student Savings Act'' eliminates the double taxation that exists on interest earned through the programs and ends the disparity that currently exists between public and private colleges.

Mr. President, I would like to thank the cosponsors of ''The Collegiate Learning and Student Savings Act'', Senators GRAHAM, MCCONNELL and

COVERDELL, for their assistance and dedication to this issue.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 246

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 246, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide greater flexibility and choice under the medicare program.

S. 356

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 356, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, the Public Health Service Act, the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, the title XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to assure access to emergency medical services under group health plans, health insurance coverage, and the medicare and medicaid programs.

S. 388

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 388, a bill to amend the Food Stamp Act of 1977 to assist States in implementing a program to prevent prisoners from receiving food stamps.

S. 413

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 413, a bill to amend the Food Stamp Act of 1977 to require States to verify that prisoners are not receiving food stamps.

S. 1195

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1195, a bill to promote the adoption of children in foster care, and for other purposes.

S. 1215

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1215, a bill to prohibit spending Federal education funds on national testing.

S. 1225

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1225, a bill to terminate the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

S. 1459

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1459, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a 5-year extension of the credit for producing electricity from wind and closed-loop biomass.

S. 1520

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1520, a bill to terminate the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

S. 1581

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1581, a bill to reauthorize child nutrition programs, and for other purposes.

S. 1759

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. LUGAR), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SPECTER), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN), the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU), and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD) were added as cosponsors of S. 1759, a bill to grant a Federal charter to the American GI Forum of the United States.

At the request of Mr. DASCHLE, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1759, supra.

S. 1862

At the request of Mr. DEWINE, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1862, a bill to provide assistance for poison prevention and to stabilize the funding of regional poison control centers.

S. 1929

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1929, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax incentives to encourage production of oil and gas within the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 1993

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1993, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to adjust the formula used to determine costs limits for home health agencies under medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 2049

At the request of Mr. KERREY, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2049, a bill to provide for payments to children's hospitals that operate graduate medical education programs.

S. 2099

At the request of Mr. CAMPBELL, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. FAIRCLOTH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2099, a bill to provide for enhanced Federal sentencing guidelines for counterfeiting offenses, and for other purposes.

S. 2141

At the request of Mr. CAMPBELL, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. JEFFORDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2141, a bill to require certain notices in any mailing using a game of chance for the promotion of a product or service, and for other purposes.

S. 2145

At the request of Mr. SHELBY, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. FAIRCLOTH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2145, a bill to modernize the requirements under the National Manufactured Housing Construction and Safety Standards Act of 1974 and to establish a balanced consensus process for the development, revision, and interpretation of Federal construction and safety standards for manufactured homes.

S. 2180

At the request of Mr. LOTT, the names of the Senator from New York (Mr. D'AMATO) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. GLENN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2180, a bill to amend the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 to clarify liability under that Act for certain recycling transactions.

S. 2201

At the request of Mr. TORRICELLI, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2201, a bill to delay the effective date of the final rule promulgated by the Secretary of Health and Human Services regarding the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network.

S. 2217

At the request of Mr. FRIST, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2217, a bill to provide for continuation of the Federal research investment in a fiscally sustainable way, and for other purposes.

S. 2263

At the request of Mr. GORTON, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2263, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the expansion, intensification, and coordination of the activities of the National Institutes of Health with respect to research on autism.

S. 2295

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2295, a bill to amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to extend the authorizations of appropriations for that Act, and for other purposes.

S. 2308

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. MACK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2308, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to prohibit transfers or discharges of residents of nursing facilities as a result of a voluntary withdrawal from participation in the medicaid program.

S. 2354

At the request of Mr. BOND, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2354, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to impose a moratorium on the implementation of the per beneficiary limits under the interim payment system for home health agencies, and to modify the standards for calculating the per visit cost limits and the rates for prospective payment systems under the medicare home health benefit to achieve fair reimbursement payment rates, and for other purposes.

S. 2364

At the request of Mr. CHAFEE, the names of the Senator from New York (Mr. D'AMATO) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. ROBB) were added as cosponsors of S. 2364, a bill to reauthorize and make reforms to programs authorized by the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965.