Whereas the United States Government Accountability Office report in 2005 highlighted the lack of resources and staffing available to the United States Department of Veterans Affairs for processing an increasing backlog of veterans' claims; and

Whereas discretionary funding for the United States Department of Veterans Affairs lags behind both medical inflation and the increased demands for services; for example, the enrollment for veterans' health care increased 134 percent between fiscal years 1996 and 2004, but funding only increased 34 percent during the same period when adjusted to 1996 dollars; and

Whereas former United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs Anthony Principi has publicly stated that the United States Department of Veterans Affairs has been struggling to provide health care to the rapidly rising number of veterans who require health care; be it

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature expresses its profound gratitude for the sacrifices made by veterans who suffer from medical or mental problems resulting from injuries that occurred while serving in the United States Armed Forces; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States Congress to ensure adequate funding for veterans' health care.

POM–476. A resolution adopted by the California State Lands Commission supporting the Ocean Conservation, Education, and National Strategy for the 21st Century Act (H.R. 21) and the National Oceans Protection Act of 2008 (S. 3314); to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

POM–477. A resolution adopted by the California State Lands Commission requesting that Congress continue to enact, and the President reinstitute, the moratorium on oil and gas leasing within protected offshore areas; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

POM–478. A resolution adopted by the legislature of the Republic of the Philippines thanking the U.S. Senate for the passage of S. 1315 known as the Veterans' Benefits Enhancement Act of 2007; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. LEAHY, from the Committee on the Judiciary, without amendment with a preamble:

S. Res. 707. An original resolution authorizing the President of the Senate to certify the facts of the failure of Joshua Bolten, as the Custodian of Records at the White House, to appear before the Committee on the Judiciary and produce documents as required by Committee subpoena (Rept. No. 110–522).

S. Res. 708. An original resolution authorizing the President of the Senate to certify the facts of the failure of Karl Rove to appear and testify before the Committee on the Judiciary and to produce documents as required by Committee subpoena (Rept. No. 110–522).

By Mr. LIEBERMAN, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:

Report to accompany S. 967, a bill to amend chapter 41 of title 5, United States Code, to provide for the establishment and authorization of funding for certain training programs for supervisors of Federal employees (Rept. No. 110–523).

By Mr. LIEBERMAN, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:

Special Report entitled ''Activities of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs'' (Rept. No. 110–524).

By Mr. LIEBERMAN, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:

Report to accompany S. 3477, a bill to amend title 44, United States Code, to authorize grants for Presidential Centers of Historical Excellence (Rept. No. 110–525).

Report to accompany S. 1000, a bill to enhance the Federal Telework Program (Rept. No. 110–526).

By Mr. KENNEDY, from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1695. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish a pathway for the licensure of biosimilar biological products, to promote innovation in the life sciences, and for other purposes.

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:

S. 3691. A bill to amend the Commodity Exchange Act to require reporting and recordkeeping for positions involving credit-default swaps, to grant the Federal Reserve Board authority over investment-bank holding companies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. SANDERS:

S. 3692. A bill to rescind Treasury Notice 2008-83; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SANDERS (for himself, Mrs. LINCOLN, and Mrs. BOXER):

S. 3693. A bill to limit the amount of compensation for employees and executives of financial institutions assisted under the Troubled Asset Relief Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. SANDERS (for himself, Mr. INHOFE, and Mrs. LINCOLN):

S. 3694. A bill to amend the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act to limit obligations to $350,000,000,000, absent majority approval by the Congress; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. ENSIGN:

S. 3695. A bill to require a 50-hour workweek for Federal prison inmates, to reform inmate work programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. STEVENS (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 3696. A bill to establish a grant program to encourage retooling of entities in the timber industry in Alaska, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. INHOFE:

S. 3697. A bill to amend the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act to require approval by the Congress for certain expenditures for the Troubled Asset Relief Program; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Ms. SNOWE):

S. 3698. A bill to prohibit any recipient of emergency Federal economic assistance from using such funds for lobbying expenditures or political contributions, to improve transparency, enhance accountability, encourage responsible corporate governance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. SNOWE:

S. 3699. A bill to direct the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to reform and improve the HUBZone program for small business concerns, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. KERRY (for himself, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. INOUYE, Mr. BROWN, Ms. STABENOW, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. DODD, Mr. CASEY, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. CARPER):

S. 3700. A bill to encourage and support the development of high-speed passenger rail transportation in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. HATCH):

S. 3701. A bill to provide assistance to Best Buddies to support the expansion and development of mentoring programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. VITTER:

S. 3702. A bill to provide for full and open competition for Federal contracts related to natural disaster reconstruction efforts; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. VITTER:

S. 3703. A bill to ensure efficiency and fairness in the awarding of Federal contracts in connection with natural disaster reconstruction efforts; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. SNOWE (for herself and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 3704. A bill to authorize additional Federal Bureau of Investigation field agents to investigate financial crimes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. SNOWE:

S. 3705. A bill to amend the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 to stop the small business credit crunch, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. CLINTON:

S. 3706. A bill to amend part D of title IV of the Social Security Act to prohibit States from charging child support recipients for the collection of child support; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. CLINTON:

S. 3707. A bill to recruit, train, and support principals for high-need schools who are effective in improving student academic achievement; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. CLINTON:

S. 3708. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to health professions education, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. LEAHY:

S. Res. 707. An original resolution authorizing the President of the Senate to certify the facts of the failure of Joshua Bolten, as the Custodian of Records at the White House, to appear before the Committee on the Judiciary and produce documents as required by Committee subpoena; from the Committee on the Judiciary; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. LEAHY:

S. Res. 708. An original resolution authorizing the President of the Senate to certify

the facts of the failure of Karl Rove to appear and testify before the Committee on the Judiciary and to produce documents as required by Committee subpoena; from the Committee on the Judiciary; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. KERRY (for himself, Ms. SNOWE, Mrs. BOXER, Ms. CANTWELL, and Mr. REED):

S. Res. 709. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the United States should pursue the adoption of bluefin tuna conservation and management measures at the 16th Special Meeting of the International Commission on the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 1130

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1130, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to restore, increase, and make permanent the exclusion from gross income for amounts received under qualified group legal services plans.

S. 1359

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1359, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to enhance public and health professional awareness and understanding of lupus and to strengthen the Nation's research efforts to identify the causes and cure of lupus.

S. 2063

At the request of Mr. CONRAD, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2063, a bill to establish a Bipartisan Task Force for Responsible Fiscal Action, to assure the economic security of the United States, and to expand future prosperity and growth for all Americans.

S. 2173

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2173, a bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to improve standards for physical education.

S. 2372

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2372, a bill to amend the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States to modify the tariffs on certain footwear.

S. 2723

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2723, a bill to expand the dental workforce and improve dental access, prevention, and data reporting, and for other purposes.

S. 3256

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3256, a bill to provide a supplemental funding source for catastrophic emergency wildland fire suppression activities on Department of the Interior and National Forest System lands, to require the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to develop a cohesive wildland fire management strategy, and for other purposes.

S. 3331

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3331, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to require that the payment of the manufacturers' excise tax on recreational equipment be paid quarterly.

S. 3359

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3359, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the shipping investment withdrawal rules in section 955 and to provide an incentive to reinvest foreign shipping earnings in the United States.

S. 3364

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 3364, a bill to increase the recruitment and retention of school counselors, school social workers, and school psychologists by low-income local educational agencies.

S. 3398

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3398, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to liability under State and local requirements respecting devices.

S. 3483

At the request of Mr. ENSIGN, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. GREGG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3483, a bill to improve consumer access to passenger vehicle loss data held by insurers.

S. 3487

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) were added as cosponsors of S. 3487, a bill to amend the National and Community Service Act of 1990 to expand and improve opportunities for service, and for other purposes.

S. 3539

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. CORKER) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) were added as cosponsors of S. 3539, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the centennial of the establishment of the Girl Scouts of the United States of America.

S. 3663

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3663, a bill to require the Federal Communications Commission to provide for a short-term extension of the analog television broadcasting authority so that essential public safety announcements and digital television transition information may be provided for a short time during the transition to digital television broadcasting.

S. 3683

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the names of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. DEMINT), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) were added as cosponsors of S. 3683, a bill to amend the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act to require approval by the Congress for certain expenditures for the Troubled Asset Relief Program.

S. 3684

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3684, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow an above-the-line deduction against individual income tax for interest in indebtedness and for State sales and excise taxes with respect to the purchase of certain motor vehicles.

S. 3685

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the names of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) were added as cosponsors of S. 3685, a bill to prohibit the selling and counterfeiting of tickets for a Presidential inaugural ceremony.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Ms. SNOWE):

S. 3698. A bill to prohibit any recipient of emergency Federal economic assistance from using such funds for lobbying expenditures or political contributions, to improve transparency, enhance accountability, encourage responsible corporate governance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today on behalf of myself and Senator SNOWE to introduce legislation that will enhance transparency, strengthen oversight, and encourage responsible corporate governance for firms receiving financial lifelines from the Federal Government.

Our bill—the Accountability for Economic Rescue Assistance Act—will achieve four essential objectives.

It will prohibit firms receiving loans from the Federal Reserve or any of the $700 billion economic rescue funds from Treasury from using this money for lobbying expenditures or political contributions; require that firms receiving