

the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers. We have also included a modified version of the Administration's so-called Challenge 21 initiative to encourage more non-structural flood control and environmental projects. In addition, we are recommending that the cost-sharing formula be changed for maintenance of future shoreline protection projects.

Finally, Mr. President, I want to indicate that we have encouraged our colleagues in the House of Representatives to try to resolve their differences on the proposed Sacramento, California, flood control project. It seems to me that there are legitimate concerns and issues on both sides, but I am optimistic that they will reach an agreement. I stand ready to do whatever I can to facilitate a successful resolution.

This legislation is vitally important for countless states and communities across the country. For economic and life-safety reasons, we must maintain our harbors, ports and inland waterways, our flood control levees and shorelines, and the environment. I ask for the cooperation of colleagues so that we can swiftly complete this unfinished business from 1998. It would be my strong desire to complete action on this bill within the next several weeks so that we can prepare for WRDA 2000.

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

S. 509. A bill to amend the Peace Corps Act to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2000 through 2003 to carry out that Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

#### PEACE CORPS ACT AMENDMENTS

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the Peace Corps and to join with my colleague Senator PAUL COVERDELL to introduce legislation to make technical modifications to the Peace Corps Act.

The changes made by this legislation are purely technical and largely designed to remove certain outmoded restrictions on Peace Corps activities. I would ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a section-by-section analysis of this bill at the conclusion of my remarks.

Now let me turn to the general subject of the Peace Corps as today is the thirty eighth anniversary of its establishment. Thirty eight years ago, a young President recognized the power that American ingenuity, idealism and, most of all, volunteerism could have on the lives of people around the world. In order to harness that energy, President Kennedy formed a small army, not of soldiers to make war, but of volunteers to build peace through mutual understanding.

Since its inception in 1961, more than 151,000 Peace Corps volunteers have battled against the scourges of mal-

nutrition, illiteracy and economic underdevelopment in 132 countries around the world. I can speak with some personal experience about the Peace Corps as I have had the privilege to serve as a volunteer. In fact, slightly more than thirty years ago, I arrived back in the United States after spending two years as a Peace Corps Volunteer in a rural village in the Dominican Republic. Like many who heeded President Kennedy's call to do something larger than ourselves, to be a part of something greater than our own existence, my service in the Peace Corps remains one of the most important periods in my life.

When I served in the Peace Corps, nearly all of us volunteers had similar experiences. We worked in small isolated villages with little in the way of modern conveniences. The world since that time has changed and the Peace Corps has been evolving to meet new demands. Today's volunteers specialize in education, the environment, small business, agriculture and other fields. In 1996, the Peace Corps developed a "Crisis Corps" to provide short term emergency and humanitarian assistance in situations ranging from natural disasters to refugee crises. While many volunteers continue to live in remote villages, this is no longer an iron clad rule. Some now labor in urban areas, passing on the skills needed to start and run businesses.

The more than 6,500 volunteers who today serve in 87 nations are a more diverse group than the one I joined three decades ago. When I served, the Corps was mostly male and mostly young. Today, however, nearly sixty percent of all volunteers are women, a quarter are over 29, and six percent are over fifty. While the face and methods of the Peace Corps have changed over the years, its goal has remained constant: to help people of other countries meet their needs for trained personnel; to help promote understanding of the American people by those we serve; and to help promote better understanding among the American people about the world beyond our borders.

By building bridges between the United States and other countries, the Peace Corps advances our foreign policy by communicating America's values and ideas to other peoples around the globe.

It is an indication of the success of the Peace Corps that, while the current class of volunteers is providing new services and working in countries never served before, the demand continues to outpace supply. We need only look at a newspaper, Mr. President, to see where Peace Corps volunteers are needed. In the Caribbean countries ravaged by Hurricane Georges and Mitch, in formerly war-torn areas of Africa and in countries where the skills needed to start a business have been nearly erased by decades of communist rule.

In order to meet these needs, Congress and President Clinton have set the admirable goal of reaching 10,000 Peace Corps volunteers by 2000.

The Peace Corps, Mr. President, stands as an example of what is great about the United States. Our volunteerism, humanity and sense of justice are proudly displayed in the face of each volunteer we send overseas. And every time I meet volunteers about to embark on their two years of service, I share their sense of excitement. If each of us, in our daily lives, work in the same spirit as those volunteers—helping those around us and sharing the values of our nation—the United States will indeed have a proud and bright future.

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

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

S. 509

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

#### SECTION 1. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEARS 2000 THROUGH 2003 TO CARRY OUT THE PEACE CORPS ACT.

Section 3(b) of the Peace Corps Act (22 U.S.C. 2502(b)) is amended to read as follows: "(b)(1) There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out the purposes of this Act \$270,000,000 for fiscal year 2000, \$298,000,000 for fiscal year 2001, \$327,000,000 for fiscal year 2002, and \$365,000,000 for fiscal year 2003.

"(2) Amounts authorized to be appropriated under paragraph (1) for a fiscal year are authorized to remain available for that fiscal year and the subsequent fiscal year."

#### SEC. 2. MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS TO THE PEACE CORPS ACT.

(a) INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL.—Section 15(d) of such Act (22 U.S.C. 2514(d)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (11), by striking "and" at the end;

(2) in paragraph (12), by striking the period at the end and inserting "; and"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

"(13) the transportation of Peace Corps employees, Peace Corps volunteers, dependents of such employees and volunteers, and accompanying baggage, by a foreign air carrier when the transportation is between two places outside the United States without regard to section 40118 of title 49, United States Code."

(b) TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.—(1) Section 5(f)(1)(B) of such Act (22 U.S.C. 2504(f)(1)(B)) is amended by striking "Civil Service Commission" and inserting "Office of Personnel Management".

(2) Section 5(h) of such Act (22 U.S.C. 2504(h)) is amended by striking "the Federal Voting Assistance Act of 1955 (5 U.S.C. 2171 et seq.)" and all that follows through "(31 U.S.C. 492a)," and inserting "section 3342 of title 31, United States Code, section 5732 and".

(3) Section 5(j) of such Act (22 U.S.C. 2504(j)) is amended by striking "section 1757 of the Revised Statutes of the United States" and all that follows and inserting "section 3331 of title 5, United States Code."

(4) Section 10(a)(4) of such Act (22 U.S.C. 2509(a)(4)) is amended by striking "31 U.S.C. 665(b)" and inserting "section 1342 of title 31, United States Code".

(5) Section 15(c) of such Act (22 U.S.C. 2514(c)) is amended by striking "Public Law 84-918 (7 U.S.C. 1881 et seq.)" and inserting "subchapter VI of chapter 33 of title 5, United States Code".

(6) Section 15(d)(2) of such Act (22 U.S.C. 2514(d)(2)) is amended by striking "section 9 of Public Law 60-328 (31 U.S.C. 673)" and inserting "section 1346 of title 31, United States Code".

(7) Section 15(d)(6) of such Act (22 U.S.C. 2514(d)(6)) is amended by striking "without regard to section 3561 of the Revised Statutes (31 U.S.C. 543)".

(8) Section 15(d)(11) of such Act (22 U.S.C. 2514(d)(11)), as amended by this section, is further amended by striking "Foreign Service Act of 1946, as amended (22 U.S.C. 801 et seq.)" and inserting "Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 3901 et seq.)".

#### SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

##### SEC. 1. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEARS 2000 THROUGH 2003 TO CARRY OUT THE PEACE CORPS ACT

This section amends the Peace Corps Act to provide the following authorizations of appropriations: Fiscal Year 2000—\$270 million, Fiscal Year 2001—\$298 million, Fiscal Year 2002—\$327 million, Fiscal Year 2003—\$365 million. The Committee understands that these amounts are consistent with Office of Management & Budget and Peace Corps estimates of amounts required to meet the 10,000 volunteer target by the end of Fiscal Year 2003. The Committee also understands that these amounts are already part of the Administration's outyear projections for Fiscal Years 2001-2003.

##### SEC. 2. MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS TO THE PEACE CORPS ACT

Section 2(a) adds a new paragraph (13) to subsection 15(d).1

[Footnote] The new paragraph would exempt the Peace Corps from 49 U.S.C. 40118 with respect to flights between two points abroad to the same extent other foreign service agencies are exempt from that section.

[Footnote] 122 U.S.C. subsection 2214(d).

Under 49 U.S.C. subsection 40118(d), the Department of State and the Agency for International Development (AID) are exempt from the requirements of 49 U.S.C. 40118 for travel between two places outside the United States by employees and their dependents. Determining which carriers overseas are U.S. certified or have agreements with the U.S. that qualify them under section 40118 is a complex undertaking. Posts and individuals must make decisions in this area at the risk of having their travel costs disallowed. The Committee believes that administrative provisions affecting foreign service agencies should be as consistent as possible. For instance, a Peace Corps employee who is flying with an AID employee to attend a meeting should be able to fly on the same plane without fear of being penalized under section 40118. This provision would extend to Peace Corps employees and Volunteers the same treatment now available to other foreign service agency employees.

Section 2(b) makes technical changes to sections 5, 10 and 15 of the Peace Corps Act (hereinafter the Act) to reflect changes in statutory citations that have occurred since enactment of the Act.

Section 2(b)(1) strikes out 'Civil Service Commission' in section 5(f)(1)(B) and inserts in lieu thereof 'Office of Personnel Management.' The Civil Service Commission was replaced by the Office of Personnel Management in 1966.

Section 2(b)(2) amends section 5(h) of the Act (22 U.S.C. 2504(h)) in several respects. It strikes out references to the Federal Voting Assistance Act of 1955 (5 U.S.C. 2171 et seq.), the Act of June 4, 1954, chapter 264, section 4 (5 U.S.C. 73b-5, the Act of December 23, 1944, chapter 716, section 1, as amended (31 U.S.C. 492a) and inserts references to 5 U.S.C. 5732 and 31 U.S.C. 3342. The Federal Voting Assistance Act has been repealed and replaced by a provision (42 U.S.C. 1973cc et seq.) which is available to all American citizens overseas. It is unnecessary, therefore, to consider Volunteers federal employees to provide them with the benefits of the Act; therefore, the reference to voter assistance in this provision can be deleted. The replacement of references to sections of titles 5 and 31 with references to 5 U.S.C. 5732 and 31 U.S.C. 3342 reflect recodification of provisions relating to reimbursement for the cost of transportation of baggage and effects, and check cashing privileges in those titles. No substantive change is involved.

Section 2(b)(3) replaces the reference to 'section 1757 of the Revised Statutes of the United States, as amended (5 U.S.C. 16)' with 'section 3331 of title 5, United States Code,' reflecting the codification of the statutory oath for employees in 1966.

Section 2(b)(4) replaces the reference to 31 U.S.C. 665(b) with '31 U.S.C. 1342,' reflecting the 1982 revision of title 31.

Section 2(b)(5) amends section 15(c)2 [Footnote] by striking out 'Public Law 84-918 (7 U.S.C. 1881 et seq.)' and inserting in lieu thereof subchapter VI of chapter 33, title 5, United States Code (5 U.S.C. 3371 et seq.). Section 15(c) of the Peace Corps Act authorizes training for employees at private and public agencies. The statutory provisions relating to employee training were transferred from title 7 to title 5 in 1970.

[Footnote] 222 U.S.C. subsection 2514(c).

Section 2(b)(6) amends paragraph 15(d)(2)3 [Footnote] by striking out 'section 9 of Public Law 60-328 (31 U.S.C. 673)' and inserts in lieu thereof 31 U.S.C. 1346. This section of the Peace Corps Act authorizes the payment of expenses to attend meetings related to the Peace Corps Act. No substantive change is intended. It is another change required by the 1982 revision of title 31.

[Footnote] 322 U.S.C. subsection 2514(d)(2).

Section 2(b)(7) strikes out "without regard to section 3561 of the Revised Statutes (31 U.S.C. 543)". This statute, which contained a restriction on currency exchanges, has been repealed and apparently was not replaced.

Section 2(b)(8) strikes out 'Foreign Service Act of 1946, as amended (22 U.S.C. 801 et seq.)' and inserts in lieu thereof: 'Foreign Service Act of 1980, as amended (22 U.S.C. 3901 et seq.)'. The Foreign Service Act was rewritten and renamed in 1980.

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I am pleased to join my colleague from Connecticut, Senator DODD, and my colleagues in the House, in introducing a reauthorization of the Peace Corps Act. This legislation authorizes a 12 percent increase for the fiscal year Peace Corps budget and is part of a multi-year plan to enable the Peace Corps to reach its goal of 10,000 volunteers. Reaching this level has been a long standing goal—set into law in 1985—and I am pleased that this legislation would accomplish this as the Peace Corps readies to enter the 21st century.

As former Director of the Peace Corps, I have learned first-hand of the

tremendous impact that the relatively small amount we spend on the Peace Corps has throughout the world. Not only does the Peace Corps continue to be a cost effective tool for providing assistance and developing stronger ties with the international community, it has also trained over 150,000 Americans in the cultures and languages of countries around the world. Returned volunteers often use these skills and experiences to contribute to myriad sectors of our society—government, business, education, health, and social services, just to name a few. What a rich resource the Peace Corps is for the United States as the world grows closer.

Peace Corps volunteers continue to provide unique leadership around the world by representing the finest characteristics of the American people: a strong work ethic, generosity of spirit, and a commitment to service. The interpersonal nature of the Peace Corps has allowed volunteers to establish a collective record of public service that is well respected and recognized in all corners of the world.

Several Members of Congress, including Senator DODD, have contributed to this legacy of service and volunteerism. I believe they have experienced the value of the Peace Corps and its commitment to serving others, and I am certain that my colleague from Connecticut would consider this Peace Corps experience invaluable to his work today. As I have said before and I think it deserves repeating, virtually every ambassador and official representative I have met from countries with volunteers is an enthusiastic supporter of the Peace Corps. They all have viewed the Peace Corps as the most successful program of its kind.

Mr. President, I believe that the time is right to expand the number of Peace Corps volunteers. As the needs of people in developing countries continue to grow, so too does the number of enthusiastic Americans desiring to serve. Over the last 4 years, the number of Americans requesting information about joining the Peace Corps increased by almost 40 percent. Yet, during the same period, the Peace Corps has only been able to support a 2 percent-increase in volunteers.

In addition, the Peace Corps has taken steps to streamline agency operations to channel more resources in support of additional volunteers. Headquarter staffing has been reduced 13 percent since 1993. Five of 16 domestic recruiting offices and 13 country programs have been closed since fiscal year 1996. Financial savings in basic business operations have been achieved by realigning the headquarters organization and improving overseas financial operations. The sum of all the financial savings have contributed to a 14 percent-reduction in the average cost per volunteer (in constant dollars) since 1993.

Today, nearly 6,700 volunteers serve in 80 countries around the world, working with local communities to build a better future. This increase in Volunteers will help the Peace Corps expand in areas such as the Caucasus, Central Asia, and Africa as well as in Jordan, China, Bangladesh, and Mozambique. Increased funding will also help expand the work of the "Crisis Corps," a group of experienced Peace Corps volunteers who have the necessary background to make valuable contributions in emergency situations. Crisis Corp volunteers, by the way, are serving today in Central America, assisting the region in its recovery from the terrible devastation of Hurricane Mitch.

Finally, this proposed authorization will serve to strengthen the Peace Corps as it prepares to enter the 21st century, putting it on the firm footing it needs and deserves. I firmly believe that a rejuvenated Peace Corps will help ensure that America continues to be an engaged world leader, and that we continue to share with other countries our own legacy of freedom, independence, and prosperity. This is an investment in our country and our world that we need to make.

By Mr. CAMPBELL (for himself, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. KYL, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. GORTON, and Mr. GRAMS):

S. 510. A bill to preserve the sovereignty of the United States over public lands and acquired lands owned by the United States, and to preserve State sovereignty and private property rights in non-Federal lands surrounding those public lands and acquired lands; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

THE AMERICAN LAND SOVEREIGNTY PROTECTION ACT

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, today I introduce the American Land Sovereignty Protection Act of 1999. I am pleased to be joined by my colleagues, Senators CRAIG, KYL, CRAPO, GORTON, and GRAMS who are original cosponsors of the bill.

This bill enforces our position as strong supporters of American public lands and private property rights, and is based upon legislation which I introduced in the 105th Congress, S. 2098. Since then I have received input from Coloradans and revised the bill accordingly, as I am concerned about the setting aside of public lands by the federal government for international agreements and oversight.

The absence of congressional oversight in such programs as the United Nations Biosphere Reserve is of special concern to me. The United Nations has designated 47 Biosphere Reserves in the United States which contain a total area greater than the size of my home state of Colorado.

The United Nations remains the only multi-national body to share perspectives on a global scale. The United

States, as the leading economic and military world power, should maintain an influential role. However, the intrusive implications of the U.N. Biosphere Reserve program have created a problem that must be addressed by the Congress.

A Biosphere Reserve is a federally-zoned and coordinated region that could prohibit certain uses of private lands outside of the designated international area. The executive branch is agreeing to manage the designated area in accordance with an underlying agreement which may have implications on non-federal land outside the affected area. For example, when residents of Arkansas discovered a plan by the United Nations and the administration to advance a proposed Ozark Highland Man and Biosphere Reserve without public input, the plan was withdrawn in the face of public pressure. This type of stealth tactic to accommodate international interests does not serve the needs and desires of the American people. Rather, it is an encroachment by the Executive branch on congressional authority.

We are facing a threat to our sovereignty by the creation of these land reserves in our public lands. I also believe the rights of private landowners must be protected if these international land designations are made. Even more disturbing is the fact the executive branch elected to be a party to this "Biosphere Reserve" program without the approval of Congress or the American people. The absence of congressional oversight in this area is a serious concern.

In fact most of these international land reserves have been created with minimal, if any, congressional input or oversight or public consultation. The current system for implementing international land reserves diminishes the power and sovereignty of the Congress to exercise its constitutional power to make laws that govern lands belonging to the United States. Congress must protect individual property owners, local communities, and state sovereignty which may be adversely impacted economically by any such international agreements.

As policymaking authority is further centralized by the executive branch at the federal level, the role of ordinary citizens in the making of this policy through their elected representatives is diminished. The administration has allowed some of America's most symbolic monuments of freedom, such as the Statue of Liberty and Independence Hall to be listed as World Heritage Sites. Furthermore the United Nations has listed national parks including Yellowstone National Park—our nation's first national park—as a World Heritage Site.

Federal legislation is needed to require the specific approval of Congress before any area within the borders of

the United States is made part of an international land reserve. My bill reasserts Congress' Constitutional role in the creation of rules and regulations governing lands belonging to the United States and its people.

I ask unanimous consent that the bill be printed in the RECORD and urge my colleagues to support its passage.

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

S. 510

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

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the "American Land Sovereignty Protection Act".

**SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) The power to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations governing lands belonging to the United States is vested in the Congress under article IV, section 3, of the Constitution.

(2) Some Federal land designations made pursuant to international agreements concern land use policies and regulations for lands belonging to the United States which under article IV, section 3, of the Constitution can only be implemented through laws enacted by the Congress.

(3) Some international land designations, such as those under the United States Biosphere Reserve Program and the Man and Biosphere Program of the United Nations Scientific, Educational, and Cultural Organization, operate under independent national committees, such as the United States National Man and Biosphere Committee, which have no legislative directives or authorization from the Congress.

(4) Actions by the United States in making such designations may affect the use and value of nearby or intermixed non-Federal lands.

(5) The sovereignty of the States is a critical component of our Federal system of government and a bulwark against the unwise concentration of power.

(6) Private property rights are essential for the protection of freedom.

(7) Actions by the United States to designate lands belonging to the United States pursuant to international agreements in some cases conflict with congressional constitutional responsibilities and State sovereign capabilities.

(8) Actions by the President in applying certain international agreements to lands owned by the United States diminishes the authority of the Congress to make rules and regulations respecting these lands.

(b) PURPOSE.—The purposes of this Act are the following:

(1) To reaffirm the power of the Congress under article IV, section 3, of the Constitution over international agreements which concern disposal, management, and use of lands belonging to the United States.

(2) To protect State powers not reserved to the Federal Government under the Constitution from Federal actions designating lands pursuant to international agreements.

(3) To ensure that no United States citizen suffers any diminishment or loss of individual rights as a result of Federal actions designating lands pursuant to international agreements for purposes of imposing restrictions on use of those lands.

(4) To protect private interests in real property from diminishment as a result of Federal actions designating lands pursuant to international agreements.

(5) To provide a process under which the United States may, when desirable, designate lands pursuant to international agreements.

**SEC. 3. CLARIFICATION OF CONGRESSIONAL ROLE IN WORLD HERITAGE SITE LISTING.**

Section 401 of the National Historic Preservation Act Amendments of 1980 (Public Law 96-515; 94 Stat. 2987) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a) in the first sentence, by—

(A) striking “The Secretary” and inserting “Subject to subsections (b), (c), (d), and (e), the Secretary”; and

(B) inserting “(in this section referred to as the ‘Convention’)” after “1973”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsections:

“(d)(1) The Secretary of the Interior may not nominate any lands owned by the United States for inclusion on the World Heritage List pursuant to the Convention, unless—

“(A) the Secretary finds with reasonable basis that commercially viable uses of the nominated lands, and commercially viable uses of other lands located within 10 miles of the nominated lands, in existence on the date of the nomination will not be adversely affected by inclusion of the lands on the World Heritage List, and publishes that finding;

“(B) the Secretary has submitted to the Congress a report describing—

“(i) natural resources associated with the lands referred to in subparagraph (A); and

“(ii) the impacts that inclusion of the nominated lands on the World Heritage List would have on existing and future uses of the nominated lands or other lands located within 10 miles of the nominated lands; and

“(C) the nomination is specifically authorized by a law enacted after the date of enactment of the American Land Sovereignty Protection Act and after the date of publication of a finding under subparagraph (A) for the nomination.

“(2) The President may submit to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate a proposal for legislation authorizing such a nomination after publication of a finding under paragraph (1)(A) for the nomination.

“(e) The Secretary of the Interior shall object to the inclusion of any property in the United States on the list of World Heritage in Danger established under Article 11.4 of the Convention, unless—

“(1) the Secretary has submitted to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate a report describing—

“(A) the necessity for including that property on the list;

“(B) the natural resources associated with the property; and

“(C) the impacts that inclusion of the property on the list would have on existing and future uses of the property and other property located within 10 miles of the property proposed for inclusion; and

“(2) the Secretary is specifically authorized to assent to the inclusion of the property on the list, by a joint resolution of the Congress after the date of submittal of the report required by paragraph (1).

“(f) The Secretary of the Interior shall submit an annual report on each World Heritage Site within the United States to the Chairman and Ranking Minority member of

the Committee on Resources of the House of Representatives and of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate, that contains for the year covered by the report the following information for the site:

“(1) An accounting of all money expended to manage the site.

“(2) A summary of Federal full time equivalent hours related to management of the site.

“(3) A list and explanation of all non-governmental organizations that contributed to the management of the site.

“(4) A summary and account of the disposition of complaints received by the Secretary related to management of the site.”.

**SEC. 4. PROHIBITION AND TERMINATION OF UNAUTHORIZED UNITED NATIONS BIOSPHERE RESERVES.**

Title IV of the National Historic Preservation Act Amendments of 1980 (16 U.S.C. 470a-1 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“SEC. 403. (a) No Federal official may nominate any lands in the United States for designation as a Biosphere Reserve under the Man and Biosphere Program of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization.

“(b) Any designation on or before the date of enactment of the American Land Sovereignty Protection Act of an area in the United States as a Biosphere Reserve under the Man and Biosphere Program of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization shall not have, and shall not be given, any force or effect, unless the Biosphere Reserve—

“(1) is specifically authorized by a law enacted after that date of enactment and before December 31, 2000;

“(2) consists solely of lands on that date of enactment are owned by the United States; and

“(3) is subject to a management plan that specifically ensures that the use of intermixed or adjacent non-Federal property is not limited or restricted as a result of that designation.

“(c) The Secretary of State shall submit an annual report on each Biosphere Reserve within the United States to the Chairman and Ranking Minority member of the Committee on Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate, that contains for the year covered by the report the following information for the reserve:

“(1) An accounting of all money expended to manage the reserve.

“(2) A summary of Federal full time equivalent hours related to management of the reserve.

“(3) A list and explanation of all non-governmental organizations that contributed to the management of the reserve.

“(4) A summary and account of the disposition of the complaints received by the Secretary related to management of the reserve.”.

**SEC. 5. INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS IN GENERAL.**

Title IV of the National Historic Preservation Act Amendments of 1980 (16 U.S.C. 470a-1 et seq.) is further amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“SEC. 404. (a) No Federal official may nominate, classify, or designate any lands owned by the United States and located within the United States for a special or restricted use under any international agreement unless such nomination, classification, or designation is specifically authorized by law. The President may from time to time

submit to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate proposals for legislation authorizing such a nomination, classification, or designation.

“(b) A nomination, classification, or designation, under any international agreement, of lands owned by a State or local government shall have no force or effect unless the nomination, classification, or designation is specifically authorized by a law enacted by the State or local government, respectively.

“(c) A nomination, classification, or designation, under any international agreement, of privately owned lands shall have no force or effect without the written consent of the owner of the lands.

“(d) This section shall not apply to—

“(1) agreements established under section 16(a) of the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 4413); and

“(2) conventions referred to in section 3(h)(3) of the Fish and Wildlife Improvement Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 712(2)).

“(e) In this section, the term ‘international agreement’ means any treaty, compact, executive agreement, convention, bilateral agreement, or multilateral agreement between the United States or any agency of the United States and any foreign entity or agency of any foreign entity, having a primary purpose of conserving, preserving, or protecting the terrestrial or marine environment, flora, or fauna.”.

**SEC. 6. CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**

Section 401(b) of the National Historic Preservation Act Amendments of 1980 (16 U.S.C. 470a-1(b)) is amended by striking “Committee on Natural Resources” and inserting “Committee on Resources”.

By Mr. McCAIN:

S. 511. A bill to amend the Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act to ensure the equal right of individuals with disabilities to vote, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

VOTING ACCESSIBILITY FOR THE ELDERLY AND HANDICAPPED ACT AMENDMENTS

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, today I am introducing legislation with my dear friend Senator JOHN KERRY which would protect every American’s fundamental right to vote. Our bill, “Improving Accessibility to Voting for Disabled and Elderly Americans” will ensure that every citizen who wants to vote will be able to vote despite physical disabilities.

The McCain-Kerry bill would strengthen and redefine the existing law, “Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped.” As many of my colleagues know, Congress implemented this law in 1984 in an attempt to ensure that all Americans has access to voter registration and polling places. At the time this was quite a progressive initiative since it was 15 years prior to the landmark Americans with Disabilities Act which as since helped opened the door for millions of disabled Americans in many aspects of their lives.

As a Member of the House of Representatives, I proudly supported the original 1984 law and was confident that it would eliminate the barriers

facing millions of disabled and elderly citizens when they exercise their basic right to vote. Unfortunately, it did not. While it was a step in the right direction it has not completely eradicated inaccessible polling facilities. According to the most recent Federal Election Commission report, which relies on self-reporting by local election officials during the 1992 election, there were at least 19,500 inaccessible polling places. This is not including 9,500 polling places which did not file reports. And since this information is based on self-reporting I am afraid that the actual number of inaccessible polling places may be much higher.

It is deplorable that millions of disabled and elderly voters are not voting because they are faced with too many obstacles, including inaccessible polling places and ballots which are not accessible to blind or visually impaired voters. I find it particularly disconcerting that many of our nation's disabled veterans, the very men and women who have sacrificed so much for our country, are unable to cast their vote because of polling facilities which are not accessible. This is simply wrong. The right to vote is the heat and soul of our democracy, and we must work together to eliminate barriers preventing millions from participating in our democracy.

As America works together for our journey into the new millennium we must ensure that our Democracy continues to include everyone and address the unique needs of each citizen. I am concerned about voter turnout in the last election cycle, 1998 was the lowest since 1942—only 36 percent of eligible voters participated. It is difficult to have representation of the people by the people if the majority of people are not participating.

I find this lack of participation quite disturbing, particularly as our Nation prepares to enter the next century facing a multitude of important issues. What is even more disturbing is the number of citizens who wanted to participate in our election process but were unable to because of inaccessible polling facilities. This is why I am committed to working with Senator KERRY to get this bill passed so that every citizen, particularly the men and women who pledged their lives, fortunes and sacred honor to preserve and protect our Nation, can participate in the voting process.

I hope that my colleagues in the Senate will work with us to enact this important piece of legislation this year so that all Americans can exercise their right to vote with dignity and respect.

This legislation is supported by the Paralyzed Veterans of America, American Foundation for the Blind, New Hampshire Disabilities Rights Center, New Hampshire Developmental Disabilities Council, Granite State Independent Living Foundation, and Na-

tional Association of Protection and Advocacy Systems. I would like to thank each of them for their commitment to protecting the rights of disabled and elderly Americans.

Mr. President, I request unanimous consent that a copy of the legislation be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection the test of the bill was to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 511

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

**SECTION 1. AMENDMENT OF VOTING ACCESSIBILITY FOR THE ELDERLY AND HANDICAPPED ACT.**

(a) PURPOSE.—Section 2 of the Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act (42 U.S.C. 1973ee) is amended by—

(1) striking “It” and inserting “(a) It”; and

(2) adding at the end the following:

“(b) It is the intention of Congress in enacting this Act to ensure that—

“(1) no individual may be denied the right to vote in a Federal election on the basis of being disabled; and

“(2) every voter has the right to vote independently in a Federal election.”.

(b) ACCESSIBILITY OF POLLING PLACES.—Section 3 of the Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act (42 U.S.C. 1973ee-1) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking “each political subdivision” and all that follows through “conducting elections” and inserting “the chief election officer of the State”;

(2) by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following:

“(b) Subsection (a) shall not apply to a polling place in the case of any unforeseeable natural disaster such as a fire, storm, earthquake, or flood.”; and

(3) by striking subsection (c) and inserting the following:

“(c) The chief election officer of a State shall ensure that all polling methods selected and used for Federal elections are accessible to disabled and elderly voters, including—

“(1) the provision of ballots in a variety of accessible media;

“(2) the provision of instructions that are printed in large type, conspicuously displayed at each polling place;

“(3) the provision of printed information that is generally available to other voters using a variety of accessible media; and

“(4) ensuring that all polling methods used enable disabled and elderly voters to cast votes at polling places during times and under conditions of privacy available to other voters.”.

(c) ACCESSIBILITY OF REGISTRATION FACILITIES AND SERVICES.—Section 5(a) of the Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act (42 U.S.C. 1973ee-3(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “and” at the end; and

(2) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

“(2) registration information by telecommunications devices for the deaf and in a variety of accessible media; and

“(3) accessible registration procedures to allow each eligible voter to register at the residence of the voter, by mail, or by other means.”.

(d) ENFORCEMENT.—Section 6 of the Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act (42 U.S.C. 1973ee-4) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b), by striking “45” and inserting “21”; and

(2) by striking subsection (c) and inserting the following:

“(c) In an action brought under subsection (a), the State or political subdivision shall be fined an amount—

“(1) not to exceed \$5,000 for the first violation of such section; and

“(2) not to exceed \$10,000 for each subsequent violation.”.

(e) RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER LAWS.—Section 7 of the Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act (42 U.S.C. 1973ee-5) is amended—

(1) in the heading, by striking “VOTING RIGHTS ACT OF 1965” and inserting “OTHER LAWS;”

(2) by striking “This” and inserting “(a) This”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(b) Nothing in this Act shall be construed to invalidate or limit the laws of any State or political subdivision that provide greater or equal access to registration or polling for disabled and elderly voters.”.

(f) DEFINITIONS.—Section 8 of the Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act (42 U.S.C. 1973ee-6) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “chief election” through “involved” and inserting “Access Board”;

(2) in paragraph (4), by striking “permanent physical disability; and” and inserting “permanent disability;”;

(3) in paragraph (5), by striking the period and inserting a semicolon; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

“(6) ‘Access Board’ means the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board established under section 502 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 792);

“(7) ‘chief election officer’ means the State officer or entity, designated by State law or established by practice, responsible for elections within the State;

“(8) ‘independently’ means without the assistance of another individual; and

“(9) ‘media’ includes formats using large type, braille, sound recording, or digital text.”.

(g) REFERENCES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act (42 U.S.C. 1973ee et seq.) is amended by striking “handicapped” each place it appears and inserting “disabled”.

(2) REFERENCES IN OTHER LAWS.—Except where inappropriate, any reference to “handicapped” in relation to the Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act (42 U.S.C. 1973ee et seq.) in any law, Executive Order, rule, or other document shall include a reference to “disabled”.

(h) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 502(b)(3) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 792(b)(3)) is amended by inserting before the semicolon “and section 3 of the Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act (42 U.S.C. 1973ee-1)”.

**SEC. 2. REGULATIONS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney General shall promulgate regulations implementing this Act. Such regulations shall be consistent with the minimum guidelines established by the Access Board.

(b) ACCESS BOARD GUIDELINES.—Not later than 9 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Access Board shall issue minimum guidelines relating to the requirements in the amendments made by section 1(b) of this Act.

(c) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “Access Board” means the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board.

**SEC. 3. TRANSITION PLAN.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 months after the date on which regulations are promulgated under section 2(a), the chief election officer of each State shall develop a transition plan to ensure that polling places in the State are in compliance with the requirements of the Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act (42 U.S.C. 1973ee et seq.), as amended by this Act.

(b) COORDINATION WITH LOCAL ELECTION OFFICIALS.—The plan under subsection (a) shall be developed in coordination with—

- (1) local election officials; and
- (2) individuals with disabilities or organizations representing individuals with disabilities.

(c) CONTENTS AND AVAILABILITY OF PLAN.—The plan under subsection (a) shall—

- (1) include specific recommendations necessary to comply with the requirements of the Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act; and
- (2) be available for public inspection in such manner as the chief election officer determines appropriate.

**SEC. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

The amendments made by section 1 of this Act shall apply beginning on the earliest of—

- (1) the date that is 6 months after the date on which regulations are promulgated under section 2(a); or
- (2) the date of the first Federal election taking place in the State after December 31, 2000.

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I am pleased to join my good friend JOHN MCCAIN to introduce the Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act, to ensure that our disabled and elderly citizens have the same opportunity to vote as the rest of us—in private and at a polling place. Despite the intention of a voter accessibility law passed in 1984, many individuals with physical challenges are literally left outside the polling place, unable to exercise their fundamental right to vote without embarrassing themselves or relying on others to cast their ballot for them.

As abysmally low as voter turnout is for the population as a whole, it is estimated that the rate of voter participation by persons with disabilities is even lower—as much as 15–20 percent according to some surveys. Among the reasons for this gap is that polling places are not accessible to people with physical disabilities. This is the case, despite the Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act (VAEHA) of 1984, which requires polling places to be physically accessible to both older voters and voters with disabilities. Unfortunately, the VAEHA does not define an “accessible” voting place, nor does it place responsibility for making a voting place accessible with any particular agency or official.

Since the 1984 act was passed, many polling places have improved their accessibility. Nevertheless, according to the Federal Election Commission, which tracks accessibility under the 1984 act, there were some 19,500 inaccessible polling places in 1992—the last time for which statistics are available. And, since the FEC report relied on

self-reporting by voting precincts, the actual number of inaccessible polling places is likely to be even higher.

The result is that there are still too many instances where disabled voters must resort to what is known as “curbside voting.” According to a survey by the National Voter Independence Project, 47 percent of polling places are inaccessible because they don’t have a wide enough path from the street, there are no signs directing disabled people where to go, or stairs or narrow doorways block wheelchair access. Disabled voters who go to inaccessible polling places are told to honk their car horn, or ask a passerby to get the attention of the polling official, who must then bring a ballot out to the disabled voter or carry him or her into the voting place. Rather than face this indignity, many disabled voters choose not to vote.

Why shouldn’t they just vote by absentee ballot? Because voting is a community event in which those without disabilities can choose to participate. Disabled voters deserve the same voting rights as everyone else. If they vote by absentee ballot, they should do so because they choose to, not because they have to.

Visually impaired voters—many of whom are older Americans—also often face certain indignities when they attempt to exercise their fundamental right of a secret vote. If they cannot see the ballot, they are told to bring someone into the voting booth with them, to read the ballot for them and cast their vote. An extraordinary 81 percent of visually impaired individuals had to rely on others to mark their ballots for them, according to the National Voter Independence Project. The secret ballot is so basic to our democratic system that it is shocking that it is denied to so many.

The right to vote at a polling place and in private can be provided to the elderly and disabled for a very low price. State election agencies may incur some costs in bringing their polling places into compliance, however, these are expenses already required of the states by the 1984 law. More importantly in most cases, the costs are not likely to be high. The FEC noted that improvements seen in 1992 “were in many cases achieved merely by relocating polling places to accessible buildings at no cost to the taxpayers.” Where polling places are not accessible to individuals with physical disabilities, they can be moved to already accessible buildings, such as malls, public libraries and schools. In many instances, access would be improved by putting up signs directing persons with disabilities to accessible entrances. These and other simple solutions have been implemented by some precincts at only minimal cost.

Improving access for the visually impaired can also be a low-cost endeavor

for states. Many visually impaired individuals would be able to vote independently if the ballots were simply in larger type. Providing a tape recording of the ballot for the visually impaired to listen to is another solution that has been implemented by a few precincts for very low cost. It is a small price to pay to guarantee our fundamental rights to all of our citizens.

Those who would benefit from this bill include the men and women who were injured serving our country in the armed forces. Other beneficiaries would be elderly citizens who may have voted regularly throughout their lives, and only their failing vision keeps them from voting now. Still others on whose behalf we offer this bill are victims of accidents, illnesses, or genetic disorders. Is there any one among those individuals who should be denied the right to participate in the voting process? Of course not. It is for them, Mr. President, that we offer this very important piece of legislation.

By Mr. GORTON (for himself,  
Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. LAUTENBERG,  
Mr. TORRICELLI, Mr.  
LIEBERMAN, and Mr. EDWARDS):

S. 512. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the expansion, intensification, and coordination of the activities of the Department of Health and Human Services with respect to research on autism; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

ADVANCEMENT IN PEDIATRIC AUTISM RESEARCH  
ACT

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, today, I will introduce legislation that will build on current scientific advances in understanding autism and will promote additional research in this promising field. I introduced a very similar bill last year and am greatly encouraged by the progress in this field. In the last 12 months, we’ve seen an increase in the number of researchers interested in this field, additional funding for autism research and greater public awareness about this disability. It is my hope that we can continue this momentum and pass meaningful legislation this year.

Many think autism is rare. In fact, it is the third most prevalent childhood disability, affecting an estimated four hundred thousand Americans and their families. It is also a condition that doctors and scientists believe can be cured. It is not something that we simply must accept.

When people think of autism they might remember the character played by Dustin Hoffman in the movie “Rainman.” Yet autism has many faces; it affects people from every background, social and ethnic category. Children with autism may be profoundly retarded and may never learn to speak, while other may be extremely hyperactive and bright. Some

may have extraordinary talents, such as an exceptional memory or skill in mathematics. However, all share the common traits of difficulty with communication and social interaction. And for reasons we do not yet understand, eighty percent of those with autism are males.

But autism is not about statistics or medical definitions—it is about children and families. The Kruegers, from Washington state, have an all too typical story. Their little girl Chanel developed like any other child—she happily played with her parents, took her first steps, learned some of her first words and then she started to regress. In four short months, by the time she was two, Chanel had become almost completely enveloped in her own private world. Chanel's mother told me "it was like somebody came in the middle of the night and took my child."

Like many children with autism, the Krueger's daughter no longer responded when her parents called her name; words she once spoke clearly became garbled; and socializing became more and more difficult. Fortunately, due to her parents' dedication and intervention Chanel Krueger at age 5, is doing remarkably well.

But, many autistic children completely lose the ability to interact with the outside world. The hours these kids should be spending in little league or playing with their friends are often spent staring out the window, transfixed by the dust floating in the sunlight or the pattern of leaves on the ground.

Even today, with advances in therapy and early intervention, few of these children will go to college, hold a regular job, live independently or marry. More than half never learn how to speak.

The facts about autism can be sobering—but there is hope. Early intervention and treatment has helped many children. Science has also made great strides in understanding this disorder. We now know that autism is a biological condition, it is not an emotional problem and it is not caused by faulty parenting. Scientists believe that autism is one of the most heritable developmental disorders and is the most likely to benefit from the latest advances in genetics and neurology. Once the genetic link is discovered, the opportunities for understanding, treating, and eventually curing autism are endless.

The promise of research is exactly why I am introducing this legislation. This bill will increase the federal commitment to autism research. Its cornerstone is authorization for five Centers of Excellence where basic researchers, clinicians and scientists can come together to increase our understanding of this devastating disorder.

Because so little is known about the prevalence of autism, I have added a

provision that establishes at the Centers for Disease Control at least three centers of expertise on autism in an effort to identify the causes of autism. The epidemiology research will help us confirm or dismiss whether a genetic disposition to autism may be triggered by environmental factors. If so, identifying those factors may help us in taking steps to prevent autism from developing.

A library of genetic information will be a valuable tool for researchers trying to identify the genetic basis for autism. The bill includes a provision to fund a gene and brain tissue bank developed from families affected with autism to be available for research purposes.

While we are hoping to advance our understanding and treatment of autism through research, it is also important that pediatricians and other health professionals have the most current information so that children and their families can receive help as early as possible. The bill includes authorization for an Autism Awareness Program to educate doctors and other health professionals about autism.

Finally, it is vital that we encourage collaboration among the scientists conducting this important work throughout the Department of Health and Human Services. The bill establishes an Inter-Agency Autism Coordinating Committee to bring together the scientists at the various Institutes at the NIH, at the Centers for Disease Control and other agencies conducting autism research.

While the focus of this bill is on autism, advances in this area are also likely to shed light on related problems such as attention deficit disorder, obsessive compulsive disorders, and various seizure disorders and learning disabilities.

Research is the key to unlocking the door and freeing those with autism from the isolation and loneliness of their private world. This bill is intended to give the NIH and the CDC the resources to take advantage of the tremendous opportunity before us to find more effective treatments and ultimately a cure for autism. The promise is real. Fulfillment of that promise only requires our commitment. I urge my Senate colleagues to support this important investment in the future of our children and our Nation.

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 38

At the request of Mr. CAMPBELL, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. HUTCHINSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 38, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to phase out the estate and gift taxes over a 10-year period.

S. 51

At the request of Mr. BIDEN, the names of the Senator from West Vir-

ginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES) were added as cosponsors of S. 51, a bill to reauthorize the Federal programs to prevent violence against women, and for other purposes.

S. 52

At the request of Mr. BOND, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. MACK) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. COVERDELL) were added as cosponsors of S. 52, a bill to provide a direct check for education.

S. 67

At the request of Mr. MOYNIHAN, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. HOLLINGS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 67, a bill to designate the headquarters building of the Department of Housing and Urban Development in Washington, District of Columbia, as the "Robert C. Weaver Federal Building."

S. 98

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. BREAU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 98, a bill to authorize appropriations for the Surface Transportation Board for fiscal years 1999, 2000, 2001, and 2002, and for other purposes.

S. 101

At the request of Mr. LUGAR, the names of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL), the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN), and the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. THOMAS) were added as cosponsors of S. 101, a bill to promote trade in United States agricultural commodities, livestock, and value-added products, and to prepare for future bilateral and multilateral trade negotiations.

S. 148

At the request of Mr. ABRAHAM, the names of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) and the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) were added as cosponsors of S. 148, a bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to establish a program to provide assistance in the conservation of neotropical migratory birds.

S. 171

At the request of Mr. MOYNIHAN, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD) were added as cosponsors of S. 171, a bill to amend the Clean Air Act to limit the concentration of sulfur in gasoline used in motor vehicles.

S. 185

At the request of Mr. ASHCROFT, the names of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) and the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL) were added as cosponsors of S. 185, a bill to establish a Chief Agricultural Negotiator in the Office of the United States Trade Representative.

S. 192

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) was added as