

certificated. To address this problem, I am introducing the "Labor Relations First Contract Negotiations Act of 1995," a bill which will require the arbitration of initial contract negotiation disputes.

Under this Act, if an employer and a newly elected representative have not reached a collective bargaining agreement within 60 days of the representative's certification, the employer and the representative shall jointly select a mediator to help them reach an agreement. If they cannot agree on a mediator, one will be appointed for them by the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service. In the event that the parties do not reach an agreement in 30 days, the remaining issues may be transferred to the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service for binding arbitration.

The Federal government can do more to sanction firms that demonstrate a pattern and practice of National Labor Relations Act violations. By debarring such firms from Federal contracts, the "Federal Contractor Labor Relations Enforcement Act of 1995" will encourage higher levels of compliance with the law.

Under the Act, firms that are determined by the Secretary of Labor to have shown a clear pattern the practice of NLRA violations will be debarred from receiving contracts, extensions of contracts, or modifications of existing contracts with agencies of the Federal government for a period of three years.

Similarly, the "Federal Contractor Safety and Health Enforcement Act of 1995" directs the Secretary of Labor to withhold Federal contracts in cases where firms show a clear pattern and practice of Occupational Safety and Health Act violations. This Act will help to ensure that employees who repeatedly disregard the safety and health of their workers will face consequences for their failure to abide by the law.

The "Labor Relations Remedies Act of 1995" protects workers by making it unlawful for an employer to discharge an employee for exercising rights protected under the National Labor Relations Act. The Act also directs the National Labor Relations Board to award additional damages in the event that it finds that an employee has of his right to sue for punitive damages and damages under any other state or Federal law.

The "National Labor Relations Board ruling Time Limit Act of 1995" will require that employees receive a prompt ruling on claims of wrongful discharge. The Act provides that the National Labor Relations Board shall rule on wrongful discharge complaints within thirty days of receiving them.

I am also introducing legislation today that will address the problem of law firms and consulting firms that stray over the line into counseling their clients to implement illegal policies or practices. Under the "National Labor Relations penalty Act" persons or firms who encourage an employer or a labor organization to violate the National Labor Relations Act will be subject to a fine of up to \$10,000.

By Mr. PACKWOOD:

S. 785. A bill to require the trustees of the Medicare trust funds to report recommendations on resolving projected financial imbalance in Medicare trust funds; to the Committee on Finance.

MEDICARE LEGISLATION

Mr. PACKWOOD. Mr. President, the 1995 annual reports of the trustees on the status of the two Medicare trust funds, released on April 3, 1995, raise

serious concerns about future financial viability of the Medicare Program.

The trustees conclude that the Federal hospital insurance trust fund—called Medicare part A:

First, has taken in less in Medicare payroll taxes than it has paid out in Medicare benefits every year since 1992;

Second, starts having to liquidate assets next year, 1996; and

Third, will run out of money by the year 2002.

The status of the supplemental medical insurance trust fund—called Medicare part B—is not much better. The trustees "note with great concern the past and projected rapid growth in the cost of the program."

Four Cabinet members of this administration are trustees of the Medicare trust funds—the Secretary of the Treasury, the Secretary of Labor, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, and the Commissioner of the Social Security Administration. These Cabinet members all signed the 1995 trustee report, agreeing with the conclusions that the Medicare trust fund is in serious financial trouble.

But this administration refuses to become engaged in proposing any solutions. Repeatedly, the President and his Cabinet members have said they are waiting for the Republicans' budget resolution before they offer any suggestions to save Medicare.

In my memory, this is the first time an administration has so completely refused to be a part of the budget process. The administration claims to have done its part because it submitted its 1996 budget to the Congress. However, the President's 1996 budget leaves Medicare virtually untouched. Medicare proposals in that budget do not even do enough to delay Medicare insolvency for 1 year.

The financial problems of the Medicare Program are real. They exist regardless of whether or not there is a budget resolution, or the content of a budget resolution. We simply cannot avoid addressing this issue, and the sooner the better.

Today, I am introducing a bill requiring the trustees of the Medicare trust funds to report back to Congress by June 30, 1995, with their recommendations for the specific program legislation to deal with Medicare's financial condition that they call for in their 1995 annual reports on the Medicare trust funds. This is an urgent responsibility of this administration and they must come forward with initiatives so that we can preserve the Medicare Program, not only for future generations, but for our current senior population.

I ask unanimous consent that the bill be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

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

S. 785

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

SECTION 1. TRUSTEES' CONCLUSIONS REGARDING FINANCIAL STATUS OF MEDICARE TRUST FUNDS.

(A) HI TRUST FUND.—The 1995 annual report of the Board of Trustees of the Federal Hospital Insurance Trust Fund, submitted on April 3, 1995, contains the following conclusions respecting the financial status of such Trust Fund:

(1) Under the Trustees' intermediate assumptions, the present financing schedule for the hospital insurance program is sufficient to ensure the payment of benefits only over the next 7 years.

(2) Under present law, hospital insurance program costs are expected to far exceed revenues over the 75-year long-range period under any reasonable set of assumptions.

(3) As a result, the hospital insurance program is severely out of financial balance and the Trustees believe that the Congress must take timely action to establish long-term financial stability for the program.

(b) SMI TRUST FUND.—The 1995 annual report of the Board of Trustees of the Federal Supplementary Medical Insurance Trust Fund, submitted on April 3, 1995, contains the following conclusions respecting the financial status of such Trust Fund:

(1) Although the supplementary medical insurance program is currently actuarially sound, the Trustees note with great concern the past and projected rapid growth in the cost of the program.

(2) In spite of the evidence of somewhat slower growth rates in the recent past, overall, the past growth rates have been rapid, and the future growth rates are projected to increase above those of the recent past.

(3) Growth rates have been so rapid that outlays of the program have increased 53 percent in aggregate and 40 percent per enrollee in the last 5 years.

(4) For the same time period, the program grew 19 percent faster than the economy despite recent efforts to control the costs of the program.

SEC. 2. RECOMMENDATIONS ON RESOLVING PROJECTED FINANCIAL IMBALANCE IN MEDICARE TRUST FUNDS.

(a) REPORT.—Not later than June 30, 1995, the Board of Trustees of the Federal Hospital Insurance Trust Fund and the Board of Trustees of the Federal Supplementary Medical Insurance Trust Fund shall submit to the Congress recommendations for specific program legislation designed solely—

(1) to control medicare hospital insurance program costs and to address the projected financial imbalance in the Federal Hospital Insurance Trust Fund in both the short-range and long-range; and

(2) to more effectively control medicare supplementary medical insurance costs.

(b) USE OF INTERMEDIATE ASSUMPTIONS.—The Boards of Trustees shall use the intermediate assumptions described in the 1995 annual reports of such Boards in making recommendations under subsection (a).

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 16

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 16, a bill to establish a commission to review the dispute settlement reports of the World Trade Organization, and for other purposes.

S. 256

At the request of Mr. DOLE, the name of the Senator from California [Mrs. FEINSTEIN] was added as a cosponsor of S. 256, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to establish procedures for

determining the status of certain missing members of the Armed Forces and certain civilians, and for other purposes.

S. 354

At the request of Mr. BREAUX, the name of the Senator from Mississippi [Mr. LOTT] was added as a cosponsor of S. 354, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax incentives to encourage the preservation of low-income housing.

S. 469

At the request of Mr. GREGG, the name of the Senator from North Carolina [Mr. FAIRCLOTH] was added as a cosponsor of S. 469, a bill to eliminate the National Education Standards and Improvement Council and opportunity-to-learn standards.

S. 471

At the request of Mr. BIDEN, the names of the Senator from Hawaii [Mr. AKAKA] and the Senator from Nevada [Mr. BRYAN] were added as cosponsors of S. 471, a bill to provide for the payment to States of plot allowances for certain veterans eligible for burial in a national cemetery who are buried in cemeteries of such States.

S. 495

At the request of Mrs. KASSEBAUM, the names of the Senator from Utah [Mr. BENNETT], the Senator from South Dakota [Mr. PRESSLER], and the Senator from Indiana [Mr. LUGAR] were added as cosponsors of S. 495, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to stabilize the student loan programs, improve congressional oversight, and for other purposes.

S. 508

At the request of Mr. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Mississippi [Mr. LOTT] was added as a cosponsor of S. 508, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify certain provisions relating to the treatment of forestry activities.

S. 615

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, the name of the Senator from North Dakota [Mr. DORGAN] was added as a cosponsor of S. 615, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish outpatient medical services for any disability of a former prisoner of war.

S. 641

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Delaware [Mr. BIDEN] was added as a cosponsor of S. 641, a bill to reauthorize the Ryan White CARE Act of 1990, and for other purposes.

S. 674

At the request of Mr. EXON, the name of the Senator from New Jersey [Mr. LAUTENBERG] was added as a cosponsor of S. 674, a bill entitled the "Rail Investment Act of 1995".

S. 738

At the request of Mr. THOMAS, the name of the Senator from Virginia [Mr. WARNER] was added as a cosponsor of S. 738, a bill to amend the Helium Act to

prohibit the Bureau of Mines from refining helium and selling refined helium, to dispose of the United States helium reserve, and for other purposes.

S. 749

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, the name of the Senator from North Dakota [Mr. DORGAN] was added as a cosponsor of S. 749, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to revise the authority relating to the Center for Women Veterans of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 9

At the request of Mr. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma [Mr. NICKLES] was added as a cosponsor of Senate Concurrent Resolution 9, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress regarding a private visit by President Lee Teng-hui of the Republic of China on Taiwan to the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 83

At the request of Mr. FEINGOLD, the name of the Senator from Illinois [Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN] was added as a cosponsor of Senate Resolution 83, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding tax cuts during the 104th Congress.

SENATE RESOLUTION 97

At the request of Mr. THOMAS, the names of the Senator from Delaware [Mr. ROTH] and the Senator from Hawaii [Mr. INOUE] were added as cosponsors of Senate Resolution 97, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate with respect to peace and stability in the South China Sea.

SENATE RESOLUTION 103

At the request of Mr. DOMENICI, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island [Mr. PELL] was added as a cosponsor of Senate Resolution 103, a resolution to proclaim the week of October 15 through October 21, 1995, as National Character Counts Week, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 709

At the request of Mr. GORTON the name of the Senator from Indiana [Mr. COATS] was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 709 proposed to H.R. 956, a bill to establish legal standards and procedures for product liability litigation, and for other purposes.

SENATE RESOLUTION 117—RELATING TO DEDUCTIONS FOR HOME MORTGAGES

Mr. ROTH (for himself, Mr. D'AMATO, and Mr. KEMPTHORNE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Finance:

S. RES. 117

Whereas homeownership is an important factor in promoting economic security and stability for American families;

Whereas homeownership is a fundamental American ideal, which promotes social and economic benefits beyond the benefits that accrue to the occupant of the home;

Whereas homeownership promotes and stabilizes neighborhoods and communities;

Whereas it is proper that the policy of the Federal Government is and should continue to be to encourage homeownership;

Whereas the increase in the cost of housing over the last 10 years has been greater than the increase in family income;

Whereas for the first time in 50 years, the percentage of people in the United States owning their own homes has declined;

Whereas the percentage of people in the United States between the ages of 25 and 29 who own their own homes has declined from 43 percent in 1976 to 38 percent today;

Whereas the current Federal income tax deduction for interest paid on debt secured by first homes located in the United States has been a valuable cornerstone of this Nation's housing policy for most this century and may well be the most important component of housing-related tax policy in America today;

Whereas the current Federal income tax deduction for interest paid on debt secured by second homes located in the United States is of crucial importance to the economies of many communities; and

Whereas the Federal income tax deduction for interest paid on debt secured by a first or second home has been limited twice in the last 6 years, and was further eroded as a result of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that the current Federal income tax deduction for interest paid on debt secured by a first or second home located in the United States should not be further restricted.

Mr. ROTH. Mr. President, of the challenges confronting America today—challenges that must be addressed by this Congress—the security of the American family is paramount. Much has been written and spoken about the welfare of family life, about the need to keep the family unit strong in our effort to secure a bright and productive American future.

One of the significant resources our families have is home ownership. Indeed, this resource is of such value that home ownership is considered the icon of the American dream. It lends to economic, physical, and emotional security. It keeps our neighborhoods strong and contributes to a necessary sense of community. It gives families not only a stake in the future, but a means to improve the future. Home equity and ownership often become the means by which we send our children to college, finance small businesses, or prepare for retirement.

It's clear that the benefits of home ownership go far beyond the family; they contribute to society as a whole. For example, the property tax base is often the foundation for public education. And as a Nation we have been richly rewarded by the Government policies that have encouraged people to realize the American dream.

What concerns me today, Mr. President, is that a full 60 percent of Americans can no longer afford a median-priced home. It concerns me that the increase in the cost of housing over the last 10 years has been greater than the increase in family income. And it concerns me that for the first time in 50 years, the percentage of people in the United States owning their own homes has declined.