

TRIBUTE TO MOUNTAIN CITY CARE CENTER

• Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize this week as Nursing Home Week in Tennessee, and to commend one of the finest nursing homes in east Tennessee for its excellent staff and the generous care it provides its residents—the Mountain City Care Center in Mountain City, TN.

Nursing homes in Tennessee are reviewed each year in a Tennessee State survey, with the results highlighting each center's strengths and weaknesses. Just 2 years ago, Mountain City Care Center was widely recognized as one of the worst facilities in east Tennessee, and it was almost forced to close. After receiving poor State survey results, the staff and new management of the facility immediately began retraining and hiring new care providers. Within 90 days, the State found that significant changes were being made, and Mountain City Care Center's surveys, as well as public opinion about the facility, have been improving ever since.

Just 2 weeks ago, the care center received its best inspection yet in the annual surveys, and it is widely recognized as one of the most improved, progressive nursing homes in east Tennessee. Mountain City Care Center even sponsors school projects, Johnson County Little League, sports programs, Rotary Club, American Red Cross, and other community programs.

Mr. President, I would like to thank the Tennesseans who were involved in turning around Mountain City Care Center and turning it into one of the best facilities in the State. Without their hard work and dedication to quality care, elderly residents in Mountain City would not receive the attention and care that they deserve. •

MUSICALYMPICS

• Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, earlier this week an article in the Science Times section of the New York Times explored what it called "the mystery of music." Scientists are attempting to find how and where the sense and art of music arise in the brain. It is a search in which much remains to be discovered, but it has already produced fascinating results, including the possibility that, even as it provides the child with a constructive source of pleasure and reward, early musical training may also enhance the ability to think and reason in terms of time and space. That possibility suggests, in turn, the significant role that music and musical education play in achieving the fundamental goals of our educational system.

That suggestion lends a special emphasis to an innovative musical program inaugurated this spring at three Los Angeles-area high schools. This program, I believe, serves as an excellent model for improving education through the cooperation of the private and public sectors.

"Musicalympics," an artistic competition for high schools, was conceived by David Griffin, a Warner Brothers Records representative. Griffin enlisted the interest of Warner Brothers Records chairman, Danny Goldberg, who signed the record company on as the Musicalympics' founding benefactor, the first, Griffin hopes, of other corporate sponsors to follow. Similarly, he hopes to see this year's inaugural competition among the three high schools extended to other schools in the future. The thoughtful design of the competition and the solid professional backing it is receiving make its prospects good, I believe, on both counts.

Each school participating in Musicalympics has created a team of student songwriters, musicians, choreographers, dancers, costume designers, set designers and production personnel such as television camera operators, lighting designers and recording engineers to pursue the creation of a musical performance from the writing of an original song to the final television production. Each school has been given a small cash stipend to underwrite expenses, and production professionals have guided the students in mastering technical production details.

Professional Musicalympics television crews have visited each school periodically to videotape students preparing their productions. David Griffin is producing and directing a television documentary special which showcases the competition, which will end in a complete television performance of each school's production. The competition is being judged by Griffin, a Warner Records artist and other television professionals. The documentary will premiere early next month and the winning school will be announced before each school's participating students and invited guests, sponsors, contributors and other key supporters. Each participating student will receive a videotape of the finished television program, and all three participating schools will receive cash prizes, or musical instruments and recording equipment.

Mr. President, the Musicalympics directly addresses a number of educational dimensions which concern the Nation today. In the first place, it offers an opportunity for interested students to participate directly in the creation of an original artistic performance; it provides those students with an intimate, personal perspective on the origin and nature of a production in one of the performing arts which are a chief feature of our culture. It helps these students develop the practical, hands-on skills that make such performances possible. It combines the resources of the private and public sectors to achieve a worthwhile goal few schools could manage on their own. It provides for both the participating students and their schools the challenge and the reward of disciplined teamwork focused on a constructive conclusion.

And, finally, it takes broad theoretical and practical advantage of the fundamental, universal, and characteristically human creation and appreciation of music.

Mr. President, I commend the founders and supporters of Musicalympics. This is a program that deserves scrutiny, encouragement and support. •

IN SUPPORT OF THE NEA

• Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, I rise today to express my concerns about proposals in the House of Representatives that would abolish the National Endowment for the Arts. Support for the arts and humanities is the hallmark of a civilized society and since our nation's founding, the arts have held a respected place in our country.

The National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities were created 30 years ago with the passage of the National Foundation on the Arts and Humanities Act of 1965. This act was conceived fundamentally to maintain intellectual freedom and preserve American culture for future generations. Since its inception, the National Endowment for the Arts and Humanities have become the principal funding organizations for many of our national museums, historical sights, and cultural institutions.

While we are currently facing a time of serious budgetary constraints, it is important for us to remember how small our investment in the arts really is. If you look at other civilized countries, they do far more from the public treasury in helping support the arts and humanities than we do in this country. Currently, the United States spends 64 cents per American per year, the equivalent of 2 postage stamps. In light of the tremendous return on investment in the arts and humanities, proposals to terminate funding for the Endowments seem shortsighted.

Federal support for the arts and humanities constitutes only five to ten percent of the total funding for the arts in this nation. This small investment functions as a catalyst to draw into the arts very significant amounts of money from the state and local levels as well as from private sources.

A grant from the NEA or NEH gives a tremendous boost to organizations such as symphonies and museums by assisting them in fundraising efforts in their own communities. Organizations all across the State of Maryland—from Baltimore's Museum of Art to Hagerstown's Maryland Symphony Orchestra—have all been able to use their NEA grant awards to leverage much-needed funding from their own communities. In fact, \$1 endowment attracts \$11 for the arts from States and local governments, regional and local art agencies, foundations and corporations, and businesses and individuals.

All of these contributions recognize the tremendous return on an investment in the arts. The arts have

brought increased economic development to communities across the Nation's revitalizing inner cities, stimulating revenue and creating jobs. Nationally, the nonprofit arts industry generates an estimated \$37 billion in economic activity and employs 1.3 million Americans. The arts attract tourist dollars, encourage business development, spur urban renewal, and improve the overall quality of life in our cities and towns.

Endowment grants also support important education and public programs. In my own State of Maryland, NEH grants are assisting Essex Community College in developing its curriculum and training faculty members to teach it; aiding in the preservation of historic Maryland newspapers such as the Log Cabin Advocate and the Independent Farmer; and funding museum exhibits such as the one on enlisted airmen in World War II at the Airmen Memorial Museum in Suitland, Maryland.

Endowment grants enrich the lives of all Americans by bringing diverse aspects of our cultural heritage right into our own communities. Among the most important beneficiaries of the arts are the children of this Nation. Exposure to the arts motivates children—stimulating their imaginations and increasing their confidence. For young people especially, a whole new world opens up to them when they enter a museum. The House proposals terminating funding for the arts would effectively slam the door to that new world. In my view, it is imperative that we keep that door open for Americans of all ages.●

OFFICE FOR RARE DISEASE RESEARCH ACT

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar Order No. 104, S. 184.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 184) to establish an Office for Rare Disease Research in the National Institutes of Health, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the bill?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be deemed read a third time, passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the bill be printed at the appropriate place in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

So the bill (S. 184) was passed, as follows:

S. 184

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 "Office for Rare Disease Research Act of 1995".

SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICE FOR RARE DISEASE RESEARCH.

Part A of title IV of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 281 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end thereof the following new section:

"SEC. 404F. OFFICE FOR RARE DISEASE RESEARCH.

"(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established within the Office of the Director of the National Institutes of Health an office to be known as the Office for Rare Disease Research (in this section referred to as the 'Office'). The Office shall be headed by a director, who shall be appointed by the Director of the National Institutes of Health.

"(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the Office is to promote and coordinate the conduct of research on rare diseases through a strategic research plan and to establish and manage a rare disease research clinical database.

"(c) ADVISORY COUNCIL.—The Secretary shall establish an advisory council for the purpose of providing advice to the director of the Office concerning carrying out the strategic research plan and other duties under this section. Section 222 shall apply to such council to the same extent and in the same manner as such section applies to committees or councils established under such section.

"(d) DUTIES.—In carrying out subsection (b), the director of the Office shall—

"(1) develop a comprehensive plan for the conduct and support of research on rare diseases;

"(2) coordinate and disseminate information among the institutes and the public on rare diseases;

"(3) support research training and encourage the participation of a diversity of individuals in the conduct of rare disease research;

"(4) identify projects or research on rare diseases that should be conducted or supported by the National Institutes of Health;

"(5) develop and maintain a central database on current government sponsored clinical research projects for rare diseases;

"(6) determine the need for registries of research subjects and epidemiological studies of rare disease populations; and

"(7) prepare biennial reports on the activities carried out or to be carried out by the Office and submit such reports to the Secretary and the Congress."

ORDERS FOR FRIDAY, MAY 19, 1995

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in recess until the hour of 8:45 a.m. on Friday, May 19; that following the prayer, the Journal of proceedings be deemed approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate then resume consideration of the concurrent budget resolution.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mrs. HUTCHISON. For the information of all Senators, tomorrow morning the Senate will debate the Domenici substitute, which is the text of President Clinton's budget, with that vote to occur at 10:45 a.m. That will be the last vote for the day. However, Senators LAUTENBERG and ROCKEFELLER will offer an amendment on which there will be debate. A vote will occur on that amendment at 3:15 p.m., Monday, under a previous order. That 3:15 vote on Monday is the first vote of the day. Additional rollcall votes can be expected throughout the day and into the evening on Monday.