

214.2(h)(2)(i)(D) of title 8, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act).

(c) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Attorney General shall issue regulations to carry out the provisions of this section.

(d) INTERIM TREATMENT.—A nonimmigrant whose visa is extended by operation of this section, and the spouse and child of such nonimmigrant, shall be considered as having continued to maintain lawful status as a nonimmigrant through September 30, 1997.

THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1997

BAUCUS AMENDMENTS NOS. 5348—5349

(Ordered to lie on the table.)

Mr. BAUCUS submitted two amendments intended to be proposed by him to the bill, H.R. 3662, supra; as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 5348

At the appropriate place in title I, insert the following:

SEC. 1. GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLANS FOR GLACIER NATIONAL PARK.

A new general management plan for Glacier National Park shall not become effective in fiscal year 1997 or 1998 until—

(1) the Director of the National Park Service has submitted to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Resources of the House of Representatives the proposed final general management plan; and

(2) each of the Senate and the House of Representatives has been in session for 90 days.

AMENDMENT NO. 5349

At the appropriate place in title I, insert the following:

SEC. 1. YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK.

Not later than April 1, 1997, the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the National Park Service, and the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, shall—

(1) enter into a memorandum of understanding that, for fiscal year 1998 and each fiscal year thereafter—

(A) provides for the timely maintenance of the Beartooth Highway in Yellowstone National Park, with the costs of maintenance shared equally by the National Park Service and the Forest Service; and

(B) ensures that the Beartooth Highway will be cleared of snow and ice by not later than the Friday before Memorial Day of each year (absent weather conditions that would make clearing the highway hazardous); and

(2) submit a copy of the memorandum of understanding to the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

NOTICE OF HEARING

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I would like to announce that the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs will meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, September 17, 1996, beginning at 9:30 a.m. to conduct a hearing on economic development on Indian reservations. The hearing will be held in room 485 of the Russell Senate Office Building.

Those wishing additional information should contact the Committee on Indian Affairs at 224-2251.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

NATIONAL CHILDREN'S DAY

• Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to join my friend Senator PRESSLER in introducing legislation to celebrate the children of our Nation by establishing National Children's Day on Sunday, October 13, 1996.

National Children's Day will enable us to pay tribute to children and to focus on issues that are so important to their health, development, and education. Many children today face crises of grave proportions, especially as they enter adolescent years. It is of particular concern that over 5 million children go hungry at some point each month, and that there has been a 60-percent increase in the number of children needing foster care in the last 10 years. It is also appropriate that adults in the United States have an opportunity to reminisce on their youth to recapture some of the fresh insight, innocence, and dreams that they may have lost through the years.

There are times when Congress can enact simple measures that ensure that the needs of our Nation's children are being recognized. It is the least we can do to celebrate the contributions children make in each of our lives and to all America.

I urge our colleagues to join us in co-sponsoring National Children's Day.●

H. JOSEPH GERBER

• Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I would like to take this time to remember Joseph Gerber, the founder and chairman of Gerber Scientific, Inc. and a Connecticut resident, who died in early August when Congress was out of session. I will sorely miss this great Connecticut businessman and innovator and send his family my sincere sympathy for their loss.

Mr. Gerber was nicknamed "Thomas Edison" in the apparel industry for his countless inventions—he was awarded over 650 U.S. and foreign patents for his technological innovations. His contributions to advanced manufacturing transformed many sectors including signmaking, graphic arts, printed circuit boards, optics, and automotive and aerospace technologies. He generously donated some of his inventions to the Smithsonian Institution—they can be found in the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History as part of its permanent collection.

Mr. Gerber was a champion of invention from very early on. As a junior at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, he invented a revolutionary graphical numerical computer. This product—the Gerber Variable Scale—was rolled out to launch the Gerber Scientific Instrument Co. In a matter of five decades, Gerber Scientific grew from an initial

investment of \$3,000 to a major supplier of automated manufacturing systems. Today, Gerber Scientific, headquartered in South Windsor, CT, boasts worldwide sales exceeding \$350 million. Mr. Gerber's creativity, motivation and business savvy propelled this corporation into success.

H. Joseph Gerber received many honors, awards and honorary doctorates. In 1953, he was chosen as one of The Ten Outstanding Young Men of the United States for contributions to his community, State, and Nation by the U.S. Junior Chamber of Commerce. He accepted the Connecticut Medal of Technology awarded by the Governor in 1994, was a member of the National Academy of Engineers and the Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering and served as a trustee of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. In 1994, President Clinton awarded Mr. Gerber the National Medal of Technology.

H. Joseph Gerber was equally inspirational in his personal achievements. He was born in Vienna, Austria in 1924, but his family's life was shattered by Nazi occupation. He was imprisoned in a Nazi labor camp when he was 15, but he and his mother were able to flee Austria to the United States in 1940. He quickly learned to speak English, and, while working to support his mother, graduated from Weaver High School in Hartford in 2 years and then from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in less than 3 years with an aeronautical engineering degree. I salute H. Joseph Gerber and pause for a moment of reflection in memory of this very accomplished and generous man.●

HEALTH INSURANCE PORTABILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

• Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize an important achievement by this body, as well as to congratulate my colleagues on the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act being signed into law. Last year, I joined Senators KASSEBAUM and KENNEDY in introducing this important piece of legislation. It has enjoyed broad bipartisan support in both the House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate.

Last summer, the Committee on Labor and Human Resources, of which I am a member, reported out this legislation unanimously. This spring, the bill passed with overwhelming support in the Senate. Mr. President, as you may recall, the vote was 100 to 0.

I regret that this very popular bill—that the General Accounting Office told us would help 25 million Americans—was filibustered for 94 days by our Democratic colleagues and therefore enactment was unnecessarily delayed.

First, we heard from our friends across the aisle that the bill contained poison pills—provisions that would jeopardize support for the overall bill.

The most fiercely opposed was inclusion of a medical savings account provision.

To back up a bit, I would like to read the language of an amendment that I offered, and that passed, during consideration of the bill by the Committee on Labor and Human Resources. Specifically, the committee added a sense of the committee that the establishment of medical savings accounts should be encouraged as part of any health insurance reform legislation passed by the Senate through the use of tax incentives relating to contributions to, the income growth of, and the qualified use of, such accounts.

Although the Labor Committee does not have jurisdiction over the Internal Revenue Code, this amendment articulated our support that MSAs should be a part of the final package. Furthermore, the Kassebaum-Kennedy legislation addressed the issue of medical savings accounts within its area of jurisdiction, the Public Health Service Act. The bill allows health maintenance organizations [HMO's] to offer deductibles in conjunction with a medical savings account. This was a necessary change to current law because the current HMO Act prohibits managed care plans from offering significant copayments and deductibles which would typify a catastrophic plan design. By including this language, the committee hoped to level the playing field for all health delivery systems in offering a medical savings account product. My own MSA legislation, introduced last year, also accomplishes this goal.

The medical savings account provisions included in the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act are much more narrow than the bill I introduced last year to establish MSA's. However, I believe the provision has much to offer the population it is directed toward: small employers and the self-employed. This population could greatly benefit from expanding their choices of affordable health plan options. In addition, it is worth encouraging individuals to become better consumers of their health care dollars. The MSA provision included in the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act attempts to accomplish this goal.

Mr. President, the Journal of the American Medical Association recently published a study by the RAND Corp. regarding medical savings accounts. RAND currently conducts the largest private program of health policy research in the United States. RAND has an exceptional program of health care research that has helped advance knowledge about how cost, quality, and access to care can be improved. Its research agenda has kept pace with the Nation's emerging health policy concerns and has helped shape the way policymakers, health professionals, and the public think about these issues.

We should note that the RAND study concludes that MSA's could prove at-

tractive to some sick and lower income people as well as to the healthy and well-to-do. The report implies that this is an effort worth demonstrating—and certainly not poisonous—especially when we focus on extending the option to populations that now have difficulty finding affordable health care options.

Above all, the goal of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act continues to be the implementation of the very basic reforms of portability and limits on pre-existing conditions. The Senate has debated both these issues for the past 6 years. The bills have even passed the Senate in previous years, but ultimately failed to become law. These reforms represent what we all support and are important to the many people who experience a sense of job-lock or pre-existing conditions. The General Accounting Office [GAO] estimates that 25 million people will benefit from this bill.

Yet, even once the MSA provision was resolved the group-to-individual portability provisions came under attack. We need to remember why health insurance reform legislation was pursued by this Congress. The goal of this bill has always been to insure that people who play by the rules will not be denied access to health insurance. That must be the litmus test for the ultimate success of this legislation. The conference agreement continues to insure that individuals who change or lose their jobs will have access to a choice of health insurance policies. The goal of portability remains strong in the bill.

Mr. President, this Congress has delivered on its promise to enact market-based insurance reforms that increase everyone's security that they will not lose their health insurance. I congratulate the majority leader, Senators KASSEBAUM and ROTH, and the other conferees for ultimately refusing to allow politics as usual to stand in the way of adopting these national rules.●

Mr. COVERDELL. Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. GRAMS). Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from South Carolina is recognized.

Mr. THURMOND. I thank the Chair.

(The remarks of Mr. THURMOND pertaining to the introduction of S. 2074 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Mr. COVERDELL addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Georgia.

FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 1996

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to consideration of calendar No. 575, H.R. 3553.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3553) to amend the Federal Trade Commission Act to authorize appropriations for the Federal Trade Commission.

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

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

Mr. PRESSLER. Mr. President, H.R. 3553, the Federal Trade Commission Reauthorization Act of 1996, would reauthorize the Federal Trade Commission [FTC] for the next 2 fiscal years. The bill would authorize appropriations of \$107 million in fiscal year 1997 and \$111 million in fiscal year 1998. The expenditures authorized by this bill would be sufficient to permit the FTC to maintain existing staffing levels of 979 full-time equivalent employees.

H.R. 3553 is identical to S. 1840 which I introduced along with Senators GORTON, HOLLINGS, BRYAN, and SNOWE. Before we introduced S. 1840 on June 5, 1996, the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation held a hearing on May 7, 1996, to review the FTC's activities. The Commerce Committee ordered the bill favorably reported during executive session on June 6, 1996. Because the House and Senate bills are identical, I am asking the Senate to adopt the House passed version so that we may send the bill to the President without the need for a conference.

The FTC was created as an independent regulatory agency in 1914 by the Federal Trade Commission Act. The agency is charged with the dual mission of consumer protection and antitrust enforcement.

Congress last authorized appropriations for the FTC in 1994. That authorization expires at the end of fiscal year 1996. The 1994 authorization followed a 12-year period in which appropriations to the FTC were not authorized. In that authorization act, significant changes were made to the FTC's authorizing statutes.

Mr. President, H.R. 3553, like its identical companion bill S. 1840, makes no further changes in the authorizing statutes. It is a simple authorization of appropriations and S. 1840 was in no way controversial during its committee consideration. I urge the Senate to pass H.R. 3553 as received from the House.

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

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