

# EXPANDING HEALTH CARE COVERAGE FOR CALIFORNIANS

• Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I commend the Senate for approving last night, at my urging, H.R. 3056, which makes a small change in Federal law to enable a California county that operates a Medicaid managed care plan to provide services to Medicaid beneficiaries in another county. This bill, introduced by Congressman FRANK RIGGS, is needed because the Health Care Financing Administration concluded that current law limits coverage under these county-operated plans solely to the county in which an organization operates.

This bill was requested by Solano and Napa Counties in California so that Solano County could expand its Health Partnership Plan to Napa County, thus providing care to 12,000 individuals. Currently, these Medicaid beneficiaries have "hit or miss" health care. Some are refused care by private physicians. The health care they do get is inconsistent and unreliable. Many end up in emergency rooms when illnesses are exacerbated and care is expensive. When Solano started its plan, emergency room visits were cut in half the first year because Medicaid beneficiaries were linked up with a primary care physician. This resulted in major savings.

In short, this bill will mean more access, more care and better health.

The Congressional Budget Office estimates that the bill could save up to \$500,000 per year.

The bill is supported by Gov. Pete Wilson, the California Department of Health Services, and the Solano and Napa County Boards of Supervisors.

I thank Senators LOTT, DASCHLE, ROTH, and MOYNIHAN for their help in moving this legislation and I urge my colleagues to support it. •

## A NATIONAL COMMISSION ON THE YEAR 2000 COMPUTER PROBLEM

• Mr. MOYNIHAN. Mr. President, yesterday I introduced S. 2131, a bill to establish a bipartisan National Commission on the Year 2000 Computer Problem. I ask that the permanent RECORD be changed to include the text of the bill at the beginning of my remarks. I further ask that the title of my remarks yesterday be corrected to read "A National Commission on The Year 2000 Computer Problem."

The text of the bill follows:

SEC. 1. SHORT TITLE.—(A) This title may be cited as the "Commission on the Year 2000 Computer Problem Act."

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.—The Congress makes the following findings:

(A) Whereas the Congress of the United States recognizes the existence of a severe computer problem that may have extreme negative economic and national security consequences in the year 2000 and beyond.

(B) Whereas most computer programs (particularly in mainframes) in both the public and private sector express dates with only two digits and assume the first two digits are "19", and that therefore most programs read 00-01-01 as January 1, 1900; and that these programs will not recognize the year 2000 or the 21st century without a massive rewriting of codes.

(C) Whereas the Congressional Research Service (CRS) has completed a report on the implications of the "Year 2000 Computer Problem" and according to CRS, each line of computer code will need to be analyzed and either passed on or be rewritten and this worldwide problem could cost as much as \$600 billion to repair. We recognize that no small share of the American burden will fall on the shoulders of the Federal Government and on State and local governments.

(D) Whereas six issues need to be addressed:

(1) an analysis of the history and background concerning the reasons for the occurrence of the Year 2000 problem;

(2) the cost of reviewing and rewriting codes for both the Federal and State governments over the next 3 years, including a legal analysis of responsibilities for such costs and possible equitable bases for sharing them;

(3) the time it will take to get the job done and, if not by 2000, what agencies are at risk of not being able to perform basic services;

(4) the development of balanced and sound contracts with the computer industry available for use by Federal agencies, and if such outside contractual assistance is needed, to assist such agencies in contracting for and effectuating Year 2000 compliance for current computer programs and systems as well to ensure Year 2000 compliance for all programs and systems acquired in the future;

(5) an analysis of what happens to the United States economy if the problem is not resolved by mid-1999;

(6) recommendations to the President and the Congress concerning lessons to be learned and policies and actions to be taken in the future to minimize the Year 2000 public and private sector costs and risks.

(E) Whereas the Congress recognizes that an Executive Branch Interagency Committee has been established to raise awareness of this problem and facilitate efforts at solving it; but that in order to best minimize the impact and cost of this problem, and recognizing the extreme urgency of this problem, this bipartisan commission will be established to both address these issues and take responsibility for assuring that all Federal agencies be computer compliant by January 1, 1999.

SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMISSION.—(A) There is established a commission to be known as the "National Commission on the Year 2000 Computer Problem" (hereinafter in this section referred to as the "Commission"). The Commission shall be composed of 15 members appointed or designated by the President and selected as follows:

(1) Five members selected by the President from among officers or employees of the Ex-

ecutive Branch, private citizens of the United States, or both. Not more than three of the members selected by the President shall be members of the same political party;

(2) Five members selected by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, in consultation with the Majority and Minority Leaders, from among officers or employers of the Senate, private citizens of the United States, or both. Not more than three of the members selected by the President Pro Tempore shall be members of the same political party;

(3) Five members selected by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, in consultation with the Majority and Minority Leaders, from among members of the House, private citizens of the United States, or both. Not more than three of the members selected by the Speaker shall be members of the same political party.

(B) The President shall designate a Chairman from among the members of the Commission.

SEC. 4. FUNCTION OF COMMISSION.—(A) It shall be the function of the Commission to conduct a study on the historical, current and long term condition of computer programs as they relate to date fields and the year 2000; identify problems that threaten the proper functions of computers as the public and private sectors approach the 21st Century; analyze potential solutions to such problems that will address the brief time there remains to meet this problem, the substantial cost of reviewing and rewriting codes, and the shared responsibilities for such costs; and provide appropriate recommendations (including potential balanced and sound contracts with the computer industry available for use by Federal agencies) to the Secretary of Defense (as this is a matter of National Security), the President and the Congress.

(B) the Commission shall submit to Congress a final report containing such recommendations concerning the Year 2000 Computer problem; including proposing new procedures, rules, regulations, or legislation that is needed to ensure the proper transition of the computers of the Federal Government and local and State governments from the year 1999 to the year 2000.

(C) the Commission shall make its report to the President by December 31, 1997.

SEC. 5. ADMINISTRATION.—(A) The heads of Executive Agencies shall, to the extent permitted by law, provide the Commission such information as it may require for the purpose of carrying out its functions.

(B) Members of the Commission shall serve without any additional compensation for their work on the Commission.

(C) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—While away from their homes or regular places of business in the performance of services for the Commission, members of the Commission shall be allowed travel expenses including per diem in lieu of substance, in the same manner as persons employed intermittently in the Government service are allowed expenses under section 5703(b) of title 5, United States Code.

(D) The Commission shall have a staff headed by an Executive Director. Any expenses of the Commission shall be paid from such funds as may be available to the Secretary of Defense.

SEC. 6. TERMINATION.—(A) The Commission, and all the authorities of this title, shall terminate thirty days after submitting its report.●

# SALUTE TO SYLVIA DAVIDSON LOTT BUCKLEY LOUISIANA POET LAUREATE

● Mr. BREAUX. Mr. President, I commend Mrs. Sylvia Davidson Lott Buckley, Louisiana State poet laureate, for achieving the distinction of writing the only poem recognized by the State of Louisiana.

Mrs. Buckley was inspired to write the poem, "America, We the People," when she received a stick pin from her grandson, Hue Lott, inscribed with the words, "We the people." Reflecting on the fact that justice is a most important word that all the rest of our government rests on, and that citizens are demanding freedom and justice for all, she wrote the poem within 25 minutes.

The Louisiana Legislature passed, and the Governor subsequently signed, legislation that makes "America, We the People," the Official State Judicial Poem.

Mr. President, I would like to share Mrs. Buckley's poem with my colleagues and other readers of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. I ask that this poem be printed in the RECORD.

The poem follows:

"AMERICA, WE THE PEOPLE"

THE OFFICIAL LOUISIANA JUDICIAL POEM

America

We the people

Justice, the word most sought by all, seek  
God to bless the courts with truth, for  
through His wisdom we rise or fall.

America

We the people

Do honor this great lady fair, who with her  
mighty arms still holds, the scales of  
Justice for all to share.

America

We the people

Do offer threads of hope to all, for Justice  
covers everyone; she does not measure,  
short or tall.

America

We the people

Boldly make this pledge to thee that Justice  
will, in mind and heart, guide each destiny.

America

We . . . the . . . people.—Sylvia Davidson  
Lott Buckley, Louisiana State Poet  
Laureate.●

## GONZAGA COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL ANNIVERSARY

● Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, this year Gonzaga College High School here in Washington, DC, is observing its 175th anniversary. This weekend, the Gonzaga community will celebrate this occasion with a block party at the school on Sunday, September 29.

I submit some additional information about the school and its long history and ask it be printed in the RECORD.

The material follows:

D.C.'S OLDEST SCHOOL MARKS 175TH  
ANNIVERSARY

Washington, D.C.—This year Gonzaga College High School located on North Capitol

and Eye Street, N.W. is celebrating 175 years of service to the community. The oldest educational institution in the federal city of Washington, Gonzaga through the years has educated the sons of government leaders and the sons of janitors, teaching strong moral values interwoven with its rigorous academic disciplines, and producing graduates which the school fondly calls "Men for Others."

Founded by the Society of Jesus in 1821 and originally named the Washington Seminary, Gonzaga grew from a tiny school to a major inner-city presence by the turn of the century. Gonzaga prospered during that period and well into the 1900's, a reflection of the city of Washington at large. So, too, was the school a reflection of the city in the late 1960's when racial tensions began to ignite. Enrollment at the Eye Street, N.W. school began to decline. Immediately after the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. in April 1968, the community around Gonzaga literally caught fire and the riots destroyed some neighborhoods and made others uninhabitable.

This tense period (1968-1973) marked the turning point in the life of Gonzaga. The Jesuit community and its supporters then made the crucial decision to remain on North Capitol Street, rather than close down or flee to the suburbs. This decision to stay and help restore the inner-city, both physically and spiritually, makes possible this 175th anniversary celebration.

The arrival of Father Bernard Dooley in 1974 as Gonzaga's new president was the single most significant event in this turnaround. He discovered that the school had no endowment, that its buildings were old and inadequate, and the prospective students were going elsewhere to high school.

Father Dooley led the turnaround campaign to a stunning success. During his twenty years at the school (1974-1994) Dooley and his team built new buildings, increased the endowment and revived the spirit of the Gonzaga community. This fall, 820 students will be enrolled at Gonzaga, the largest enrollment in its history and a far cry from the dark days of the early 1970's.

During these 175 years, great leaders have visited Gonzaga. President John Quincy Adams put the students through their paces in Latin and Greek at one graduation ceremony, and President Zachary Taylor spoke at another. Much more recently, Mother Theresa of Calcutta reminded the 1988 graduating class of its duty to care for the poorest of the poor.

Gonzaga may be best known and best represented by its heroes who are not household names—such as Father Horace McKenna, S.J., Father Raymond Lelii, S.J., Joe Kozik and John Carmody. These men and others like them demonstrated by their example that community service is the primary mission of a Gonzaga man.

Father Allen Novotny is the current President of Gonzaga, succeeding Dooley in 1994. A member of the Society of Jesus, Father Novotny holds degrees from Loyola College in Baltimore (MS and MBA), and the Weston School of Theology (M.Div.)●

## GARRET LAVELLE RECEIVES THEODORE ROOSEVELT ASSOCIATION AWARD

● Mr. MOYNIHAN. Mr. President, On Wednesday, May 8, 1996, New York Police officer Garret Lavelle was awarded the Fourteenth Annual Theodore Roosevelt Association Award. Each year the Theodore Roosevelt Association honors one member of the New York

City Police Department who has overcome a handicap and contributed outstanding service to the New York community with this prestigious award.

Garret Lavelle has been a police officer with the Brooklyn South Narcotics Unit for 14 years. Mr. Lavelle has received three Meritorious Police Duty Citations, one Commendation, and three Excellent Police Duty Citations. In addition, he has been active in the Patrolmen's Benevolence Association.

Five years ago Officer Lavelle was diagnosed with a chronic form of leukemia, and has since undergone chemotherapy, a bone marrow transplant, suffered from pneumonia, hepatitis, a complete muscular breakdown, and hypertension.

While Officer Lavelle could have taken a disability pension, he courageously chose to return to active duty. Although currently serving desk duty, Officer Lavelle looks forward to returning to the streets where he excels at serving his community. Furthermore, Mr. and Mrs. Lavelle now take time to counsel people diagnosed with leukemia. It is this kind of service which sets a standard for public servants across the nation, and it is only fitting that such heroism is rewarded with this great honor in Theodore Roosevelt's name.●

## ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION REFORM AND IMMIGRANT RESPONSIBILITY ACT OF 1996—CONFERENCE REPORT

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now turn to the consideration of the conference report accompanying the immigration bill, H.R. 2202.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The report will be stated.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The committee on conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2202) to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to improve deterrence of illegal immigration to the United States by increasing border patrol and investigative personnel, by increasing penalties for alien smuggling and for document fraud, by reforming exclusion and deportation law and procedures, by improving the verification system for eligibility for employment, and through other measures, to reform the legal immigration system and facilitate legal entries into the United States, and for other purposes, having met, after full and free conference, have agreed to recommend and do recommend to their respective Houses this report, signed by a majority of the conferees.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the Senate will proceed to the consideration of the conference report.

(The conference report is printed in the House proceedings of the RECORD of September 24, 1996.)