

Choice is the keystone of MSA's. As many of my colleagues have pointed out, with MSA's people can choose their physician, their hospital, their health care plan. Additionally, MSA's will bring about lower health care spending. Consumers will become more savvy about their health care options, and certainly the system will benefit as a result.

The problem, Mr. President, is that it was absolutely clear that including an MSA provision would derail the entire bill and a real opportunity to enact meaningful health care reform would be lost. If the legislation had included that provision, my Democratic colleagues indicated they would filibuster the bill and the President indicated he would veto the entire measure. In short, this targeted, commonsense bill would have been killed.

I am dedicated to the passage of health care reform and I do not want a good bill to be sacrificed for one provision, however worthy that provision may be. It was for this reason that I did not support the inclusion of MSA's in the final bill, and it's also the reason this MSA effort failed.

Yes, Mr. President, medical savings accounts are a good idea. Although S. 1028 was not the right vehicle, I will look for other opportunities to promote and encourage them.●

TRIBUTE TO THE CADDO MAGNET ORCHESTRA

● Mr. JOHNSTON. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to an exceptional group of students from my hometown of Shreveport, LA. The Caddo Magnet Orchestra, combined of 103 high school and middle school students from Caddo Parish in northwestern Louisiana, has for years been recognized as one of the most outstanding student orchestras in our State. Since its inception in 1980, the orchestra has consistently received superior performance ratings in all regional and State competitions and has won several prestigious awards from music festivals around the Nation. In light of its impressive reputation, this year the orchestra was invited to perform at Carnegie Hall, a rare privilege offered to very few young performers.

After many months of intensive rehearsal and fundraising, the Caddo Magnet Orchestra traveled to New York City last month for its March 24 Carnegie Hall debut, where its performance was met by a standing ovation from the 1,000 audience members in attendance. The evening's performance, consisting of pieces by English composers Gustav Holst, John Ireland, Edward Elgar and John Rutter, was flawless and has earned this orchestra national recognition.

Louisiana is enormously proud of these outstanding young people, not only for their individual talents, but also for their overall commitment to excellence and their spirit of community. The students worked together to make beautiful music, and the har-

mony they created represents all that can be achieved when we put forth our best efforts to reach a common goal. This is citizenship at its finest.

The members of the orchestra have represented the State of Louisiana with great distinction. I congratulate these musicians and their director, Ms. Johnette Parker, as well as the parents and faculty of Caddo Magnet High School and Caddo Middle Magnet School for their marvelous collective effort in reaching this pinnacle and for setting an example of excellence from which we all can benefit.●

TRIBUTE TO JUDI BAYLY AND HER IRISH SETTER, LYRIC

● Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate a Nashua, NH, resident, Judi Bayly and her 8-year-old Irish setter, Lyric, who dialed 911 and helped save Judi's life when she noticed Judi had stopped breathing.

Last month, Judi Bayly who has asthma and sleep apnea, stopped breathing temporarily. When the oxygen generator she uses became unplugged and the alarm sounded, Judi did not hear it as she slept. Lyric, her Irish setter, did and tried to alert Judi by barking, pawing and sniffing at her. Unfortunately, Judi didn't wake up so Lyric dialed 911. When rescuers arrived at Judi's house, Lyric continued to bark and guided them to her.

Amazingly, Lyric has also saved Judi's life twice before by dialing 911. Although Lyric is trained by Service Dogs America in New York to recognize Judi's seizures, Lyric has a special loyalty to Judi and is by her side constantly. As an emergency medical technician, Judi also trains dogs professionally. She has bred Irish setters before and she and her husband own three of Lyric's puppies. I admire Judi's devotion to her dogs and her promotion of the use of trained dogs.

Lyric is an exceptional dog and deserves the national recognition she has seen over the past few weeks. Lyric is an example of a truly sensitive and astute dog. As a dog lover myself, I congratulate Lyric and her owner on a job well done!●

REV. ROOSEVELT AUSTIN

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I rise to honor Rev. Roosevelt Austin and his wife, Dr. Nurame Austin, who will be celebrating their 40 years of dedicated service to the Saginaw community and the State of Michigan. Reverend Austin is the pastor of Zion Missionary Baptist Church in Saginaw, MI.

Reverend Austin was ordained June 25, 1953, at Western Seventh District Association in Opelousas, LA. This day was the start of a long and fruitful career of community service. Reverend Austin's pastoral experience began as a youth minister at Mt. Calvary Baptist Church in Opelousas, LA, the church where he was converted on April 7, 1936. Reverend Austin went on to receive

bachelor's and master's degrees in theology. He received a doctorate of divinity degree with honors from the American Divinity School in Chicago, IL.

Reverend Austin has always stressed the importance of education. He has become a shining example to the community of what a lifetime of learning can accomplish. He has served on local, State, and national congresses of Christian education. He has also served as a board member on the Commission on Quality Education for All Children for Saginaw Public Schools. Reverend Austin sees that improving the condition of our inner cities begins with improving the education of our children.

Reverend Austin's dedication to improving the condition of our Nation's inner cities has been a driving in his life's work. During the course of his career, Reverend Austin has taken part in many institutes, organizations, and community groups that focus on solving problems associated with poverty. He is a board member of the Saginaw chapter of the NAACP and also serves as a spiritual advisor to inmates at the Saginaw County Jail.

On May 4, 1996, Reverend Austin will be awarded an honorary doctor of humanities degree from Saginaw Valley State University for the leadership role he has played in seeking neighborhood improvement.

Through his life's work, Reverend Austin has touched and improved the lives of countless people. I know that my Senate colleagues will join me in congratulating Rev. Roosevelt Austin on his 40 years of outstanding service to the community.●

HIGHLAND HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMIC DECATHLON TEAM

● Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to commend the students and coach of the Highland High School Academic Decathlon Team. This team, comprising of 15 New Mexico students, is the New Mexico representative to the 1996 National Academic Decathlon competition in Atlanta, GA.

The academic decathlon is a unique program that encourages academically well rounded students to compete in a variety of events. The decathlon encourages students to develop a greater respect for knowledge, promotes wholesome competition in academic areas of study and interest, stimulates intellectual growth and achievement, and encourages public interest and awareness of outstanding programs in our schools. This valuable program challenges students to strive for goals and to work hard academically.

Mr. President, these 15 students and their coach have worked extremely hard since early fall to prepare themselves for this event. Through their hard work and their extensive efforts, they have been able to overcome obstacles and achieve very high goals. Too often, Mr. President, we reward students for their athletic prowess instead of their academic abilities. Today, I

want to highlight the achievements of these students. Our students can be champions in the classroom as well as on the athletic field.

Mr. President, for their outstanding accomplishments, and their sincere commitment to academics, I commend the members of the Highland High School Decathlon team. I believe that I speak for all New Mexicans when I wish them the best of luck and congratulate them on their success.●

THE DOMENICI-WELLSTONE MENTAL HEALTH PARITY AMENDMENT

● Mr. BRADLEY. Mr. President, last night Senators DOMENICI and WELLSTONE introduced an amendment to establish parity in treatment between mental health and physical health. I want to thank them for their leadership. Their remarks, along with those by Senators CONRAD and SIMPSON, were moving and sometimes very personal. I know they were inspiring to me, and I believe to many others, as the strong vote in favor of their amendment suggests. I congratulate them.

There is little doubt remaining even among the most skeptical people that biochemical disturbances are major precipitating factors for the major mental illnesses like schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, and major depression. Nonetheless, longstanding biases, which are really fears in disguise, still frame our understanding and treatment of mental health disorders and mental illness. As Senators DOMENICI and WELLSTONE have said so well, it is time for this country to speak more openly and forcefully about the broad scope of mental health issues. Mr. President, last night we began the important work of reforming our health insurance practices so that more Americans have access to health insurance and greater protection against losing coverage. We will complete this step of that work on Tuesday. With this work, we have an excellent opportunity to begin to build a healthcare insurance structure that recognizes both physical and psychological factors in health and illness.

One of the most promising directions in healthcare is the increased recognition of social and psychological variables. We know that depression is a better predictor of relapse among coronary patients than is a high cholesterol level. We know that breast cancer patients who participate in support groups experience greater longevity than those who do not. We know that 50 to 60 percent of patients who visit a primary care physician do not have a physical condition that can be diagnosed. Instead, they bring the sequelae of trauma, violence, and abuse. They bring masked drug and alcohol problems; they bring rage and impulse control problems that are often amplified by the loss of employment, marital and family strains. They bring a sense of

hopelessness that can get so bad that suicide seems like the only way out.

Mr. President, we know that emotional and behavioral factors, including tobacco use, obesity, and a sedentary lifestyle are ones contributing to physical health problems and huge healthcare costs.

By treating physical, psychological, and other factors together in a collaborative setting, we can begin to control and change many of the manifestations of illness.

This insurance reform debate has provided an occasion to highlight this model of health and subsequent opportunities to work toward greater parity for mental health treatment.

Last night Senator DOMENICI has called the inequities in the treatment of mental illness and physical illness "one of the real, continuing injustices in America today * * * someone with schizophrenia is just as sick as your neighbor with cancer."

Senator DOMENICI is right. Serious mental illness is devastating in a way that few of us can imagine. Enough of the discrimination we have shown toward those who are mentally ill. Enough of the blind eye and deaf ear we have turned toward mental health. Today, Mr. President, I am asking that this country catch up with science, catch up with the reality of who goes to the doctor with what kind of problem. Today, Mr. President, we need to understand that compassion does not have to be costly. We can use our brains and show our heart and say it is time to work toward parity between mental health and physical health. We can work toward health care treatments that show that mind and body are not separate.

As Senator WELLSTONE said last night, "for too long mental health has been put in parentheses." I agree. I ask that we take away those parentheses that are more like prisons to those suffering and begin to study how we can provide better, comprehensive health care that is fair to all.●

NATIONAL COUNTY GOVERNMENT WEEK

● Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize National County Government Week from April 21 to 27.

National County Government Week is an important opportunity to remember the values on which our country was founded. County governments have an advantage over the mammoth Federal bureaucracy—county governments are able to keep in touch with their constituency.

Before the voters in Montana asked me to represent them in Washington, DC, the voters in Yellowstone County asked me to be their commissioner. I know from experience that county governments can easily maintain a high level of efficiency.

Local governments don't compromise the sovereignty of the individual, which tends to be the case with the

Federal Government. Mr. President, as the role of today's Federal Government expands, so does its intervention into the privacy of individuals.

The Montana Association of County Governments, also known as MACO, along with its national parent organization NACO, has the ability to reallocate the power of the Federal bureaucracy in a manner that would benefit all Montana taxpayers.

The goal of the Republican agenda, a goal I heartily support, is the redistribution of Federal power to the State, county and local governments. As a former Yellowstone County commissioner, I had face-to-face encounters with Montana taxpayers on a daily basis. If a Montanan had a concern about local, State, and even Federal issues, all they had to do was pick up the phone and call me at the office or at home—my number was listed. And whether they wanted to talk about the neighbors' cattle that seemed to always be loose or potholes you could lose a tractor in, my experiences as a Yellowstone County elected official were a valuable lesson in where the rubber really meets the road.●

TRIBUTE TO THE NEW HAMPSHIRE BUSINESS PERSON OF THE YEAR, CHUCK HENDERSON

● Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate a hard-working New Hampshire entrepreneur, Chuck Henderson, on being named the 1996 New Hampshire Small Business Person of the Year. The New Hampshire Small Business Administration (SBA) recently honored Chuck with this award, and in June, he will receive special recognition from the President.

In 1969, as a young high school student, Chuck started a business by developing his first skiing product. Twenty-six years later, Chuck is the proud owner of Chuck Roast Equipment, Inc., which now offers more than 100 products for cold weather. His company is nationally known and employs 47 people.

Chuck grew up in Conway, NH, and undoubtedly saw a need for warm clothing during the severe winter months. Snow gaiters were the first products he developed while in high school in response to wet socks and pants during cross country skiing. Chuck Roast Equipment, Inc., now has an extensive line of high-quality outerwear. His company has been one of the leaders in the production of pile clothing, and its brightly colored and patterned fleece jackets and pullovers are popular across the country. Other products include hats, mittens, blankets, daypacks, and baby buntings. He now sells to over 300 retailers, exports to six countries, and operates three retail stores in the State.

As a dedicated entrepreneur, Chuck attributes the success of his business to perseverance, hiring and keeping competent and loyal employees while also diversifying the product line when