

This bill reauthorizes the present Institutes, and provides a framework for the NIH to respond more effectively to the health issues of today and the future.

Clinical research is addressed by incorporating many of the provisions of the Hatfield-Kennedy clinical research enhancement bill. General Clinical Research Centers, which serve as an infrastructure for clinical research and training, are authorized. Clinical Research Career Enhancement Awards and Innovative Medical Science Awards are created to support individual careers and research projects in clinical research. In addition, existing research assistance, training and loan repayment programs are expanded to include those involved in clinical investigations.

The human genome project which has been so productive becomes the National Human Genome Research Institute. The Office of Rare Diseases is formally established. A national fund for health research is created to provide additional financial resources. A number of other changes are made to streamline the administrative processes at NIH.

All of us recognize that a number of concerns require further discussion. NIH's desires for maximum flexibility have been addressed. We must also meet the research and treatment needs of particular diseases. I look forward to working together to find ways to address Parkinson's disease, the pediatric research initiative, and diabetes.

We must also find ways to deal with the impact of managed care on medical training, education, and research. That problem that was the topic of our final NIH hearing this year.

Investment in health care research is one of the soundest investments we can make in the Nation's future. The NIH Revitalization Act of 1996 is designed to maintain and strengthen our return on this investment, and I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to secure its enactment.

Mr. HATFIELD. Mr. President, I am honored to join my friend and colleague from Kansas, Senator KASSEBAUM, in sponsoring legislation to revitalize the crown jewel of medical science in this country, the National Institutes of Health. Senator KASSEBAUM deserves the Nation's gratitude for her commitment to biomedical research and her efforts to ensure that the wealth of this country is measured by the health of its citizens.

The NIH has enhanced the health of our Nation immeasurably, and through the efforts of its scientists and staff continues to place us on the cutting edge of biomedical research. Yet, as all of us in this body know so well, all institutions must evolve if they are to continue to thrive. The legislation introduced today provides the elements necessary for the NIH to evolve successfully in the years to come.

Every year, medical researchers uncover more mysteries of the human

body. Because of their efforts, today we have therapies, drugs and technologies that were unimaginable just a decade ago. Of great importance to all Americans is the outcome of our investment in biomedical research. We want to know, what has been cured lately? How have the billions we invest in NIH each year reached Americans and eased their suffering? How has the chasm between the scientist in the laboratory and the physician administering treatment been bridged? To address that gulf, I believe we must heighten our support for translational—or clinical—research. To that end, I introduced S. 1534 this year, the Clinical Research Enhancement Act of 1996. This bill will increase funding for clinical research, improve training for persons planning clinical research careers, and modify the focus of the NIH to make it more receptive to clinical research proposals.

I am very pleased that Senator KASSEBAUM has included components of S. 1534 in her legislation. The bill authorizes the General Clinical Research Centers which are the frontline troops not only in the training of clinical researchers but in performing many of the clinical studies in our academic medical centers. The 75 current centers have never been authorized despite their continued congressional support since 1965.

The bill also establishes two new award programs: the Clinical Research Career Enhancement Awards and the Innovative Medical Science Awards. These awards will provide both young and established investigators with the resources needed to bridge unfunded periods while promoting continued clinical research and training. At present training opportunities for persons considering clinical research careers are few and fragmented.

The bill also expands loan repayment opportunities for young physician scientists to pursue research careers. Currently the average medical school graduate has a debt of \$63,000. This burden has resulted in a decline of physician researchers to just 2.2 percent of the physician population of the United States.

Last year, Congress acknowledged the importance of biomedical research when it restored proposed cuts to the NIH budget for 1996. As a result, we are now enjoying a 5.7-percent increase in funding for the NIH. However, we have far to go in stabilizing funding for medical research, and we must now turn our attention toward insuring sustainable growth in the coming years.

I am pleased that Senator KASSEBAUM's legislation also includes my bill, S. 1251, to establish a national fund for health research. This fund will supplement annual appropriations to the NIH by contributing public and private donations to enhance research grants. While the language in this bill does not specify a funding source, I am hopeful that when the bill comes to the floor we will have several options to

consider to secure its financial future. I have proposed a 25-cent increase in the tobacco tax, as well as a voluntary Federal income tax checkoff in the past, and would be willing to look at other options in the future such as some sort of managed care set-aside. I believe this proposal marks the beginning of a longer-term strategy for biomedical research funding and I am gratified by its inclusion in this bill. Senator TOM HARKIN has been my longtime partner in this matter and I know he is as pleased as I am that the foundation for the fund has today been further advanced.

Finally, Senator KASSEBAUM has included one additional piece of my legislative portfolio, S. 184, a bill to establish an Office for Rare Disease Research at the NIH to assist our citizens who have the misfortune of suffering from uncommon diseases. This legislation has already passed the Senate this year, only to languish in the House. I am hopeful that this vehicle will carry it through to enactment.

This legislation, Mr. President, is essential for the continued effective functioning of the National Institutes of Health, and for the continued health of our citizens. I believe this legislation deserves our strong support and I urge my colleagues to endorse its contents. At this time, I would like to publicly commend Senator KASSEBAUM's staff, David Stevens, Kent Bradley, and Ann Rufo, for their work in crafting this revitalization package. They have been mentors to my staff and have represented Senator KASSEBAUM with great dedication and commitment in putting this vital piece of legislation together.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 901

At the request of Mr. BENNETT, the name of the Senator from New Mexico [Mr. BINGAMAN] was added as a cosponsor of S. 901, a bill to amend the Reclamation Projects Authorization and Adjustment Act of 1992 to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the design, planning, and construction of certain water reclamation and reuse projects and desalination research and development projects, and for other purposes.

S. 1794

At the request of Mr. GREGG, the names of the Senator from Wyoming [Mr. THOMAS], the Senator from Michigan [Mr. ABRAHAM], and the Senator from Oklahoma [Mr. INHOFE] were added as cosponsors of S. 1794, a bill to amend chapter 83 of title 5, United States Code, to provide for the forfeiture of retirement benefits in the case of any Member of Congress, congressional employee, or Federal justice or judge who is convicted of an offense relating to official duties of that individual, and for the forfeiture of the retirement allowance of the President for such a conviction.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 56

At the request of Mr. HELMS, the name of the Senator from New York [Mr. D'AMATO] was added as a cosponsor of Senate Joint Resolution 56, a joint resolution disapproving the extension of nondiscriminatory treatment (most-favored-nation treatment) to the products of the People's Republic of China.

SENATE RESOLUTION 268—RELATIVE TO THE SUMMIT OF ARAB HEADS OF STATE BEING HELD IN CAIRO

Mr. LAUTENBERG (for himself, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. LIEBERMAN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 268

Whereas, Benjamin Netanyahu was elected to the position of Prime Minister of Israel on May 29, 1996;

Whereas, Prime Minister-elect Netanyahu presented his cabinet for approval to the Israeli Knesset on June 18, 1996;

Whereas, the guidelines of the new Government of Israel specifically state: "The Government of Israel will work to broaden the circle of peace with all of its neighbors.";

Whereas, Egyptian President Mubarak has invited heads of state in Algeria, Bahrain, Comoros, Djibouti, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, Yemen, and the Palestine Liberation Organization to attend an Arab summit in Cairo beginning on June 21, 1996; and

Whereas President Clinton has stated his hope that Arab leaders who attend this summit will "give Mr. Netanyahu an opportunity to constitute his government and set a policy and not presume that we can't pursue peace."; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate urges the governments attending the June 21, 1996, summit in Cairo and other governments in the Middle East to—

(1) reaffirm their commitment to a comprehensive peace in the Middle East;

(2) express their willingness to work with the democratically elected Government of Israel in the pursuit of a meaningful peace; and

(3) refrain from statements directed against the new Israeli government that might create an atmosphere in the region unfavorable to a continuation of the peace process.

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, it had been my expectation that the Senate would have already taken up and passed a resolution to express the sense of the Senate about the summit of Arab heads of state, which began in Cairo today. It is cosponsored by Senators LIEBERMAN and BROWN.

The resolution is straightforward. It urges heads of state and representatives of Arab countries attending the Cairo summit and those which may not attend the summit to reaffirm their commitment to a comprehensive peace in the Middle East. It urges them to express their willingness to work with the democratically elected Government of Israel in the pursuit of a meaningful peace. Finally, it urges them to refrain from statements directed

against the new Israeli Government that might create an atmosphere in the region unfavorable to a continuation of the peace process.

The resolution had been cleared by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, all Democratic Senators, the Democratic leadership, and Members on both sides of the aisle. It was poised for approval by full Senate. However, at the last minute, the junior Senator from Texas, Senator HUTCHISON, objected to the Senate taking up the resolution because of an entirely unrelated matter. As a result, Mr. President, this resolution on the Middle East was blocked. And that is very unfortunate because many of the nations meeting in Cairo are countries intent on destroying Israel. Many are avowed enemies of Israel. Apart from Senator HUTCHISON's objection—which, again, is over an unrelated issue—there appears to be virtually unanimous support in the Senate for my resolution, and the message it sends.

Mr. President, on May 29, 1996, Benjamin Netanyahu was elected the new Prime Minister of Israel. Shortly after his election, and before he established his new government, the Government of Egypt decided to convene a meeting of most members of the Arab League.

At the invitation of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, heads of state from 19 Arab countries were invited to meet in Cairo. Representatives from Algeria, Bahrain, Comoros, Djibouti, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, Yemen, and the Palestinian Liberation Organization were invited to attend the summit.

While I have no objection to meetings by members of the Arab League, heads of state and government representatives attending the meeting in Cairo have nothing to be gained by limiting options for peace discussions with the newly elected Government of Israel before its policies have even been officially formulated. They have nothing to gain by issuing provocative statements and attempting to back the democratically elected Government into a corner. Restraint—not harsh rhetoric directed against the new Israeli Government that might create an atmosphere in the region unfavorable to a continuation of the peace process—should prevail.

President Clinton has stated his hope that Arab leaders who attend this summit will give Mr. Netanyahu an opportunity to constitute his government and set a policy and not presume that we can't pursue peace. That is sage advice.

While the Arab countries may be experiencing some anxiety in light of the change of the Israeli Government, it would be a mistake to let extremist countries like the Sudan, Libya, and Syria dominate the agenda of this meeting. It would be a mistake to close doors, shut off options, and establish

preconditions for the continued pursuit of peace.

Mr. President, the world will be watching this meeting very carefully in the hope that the Arab countries will remain partners with Israel in the pursuit of a comprehensive peace in the Middle East. The road to a comprehensive peace is never easy, and all must conduct themselves with care and diplomacy to avoid potential misunderstandings.

Mr. President, the United States is not prejudging the new Israeli Government. The Arab leaders meeting in Cairo should not either.

I ask unanimous consent that the text of an outstanding editorial called "The Arabs and Mr. Netanyahu" which appeared in the New York Times last week be printed in the RECORD.

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

THE ARABS AND MR. NETANYAHU

Nineteen Arab leaders plan to meet in Cairo next week for a show of unity in the wake of Benjamin Netanyahu's selection as Prime Minister of Israel. The gather is a reminder that the prospects for peace in the Middle East depend as much on the conduct of Arab leaders as that of Mr. Netanyahu in the weeks ahead.

In responding to the new Israeli government, Arab leaders should avoid inflammatory words and actions as Mr. Netanyahu refines his course. No Arab interest would be served by provoking Israel to abandon the peace effort.

Most of the Arab leaders headed for Cairo are involved, at one level or another, in the new diplomacy of engagement with Israel initiated by the Bush Administration in the days following the Persian Gulf war. Jordan and the Palestinians have joined Egypt in signing formal peace agreements with Israel. Several other North African and Persian Gulf states have extended limited degrees of diplomatic recognition.

No fewer than 15 Arab countries plus the Palestinians regularly meet with Israeli representatives to discuss vital regional issues like water and economic development. Saudi Arabia, while it has regrettably shied away from recognition, has invested its considerable diplomatic and economic weight behind these regional peace efforts.

The emerging Arab peace camp, so visible at Yitzhak Rabin's funeral and the antiterrorism summit meeting at Sharm el-Sheik, should not step forward once again to counsel restraint. More belligerent voice, like that of the Libyan leader, Col. Muammar El-Qaddafi, and the militantly Islamic Sudanese regime, will also be present in Cairo. Groups like Hezbollah in Lebanon and Hamas and Islamic Jihad in Gaza and the West Bank may try to use terrorism to force Israel to break off the peace talks that these groups have always rejected.

Syria rests somewhere between the peace camp and the enemies of peace. With Mr. Netanyahu withdrawing the Israeli offer to return the Golan Heights and suggesting that he is more interested in strengthening relations with Jordan and Egypt than with Syria, the Syrian President, Hafez-al-Assad, is determined to avoid isolation. He hopes the summit meeting with stiffen King Hussein's resolve to resist any Israeli offers of authority over areas of the West Bank or Muslim religious sites in Jerusalem. He also wants Washington to continue serving as an intermediary between Israel and Syria.