

community intergenerational workshops at sites throughout the State. The association also contracts with the IRS to provide tax counseling services for the elderly.

The association is now seeking Medicaid waiver funding and hopes to soon venture into the arena of private sector funding. Project directors have taken the first step toward seeking private sector support by incorporating as a 501(c)(3) organization.

I am pleased to congratulate and commend the Alabama National Senior Service Corps Directors Association for developing an array of outstanding programs and for providing a model that illustrates the power and potential of these kinds of partnerships in providing important services to our senior citizens.

THE MENTALLY ILL AND THE HEALTH INSURANCE BILL

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, today I was informed by the chairman of Labor, Health and Human Services, Senator NANCY KASSEBAUM, that the conferees on the health insurance bill were not going to include—with reference to the mentally ill in this country—were not going to include even the compromise which had been offered to them that has been pending for the last 2 or 3 weeks. Frankly, the U.S. Senate voted overwhelmingly to rid this country of a terrible, terrible plight, the discrimination against the mentally ill in insurance coverage in this country. And not only the discrimination but the lack of fairness and parity of coverage.

I say publicly now to the business community of the United States, in particular the large companies, some of which are self-insured—I do not say this very often—but “Shame, shame on you. Shame on you.” It is a very simple proposition of parity that is not going to cost very much and will say to the 5 million severely mentally ill Americans and their families that they are not going to be treated any longer like second-rate, if not third-rate, citizens.

All we asked of them in our compromise Senator WELLSTONE and I submitted was that if you are going to cover mental illness, if you are going to cover mental illness, that you must include two things: One, the same lifetime cap that is total coverage, and the same annual allowable per year as you include in insurance for everyone else.

Let me repeat, that amendment did not require any kind of insurance. It did not dictate coinsurance, deductibility or anything. So companies could still tailor mental health coverage. If they are concerned about abuses, they can write the abuses out before they even offer them.

All we asked for was the simple proposition to get started recognizing the discrimination that is in our current situation. That is to say, those who are mentally ill, do not cover them with

\$50,000 for life while you cover cancer patients with \$1 million, do not cover the mentally ill with a \$100,000 total lifetime if you cover those who have tuberculosis or have serious heart trouble with \$500,000 or \$1 million. Just parity, total coverage for total lifetime. On an annual basis, do not say to those who are mentally ill, you can only collect \$10,000 a year maximum where you have \$100,000 or \$50,000 for others.

I truly believe there is a total lack of willingness to understand the nature of this problem. This problem is a blight on America, a blight on our insurance companies, and a blight on the business community who continues to resist moving in the direction of parity.

I want to thank those companies in the United States that already cover the mentally ill. And there are many. And I can say they are not running around complaining about the extraordinary costs. As a matter of fact, if this amendment, the one we told them we would settle for, were adopted, the increases are almost insignificant according to the Congressional Budget Office, because there are not a lot of people who will reach those limits. It is just to make sure we do not say to them, you are second-rate citizens.

If you have insurance, your parents bought insurance, they cover somebody in their family with schizophrenia, they did not get the shock of their life that after they have spent \$100,000 they have no more for the rest of their life and look around at their neighbor who had a heart condition and they get \$1 million worth of coverage. No.

I am not sure where we are going to end up. But I can say that a counteroffer was proposed, and I regret to say it was tantamount to a whole menu of options. And if you have a menu of options, you are going to get nothing, you are going to dump the mentally ill where they are already being dumped.

So I hope that they will reconsider this decision. I, for one, am prepared to look, at this moment, at any way I can—I am not sure I can succeed—but at any way I can to make it hard to pass that bill. And any way I can find to make it impossible to pass that bill, I will do it. I am not sure on this conference I will accomplish a great deal, but we will make some noise about it because there is no need for this decision to go this way.

If those on the business side will look at the proposed amendment that was offered in lieu of the Senate-passed amendment, if they can come forth and tell me and tell those who support it how it will hurt them, how it is going to cost them, what their problems are, then I would be willing to say indeed they are trying to do something fair.

Thus far, I think it is stubbornness, I think it is totally shameful, and I, for one, have been a staunch supporter of making sure we do not put undue burdens on business. It is a joke to say they do not want any additional mandates when the whole bill is a mandate.

The whole bill is a mandate. We mandate insurance companies and businesses to pay for people with pre-existing conditions which is going to cost billions of dollars, and they do not talk about that. There is no excuse.

I, for one, believe we have made a reasonable case. We have been more than fair. The millions of Americans suffering from this disgraceful discrimination are willing to accept a foot in the door, a little bit, just a start, and we get the door slammed right on them.

Obviously, we have a lot of work to do, but any conferees that are unaware of the decision to give the mentally ill people of this country nothing in this conference report, maybe they ought to start with the conferees. That is what they are about to do.

Mr. WELLSTONE. I say that the Senator from New Mexico spoke with great eloquence and power, and speaks for me.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Thomas, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:30 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Goetz, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, with an amendment, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

S. 640. An act to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, to authorize the Secretary of the Army to construct various projects for improvements to rivers and harbors of the United States, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 3846. An act to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to authorize the provision of assistance for microenterprises, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3870. An act to authorize the Agency for International Development to offer voluntary separation incentive payments to employees of that agency.

At 3:58 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills and joint resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 740. An act to confer jurisdiction on the United States Court of Federal Claims with respect to land claims of Pueblo of Isleta Indian Tribe.

H.R. 885. An act to designate the United States Post Office building located at 153 East 110th Street, New York, New York, as the "Oscar Garcia Rivera Post Office Building."

H.R. 1734. An act to reauthorize the National Film Preservation Board, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1786. An act to regulate fishing in certain waters of Alaska.

H.R. 2391. An act to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide compensatory time for all employees.

H.R. 2700. An act to designate the building located at 8302 FM 327, Elmendorf, Texas, which houses operations of the United States Postal Service, as the "Amos F. Longoria Post Office Building".

H.R. 3118. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to reform eligibility for health care provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

H.R. 3139. An act to redesignate the United States Post Office building located at 245 Centereach Mall on Middle Country Road in Centereach, New York, as the "Rose Y. Caracappa United States Post Office Building."

H.R. 3198. An act to reauthorize and amend the National Geologic Mapping Act of 1992, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3215. An act to amend title 18, United States Code, to repeal the provision relating to Federal employees contracting or trading with Indians.

H.R. 3287. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey the Crawford National Fish Hatchery to the city of Crawford, Nebraska.

H.R. 3435. An act to make technical amendments to the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995.

H.R. 3546. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey the Walhalla National Fish Hatchery to the State of South Carolina.

H.R. 3557. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey the Marion National Fish Hatchery and the Claude Harris National Aquacultural Research Center to the State of Alabama.

H.R. 3586. An act to amend title 5, United States Code, to strengthen veterans' preference, to increase employment opportunities for veterans, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3680. An act to amend title 18, United States Code, to carry out the international obligations of the United States under the Geneva Conventions to provide criminal penalties for certain war crimes.

H.R. 3735. An act to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to reauthorize the Development Fund for Africa under chapter 10 of part 1 of that act.

H.R. 3768. An act to designate a United States Post Office to be located in Groton, Massachusetts, as the "Augusta 'Gusty' Hornblower United States Post Office."

H.R. 3815. An act to make technical corrections and miscellaneous amendments to trade laws.

H.R. 3834. An act to redesignate the Dunning Post Office in Chicago, Illinois, as the "Roger P. McAuliffe Post Office."

H.R. 3867. An act to amend the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act to extend the Act, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3868. An act to extend certain programs under the Energy Policy and Conservation Act through September 30, 1996.

H.J. Res. 166. Joint resolution granting the consent of Congress to the Mutual Aid Agreement between the city of Bristol, Virginia, and the city of Bristol, Tennessee.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolutions, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 142. Concurrent resolution regarding the human rights situation in Mauritania, including the continued practice of chattel slavery.

H. Con. Res. 155. Concurrent resolution concerning human and political rights and in support of a resolution of the crisis in Kosovo.

H. Con. Res. 191. Concurrent resolution to recognize and honor the Filipino World War II veterans for their defense of democratic ideals and their important contribution to the outcome of World War II.

At 5:54 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Goetz, on of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2297. An act to codify without substantive change laws related to transportation and to improve the United States Code.

At 7:34 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Goetz, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House agrees to the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 3734) to provide for reconciliation pursuant to section 201(a)(1) of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 1997.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and second times by unanimous consent and referred as indicated:

H.R. 885. An act to designate the United States Post Office building located at 153 East 110th Street, New York, New York, as the "Oscar Garcia Rivera Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 1734. An act to reauthorize the National Film Preservation Board, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 1786. An act to regulate fishing in certain waters of Alaska; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 2297. An act to codify without substantive change laws related to transportation and to improve the United States Code; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 2700. An act to designate the building located at 8302 FM 327, Elmendorf, Texas, which houses operations of the United States Postal Service, as the "Amos F. Longoria Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 3118. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to reform eligibility for health care provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 3198. An act to reauthorize and amend the National Geologic Mapping Act of 1992, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 3287. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey the Crawford National Fish Hatchery to the city of Crawford, Nebraska; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

H.R. 3546. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey the Walhalla National Fish Hatchery to the State of South Caro-

lina; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

H.R. 3557. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey the Marion National Fish Hatchery and the Claude Harris National Aquacultural Research Center to the State of Alabama; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

H.R. 3586. An act to amend title 5, United States Code, to strengthen veterans' preference, to increase employment opportunities for veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 3786. An act to designate a United States Post Office to be located in Groton, Massachusetts, as the "Augusta 'Gusty' Hornblower United States Post Office"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 3815. An act to make technical corrections and miscellaneous amendments to trade laws; to the Committee on Finance.

H.R. 3846. An act to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to authorize the provision of assistance for microenterprises, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.R. 3867. An act to amend the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act to extend the Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

The following concurrent resolutions were read and referred as indicated:

H. Con. Res. 142. Concurrent resolution regarding the human rights situation in Mauritania, including the continued practice of chattel slavery; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H. Con. Res. 155. Concurrent resolution concerning human and political rights and in support of a resolution of the crisis in Kosovo; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H. Con. Res. 191. Concurrent resolution to recognize and honor the Filipino World War II veterans for their defense of democratic ideals and their important contribution to the outcome of World War II; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

The following bill, previously received from the House of Representatives for the concurrence of the Senate, was read the first and second times by unanimous consent and referred as indicated:

H.R. 3665. An act to transfer to the Secretary of Agriculture the authority to conduct the census of agriculture; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following measure was read the first and second times by unanimous consent and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 3868. An act to extend certain programs under the Energy Policy and Conservation Act through September 30, 1996.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME

The following measure was read the first time:

H.R. 2391. An act to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide compensatory time for all employees.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with