

added an amendment to ERISA during the House-Senate Conference on the Act. The ERISA amendment provided that investment advisers registered with a state can serve as "investment managers" for two years, or through October 12, 1998. My staff has been told that this "sunset" provision was included in the ERISA amendment so that the appropriate congressional committees with jurisdiction over ERISA could have a reasonable amount of time to review the amendment before deciding whether to make it permanent. Apart from that important procedural issue, I am not aware of any other considerations that would suggest the need for the ERISA amendment to expire in two years.

I believe that the Congress should move as quickly as possible to enact legislation that eliminates the sunset provision, and permanently enables properly registered state investment advisers to continue their service as investment managers under ERISA. There is no reason to wait until 1998 to do so. In fact, many small investment advisers believe that the ongoing uncertainty about their status as "investment managers" under ERISA is making it difficult for them to acquire new ERISA plan clients, and may even cause them to lose existing clients. Some advisers think the harm they could suffer, even before the expiration of the sunset provision next year, could be irreparable, and it is easy to see why.

It is only through the swift action of your Committee that these unintended and unnecessary consequences for thousands of successful small businesses can be avoided. If you or your staff would like additional information about this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me at 942-0100, or Barry P. Barbash, Director of the Division of Investment Management, or Robert E. Plaze, an Associate Director in the Division, at 942-0720.

Sincerely,

ARTHUR LEVITT.●

FEDERAL JUDICIARY PROTECTION ACT OF 1997

● Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I am proud to join as a cosponsor of the Federal Judiciary Protection Act of 1997, S. 1189.

This legislation would provide greater protection to Federal judges, law enforcement officers, and their families. Specifically, our legislation would: Increase the maximum prison term for forcible assaults, resistance, opposition, intimidation, or interference with a Federal judge or law enforcement officer from 3 years imprisonment to 8 years; increase the maximum prison term for use of a deadly weapon or infliction of bodily injury against a Federal judge or law enforcement officer from 10 years imprisonment to 20 years; and increase the maximum prison term for threatening murder or kidnapping of a member of the immediate family of a Federal judge or law enforcement officer from 5 years imprisonment to 10 years. It has the support of the Department of Justice, the U.S. Judicial Conference, the U.S. Sentencing Commission, and the U.S. Marshals Service.

It is most troubling that the greatest democracy in the world needs this legislation to protect the hard-working men and women who serve in our Fed-

eral judiciary and other law enforcement agencies. But, unfortunately, we are seeing more violence and threats of violence against officials of our Federal Government.

Earlier this year, for example, a courtroom in Urbana, IL, was firebombed, apparently by a disgruntled litigant. This follows the horrible tragedy of the bombing of the Federal office building in Oklahoma City 2 years ago. More recently in my home State, a Vermont border patrol officer, John Pfeiffer, was seriously wounded by Carl Drega, during a shootout with Vermont and New Hampshire law enforcement officers in which Drega lost his life. Earlier that day, Drega shot and killed two State troopers and a local judge in New Hampshire. Apparently, Drega was bent on settling a grudge against the judge who had ruled against him in a land dispute.

There is, of course, no excuse or justification for someone taking the law into their own hands and attacking or threatening a judge or law enforcement officer. Still, the U.S. Marshals Service is concerned with more and more threats of harm to our judges and law enforcement officers.

The extreme rhetoric that some are using to attack the judiciary only feeds into this hysteria. For example, one of the Republican leaders in the House of Representatives was recently quoted as saying: "The judges need to be intimidated," and if they do not behave, "we're going to go after them in a big way." I know that House Republican Whip TOM DELAY was not intending to encourage violence against any Federal official, but this extreme rhetoric only serves to degrade Federal judges in the eyes of the public.

Let none of us in the Congress contribute to the atmosphere of hate and violence. Let us treat the judicial branch and those who serve within it with the respect that is essential to its preserving its public standing.

We have the greatest judicial system in the world, the envy of people and countries around the world that are struggling for freedom. It is the independence of our third, coequal branch of Government that gives it the ability to act fairly and impartially. It is our judiciary that has for so long protected our fundamental rights and freedoms and served as a necessary check on overreaching by the other two branches, those more susceptible to the gusts of the political winds of the moment.

We are fortunate to have dedicated women and men throughout the Federal judiciary and law enforcement in this country who do a tremendous job under difficult circumstances. They are examples of the hard-working public servants that make up the Federal Government, who are too often maligned and unfairly disparaged. It is unfortunate that it takes acts or threats of violence to put a human face on the Federal judiciary and other law enforcement officials, to remind everyone

that these are people with children and parents and cousins and friends. They deserve our respect and our protection.

I urge my colleagues to support the Federal Judiciary Protection Act of 1997 and look forward to its swift enactment.●

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS CONFERENCE REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR 1998

● Mr. ASHCROFT. I would like to make a statement regarding the transfer of FUSRAP to the Army Corps of Engineers.

Mr. President, yesterday I cast a vote in favor of the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Conference Report for FY 1998 with hesitation. Missouri has a major FUSRAP site in St. Louis which contains nuclear contamination from the Manhattan project and other hazardous waste. For 15 years we have worked with the Department of Energy to clean up this site. During such time I have expressed concern over the delays but in just the past 2 weeks we have come to the point where DOE has begun preliminary cleanup efforts. Given this recent progress, the news of the FUSRAP program's transfer out of DOE has, quite understandably, caused a great deal of distress in the St. Louis community. While I am not questioning the corps' ability to handle the FUSRAP project, concern has been expressed that further delays will be caused by the transfer and undo much of the recent progress.

With site recommendations already made, feasibility studies concluded, and contracts let, it is encouraging that the corps will honor the preliminary groundwork laid by the St. Louis community. The plan designed by the community further illustrates their ability to continue to administer the program from St. Louis. Further, I was pleased to learn that the cleanup and restoration of contaminated sites falling within the purview of FUSRAP shall be managed and executed by the St. Louis area Civil Works District of the Corps of Engineers, ensuring that the local community will continue to be very involved in designing cleanup plans at the FUSRAP site and effectively maintain community input in the process.●

FLORIDA SHERIFFS YOUTH RANCHES

● Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I want to take this opportunity to recognize a program that for the past 40 years has served over 30,000 troubled boys, girls, and their families. This program has assisted these troubled youth by providing an opportunity to learn to resolve conflicts and learn proper values as they work toward a lawful, productive, and secure future. I speak specifically of the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches, which have been in continuous operation since October 2, 1957.

The first of these ranches was established on the banks of Florida's historic Suwannee River under the direction of the Florida Sheriffs Association.

For four decades, this ranch and the many others established in its wake have provided a home for neglected, troubled, and abused boys and girls. They offer in-home counseling and parent effectiveness training to hundreds of families throughout Florida each year. The programs for youth include residential care, camping, foster care, adoption, after-care, and individual and family counseling.

Through these youth ranches, the Florida Sheriffs Association and our State's individual sheriffs, deputies, and office staffs have made a vital contribution in the fight against juvenile delinquency and the breakdown of the American family.

Mr. President, the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches are a shining example of law enforcement working with communities to help troubled youth and their families. I offer my sincerest congratulations and thanks for their four decades of service to the people of Florida, and wish all of the individuals involved the best of luck for the next 40 years and beyond.●

GERMAN-AMERICAN DAY

●Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN. Mr. President, October 6 is German-American Day, and it is my pleasure to recognize the more than 57 million Americans who trace part of their ancestry to Germany.

Since the arrival of the first German immigrants in Philadelphia in 1683, German-Americans have distinguished themselves through their cultural, economic, and political contributions to life in the United States. Through their participation in American society, German-Americans have demonstrated their loyalty to their new homeland and their strong support of our Nation's democratic principles.

The German-American Friendship Garden in Washington, DC stands as a symbol of the positive and cooperative relations between the United States and the Federal Republic of Germany. I urge every American to acknowledge and honor the contributions to our Nation made by German-Americans, and to celebrate October 6 as German-American Day.●

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

●Mr. CLELAND. Mr. President, it is with great pleasure that I join my colleagues in recognizing September 15 through October 15 as Hispanic Heritage Month. It is important that we reflect on the great contributions that Hispanic-Americans have made to our Nation.

Hispanic-Americans embrace the American society and culture, while at the same time perpetuating a unique cultural heritage of their own. In so

doing, they are contributing to our Nation's diversity—a quality Americans take great and justifiable pride in maintaining.

As one of the fastest growing segments of our society, Hispanic-Americans are an increasingly vital part of our economy. Hispanic-owned firms contribute significantly to our economic growth, and their ranks are increasing every day. In my own State of Georgia, which once served as the boundary between Spanish and English America, the number of Hispanic-owned businesses has risen 184.9 percent over the past 10 years.

But the contributions of Hispanic-Americans go well beyond the economic arena. Their strong commitment to family, community, and country sets an example for all our people. For example, many have demonstrated their commitment to our Nation through dedicated military service. And Hispanic culture continues to enrich American art, music, and literature.

Hispanic Heritage Month seeks to increase national awareness and understanding of and respect for Hispanics and their tradition of achievement in this country. Across the Nation, events are taking place which demonstrate our rich Hispanic heritage. Through these festivities, every American will be given the chance to experience Hispanic culture. I urge every citizen to do so. You will be educating yourself and giving the Hispanic-American community in your area the recognition it deserves.●

TRIBUTE IN COMMEMORATION OF 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF UNIFORMED SERVICES UNIVERSITY OF THE HEALTH SCIENCES [USUHS]

●Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences [USUHS] as it celebrates 25 years of service to our country. It was on September 21, 1972 that Public Law 92-426 established USUHS to provide a corps of uniformed medical officers who would provide continuity and leadership for uniformed medicine in the United States. For 25 years, USUHS had remained our Nation's only military medical school, ensuring top-quality medical care to the men and women of our armed services. This institution has consistently produced first-rate career medical officers who excel in meeting the needs of military medicine and military readiness.

USUHS provides a unique curriculum that contributes greatly to our military preparedness by providing knowledge that is vastly different from that taught in civilian medical schools. In fact, the American Medical Association [AMA] has recognized that training in military medicine mandates special course work and instruction not necessary in the civilian sector, and calls the existence of USUHS vital to the

continued strength, morale and operational readiness of the military services. This specialized training includes trauma, mass casualties, combat surgery, medical logistics, nuclear medicine, tropical infectious diseases, and medical responses to terrorism.

Following 18 graduations at the University, the total of USUHS School of Medicine [SOM] graduates is 2,470; the 2,276 active duty USUHS physicians represent 17 percent of the current physician force in the military medical system. Over the years, the university's graduates have consistently demonstrated a high level of performance during their various deployments in combat areas and in support missions, including Desert Storm and Somalia. This performance based upon their extensive military training has been validated by three Surgeons General, the American Medical Association and the Military Coalition, the Retired Officers Association, the National Association for Uniformed Services, and the American Legion, among others.

It is also important to underscore the long-term commitment made by USUHS graduates to our armed services. Although USUHS graduates are required to serve 7 years of active duty beyond the time they devote to internships and residencies, the average time served is actually 18.5 years. Indeed, 85 percent of those graduates who have completed their initial service obligations and could leave active duty for the private sector remain on active duty in the Armed Forces where they often hold significant leadership and operational positions. For example, four USUHS-SOM graduates currently work directly for the President of the United States in medical support positions. That so many USUHS graduates have made a career of military medicine provides the continuity that is so critical to our military medical services.

In addition to its original mandate, USUHS has further expanded its mission to meet the changing needs of the armed services. Additional programs provided by USUHS include the Graduate School of Nursing, recently granted full accreditation by the National League for Nursing, which prepares advanced practice nurses to deliver primary care and services to all eligible beneficiaries; the Graduate Medical Education Programs, established in 1986 to provide DOD-wide consultation on internships, residency, and fellowship training for physicians; the Graduate Education Program which has provided 444 students with graduate degrees in the basic medical sciences; and the Continuing Education for Health Professionals Program which facilitates the continued professional growth of health care professionals in the uniformed services and reduces DOD travel and other expenses by bringing medical training directly to the health care professional.

For 25 years, this institution has consistently produced first-rate career