

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 211

At the request of Mr. WELLSTONE, the name of the Senator from Iowa [Mr. HARKIN] was added as a cosponsor of S. 211, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend the period of time for the manifestation of chronic disabilities due to undiagnosed symptoms in veterans who served in the Persian Gulf war in order for those disabilities to be compensable by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

S. 363

At the request of Mr. HOLLINGS, the name of the Senator from Kentucky [Mr. FORD] was added as a cosponsor of S. 363, a bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to require that violent video programming is limited to broadcast after the hours when children are reasonably likely to comprise a substantial portion of the audience, unless it is specifically rated on the basis of its violent content so that it is blockable by electronic means specifically on the basis of that content.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEE TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Labor and Human Resources be authorized to meet in executive session during the session of the Senate on Friday, February 28, 1997, at 9 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

THE JALEX (JAPANESE LANGUAGE EXCHANGE) PROGRAM

• Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, it is my pleasure to take a moment to recognize JALEX, the Japanese Language Exchange Program. Since its inception in 1992, the JALEX Program has made valuable educational contributions to students in the United States preparing to function in an increasingly global environment.

There are few Americans who would dispute the importance of providing our young people with an education that will prepare them to function effectively in the world. It is the responsibility of our educational system to prepare them to be competitive and co-operative in this global environment. You will be pleased to know that this kind of preparation is happening through JALEX, a unique program funded by the Center for Global Partnership of the Japan Foundation and administered by the Laurasian Institution.

JALEX is unlike many exchange programs because it is reciprocal, pairing novice teachers from Japan with mentor teachers of Japanese in the United States at the precollegiate level. The program is designed to mutually bene-

fit teachers from Japan and teachers and students in the United States. JALEX began as a modest prototype serving 18 schools in 5 States and has grown to serve 76 schools and community organizations in 20 States, including 18 cities in my home State of Indiana. JALEX also operates in Washington, Oregon, Utah, Kansas, Missouri, Nevada, Tennessee, Iowa, Illinois, Texas, Wisconsin, Michigan, Minnesota, North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, Connecticut, Maine, and Vermont.

In the process of achieving its mission—enhancing Japanese language instruction in the United States and classroom experience for native Japanese teachers of Japanese-as-a-foreign-language study—the program also provides opportunities for meaningful cultural exchange for thousands of American citizens.

Since 1985, the study of Japanese in United States schools has grown rapidly. Despite the comparative difficulty of Japanese and the longstanding appeal of Romance languages, interest in and demand for Japanese language instruction has continued to grow on a global scale.

JALEX began in 1992 when President Bush and Prime Minister Miyazawa acknowledged the essential role of enhanced Japanese language training to advance global partnership between the two nations. During the Tokyo summit in May 1996, President Clinton and Prime Minister Hashimoto vowed to further promote exchange programs between young people of Japan and the United States as a means of strengthening this bilateral relationship.

The Center for Global Partnership of the Japan Foundation and the Freeman Foundation should be applauded for their generous support of this program. Their support provides participating schools an invaluable resource of a native Japanese teaching assistant in the classroom as well as materials, stipends, and professional development opportunities for United States teachers.

The approximate value of the annual benefits provided by the JALEX Program to each school is conservatively estimated at \$30,000. The Japanese language programs would not be as strong without the support of JALEX. The program has also provided several JALEX participants—teachers, administrators, and students—the opportunity to visit Japan. These activities are provided at no cost to local school districts and without U.S. Government tax dollars.

Because of JALEX, our leaders of the next century, will be able to direct our Nation on a global scale with a greater sensitivity and awareness to cultural and national differences.

I hope my colleagues will join me in congratulating the JALEX Program for the contributions it has made toward fostering cultural understanding and respect. •

THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TOBACCO RULE

• Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, today, the President's rules against teenage smoking will go into effect. I applaud President Clinton for these new rules and for his leadership in fighting youth smoking. It's critically important.

Mr. President, it's time to stop beating around the bush about tobacco. Tobacco is a deadly addictive drug. And those who deal in this drug are dealers in death. They're responsible for snuffing out the lives of thousands each year. And they should be held accountable.

Unfortunately, Mr. President, these deadly dealers also have tremendous political power. We saw evidence of this earlier this week, when a spokesman for the attorney general of Virginia said that the State would refuse to enforce, or even respect the validity of, this Federal rule against teen tobacco use. It was an outrageous and shocking statement. And although he has since backed off of it, the incident highlights the importance of protecting our children from big tobacco, and their deadly drugs.

Mr. President, just this week, Gen. Barry McCaffrey, our Nation's drug czar, recognized that cigarettes are a gateway drug, and that we will not be able to effectively fight cocaine, marijuana, and heroin use unless we work to prevent cigarette smoking by children. Children who smoke are eight times more likely to use illicit drugs than those who do not smoke. Of adults who use cocaine, 83 percent smoked cigarettes as gateway behavior.

Mr. President, it's now clear that the front lines of the drug war are not only in Bogota or Mexico City. They're right here in this country—in the corporate headquarters of tobacco companies and at our neighborhood convenience stores. The rule that goes into effect today will prevent kids from engaging in addictive behavior—behavior that could lead to other dangerous and illegal habits. As General McCaffrey has explained, prevention of Teen tobacco addiction is key to our national drug control strategy.

Mr. President, the tobacco companies have been peddling these drugs to our kids for far too long. Although the industry denies that they target children in cigarette marketing, that's obviously not true. Consider this. How many 6 year olds do you think can identify Joe Camel as a symbol for smoking? The answer, incredibly, is 91 percent; 91 percent of 6-year-olds link Joe Camel with smoking. That, Mr. President, is not an accident.

Mr. President, tobacco industry marketing doesn't stop with advertising. They also give away products that they know will appeal to kids. Over half of adolescents that smoke own at least one tobacco promotional item, such as a Tee-shirt, cap, sporting good, or a lighter.

Today, as the first part of the President's rules will go into effect, we will

begin the process of protecting our Nation's children from an industry that kills 410,000 Americans each year. And we can't let the tobacco lobby undercut this effort.

The rule that goes into effect today would bar the sale of cigarettes to persons under the age of 18. Additionally, in order to ensure that no children slip through the cracks, stores would be required to check the identification of any individual who appears to be 26 or younger. This Federal rule is necessary because recent studies have shown that kids are able to buy cigarettes over the counter 67 percent of the time.

I have seen evidence of this problem firsthand. I went along on a sting operation in my home State in which I witnessed children purchase cigarettes with ease. It was very disturbing, but typical.

Mr. President, the rule that goes into effect today is a historic first step toward eradicating the epidemic of children's smoking plaguing our Nation. David Kessler, the outgoing Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration has called this problem a pediatric disease and he is right. Of the 3,000 kids who start smoking every day, 1,000 will die of smoking-related illness.

So, Mr. President, I again commend the administration for their battle against teen smoking. And I pledge here and now that if anyone tries to undermine that effort, I will fight it every step of the way.

After all, we're talking about saving lives here. The lives of our children and grandchildren. And all of us have a responsibility to stand up to the tobacco lobby, and do the right thing.●

TRIBUTE TO MEGAN CHAMBERLAIN ON BEING HONORED WITH THE GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD

● Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Megan Chamberlain for receiving the Girl Scout Gold Award by the Swift Water Girl Scout Council in Manchester, NH.

Megan is a member of Girl Scout Troop No. 1487 and has diligently served her community and the people of Manchester. She started working toward the Girl Scout Gold Award in 1995. Megan had to earn four interest project patches, which are the Career Exploration Pin, the Senior Girl Scout Leadership Award, the Senior Girl Scout Challenge and design and implement a Girl Scout Gold Award Project. She completed her project in the areas of community service and environmental awareness.

Megan received outstanding accomplishments in the areas of leadership, community service, career planning, and personal development. The Swift Water Girl Scout Gold Award is the highest attainable rank for a young woman between the age of 14-17. Megan has every reason to be proud of this recognition.

Megan promotes citizenship, character-building, and community service among the girls of our country. She also provides a respectable, solid role model for the youth of our Nation and teaches commitment, dedication and hard work. As a member of the Swift Water Girl Scout Troop, Megan learned valuable skills that will serve her for a lifetime.

I am proud to honor Megan for her outstanding accomplishments and congratulate her on this truly deserved award.●

R&D TAX CREDIT

● Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I believe that the Congress must make permanent the research and development [R&D] tax credit. The R&D credit has proven to be critical to the United States' economic growth and international competitiveness. The credit has led to many successes in U.S. scientific research and innovation, such as extraordinary accomplishments in pure mathematics; unprecedented growth in the power and availability of information technology; and rapid progress in finding cures for life threatening diseases such as AIDS, cancer, and multiple sclerosis.

For my State of North Dakota, the new information technologies mean that information industries are creating thousands of jobs. Despite these accomplishments, and the obvious long-term benefits, the R&D credit continuously faces challenges to its existence. Because the R&D credit has never been made permanent, it has had to be extended seven times by Congress since its inception. This transitory treatment of the R&D credit has forced R&D companies to be more hesitant in planning future research projects. Unfortunately Mr. President, this on-again off-again process also led to an unnecessary and disturbing circumstance in 1996. For the first time in the history of its consecutive extensions, last year the R&D credit was not extended retroactively, leaving a gap in the law from July 1, 1995 through July 1, 1996. The gap has, and will continue to, adversely affect our country's R&D efforts. The gap has already contributed to decreased investment in R&D and less planning for future R&D projects by many companies. Currently, the R&D credit is due to expire on May 31, 1997.

Mr. President, we must act now to permanently extend the R&D credit and send the right signal to our Nation's innovators. Failure to act will not only jeopardize our Nation's research efforts, but it will also threaten the United States's world leadership in R&D. Our Nation's growth in R&D investment over the past decade has already been slow compared to Japan, Germany, Italy, and France. Budget realities are forcing the United States to further curtail discretionary spending for basic research. In fact, United States non-defense R&D investment has been flat at 1.9 percent of GDP

after peaking at 2.0 percent in 1985, while Japan's has continued to grow to 3.0 percent. Although Germany's R&D commitment has been fairly stable at 2.7 percent since 1987, it is significantly higher than in the United States. One of the main reasons the United States lags behind these countries in R&D investment is because these countries offer their innovators generous tax incentives for R&D, including both deductibility of current expenses and special tax credits. Future economic challenges to the United States are also likely to come from developing countries in Asia as they boost R&D investment to catch up to the rest of the world.

New realities are being shaped by rapidly growing international R&D capabilities. These new R&D capabilities have created both global options as well as competitive pressures whose dimension are barely understood. Unless Congress decides to adapt to these realities and to enact a permanent R&D credit, the United States' leadership in the global arena may plummet. Such a result will not only adversely impact the United States internationally, but at home as well in lost jobs, diminished economic growth and a decreased standard of living.

As we prepare for the 21st century, we must remain committed to providing an environment that fosters technological investment, scientific exploration, and global competitiveness. Future economic growth and the prosperity of all Americans depends on continued R&D. America's well being depends on it. Let's remove the uncertainty surrounding the R&D credit's extension once and for all, and extend the credit permanently.●

STAND DOWN OF A-6E INTRUDER

● Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, I am proud today to honor the retirement of the Navy's A-6E Intruder. Attack Squadron 196 at Whidbey Naval Air Station in my home State and Attack Squadron 75 in Virginia Beach will stand down the final two Intruder squadrons in simultaneous ceremonies today.

As the backbone of carrier attack aviation for the past 36 years, the A-6E Intruder stood ready to face the enemy in any weather, day or night. The A-6 put teeth in the term "carrier forward presence." It saw combat in Vietnam, Lebanon, Libya, in the waters of the Arabian Gulf and over the shores of Kuwait and Iraq. It delivered iron bombs, laser guided bombs, and every air-to-ground missile available in the Navy inventory for the past three decades. The A-6E Intruder was the hardest working plane on the flight deck.

The pilots and bombardier/navigators who flew the Intruder had great affection and respect for the aircraft and its ability to withstand heavy enemy fire. They too should be honored for their courage and dedication to this great nation. They will truly miss the A-6.