

health plans, health insurance coverage, and the Medicare and Medicaid Programs.

S. 369

At the request of Mr. JEFFORDS, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts [Mr. KERRY] was added as a cosponsor of S. 369, a bill to amend section 1128B of the Social Security Act to repeal the criminal penalty for fraudulent disposition of assets in order to obtain Medicaid benefits added by section 217 of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996.

S. 370

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from New Mexico [Mr. BINGAMAN] was added as a cosponsor of S. 370, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for increased Medicare reimbursement for nurse practitioners and clinical nurse specialists to increase the delivery of health services in health professional shortage areas, and for other purposes.

S. 371

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from New Mexico [Mr. BINGAMAN] was added as a cosponsor of S. 371, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for increased Medicare reimbursement for physician assistants, to increase the delivery of health services in health professional shortage areas, and for other purposes.

S. 375

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the names of the Senator from Florida [Mr. MACK], the Senator from Arkansas [Mr. HUTCHINSON], the Senator from Delaware [Mr. BIDEN], and the Senator from Massachusetts [Mr. KERRY] were added as cosponsors of S. 375, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to restore the link between the maximum amount of earnings by blind individuals permitted without demonstrating ability to engage in substantial gainful activity and the exempt amount permitted in determining excess earnings under the earnings test.

S. 381

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Arkansas [Mr. BUMPERS] was added as a cosponsor of S. 381, a bill to establish a demonstration project to study and provide coverage of routine patient care costs for Medicare beneficiaries with cancer who are enrolled in an approved clinical trial program.

S. 389

At the request of Mr. ABRAHAM, the names of the Senator from Oklahoma [Mr. INHOFE] and the Senator from Wyoming [Mr. THOMAS] were added as cosponsors of S. 389, a bill to improve congressional deliberation on proposed Federal private sector mandates, and for other purposes.

S. 474

At the request of Mr. KYL, the name of the Senator from Connecticut [Mr. LIEBERMAN] was added as a cosponsor

of S. 474, a bill to amend sections 1081 and 1084 of title 18, United States Code.

S. 502

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Arkansas [Mr. HUTCHINSON] was added as a cosponsor of S. 502, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide posteligibility treatment of certain payments received under a Department of Veterans Affairs pension or compensation program.

S. 503

At the request of Mr. NICKLES, the name of the Senator from Arkansas [Mr. HUTCHINSON], the Senator from New Hampshire [Mr. SMITH], and the Senator from Alabama [Mr. SHELBY] were added as cosponsors of S. 503, a bill to prevent the transmission of the human immunodeficiency virus, commonly known as HIV, and for other purposes.

S. 528

At the request of Mr. CAMPBELL, the names of the Senator from Illinois [Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN], the Senator from Georgia [Mr. CLELAND], the Senator from Virginia [Mr. WARNER], the Senator from Maine [Ms. COLLINS], and the Senator from New Jersey [Mr. TORRICELLI] were added as cosponsors of S. 528, a bill to require the display of the POW/MIA flag on various occasions and in various locations.

S. 535

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the name of the Senator from Maine [Ms. SNOWE] was added as a cosponsor of S. 535, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the establishment of a program for research and training with respect to Parkinson's disease.

S. 536

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Vermont [Mr. LEAHY] was added as a cosponsor of S. 536, a bill to amend the National Narcotics Leadership Act of 1988 to establish a program to support and encourage local communities that first demonstrate a comprehensive, long-term commitment to reduce substance abuse among youth, and for other purposes.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 9

At the request of Mr. KYL, the names of the Senator from Texas [Mr. GRAMM] and the Senator from Kentucky [Mr. McCONNELL] were added as cosponsors of Senate Joint Resolution 9, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to require two-thirds majorities for increasing taxes.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 18

At the request of Mr. HOLLINGS, the name of the Senator from Georgia [Mr. CLELAND] was added as a cosponsor of Senate Joint Resolution 18, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to contributions and expenditures intended to affect elections.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 25

At the request of Mr. COCHRAN, the name of the Senator from Mississippi

[Mr. LOTT] was added as a cosponsor of Senate Joint Resolution 25, a joint resolution disapproving the rule of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration relating to occupational exposure to methylene chloride.

SENATE RESOLUTION 58

At the request of Mr. ROTH, the name of the Senator from Nebraska [Mr. HAGEL] was added as a cosponsor of Senate Resolution 58, a resolution to state the sense of the Senate that the Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security Between the United States of America and Japan is essential for furthering the security interests of the United States, Japan, and the countries of the Asia-Pacific region, and that the people of Okinawa deserve recognition for their contributions toward ensuring the treaty's implementation.

SENATE RESOLUTION 69

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the names of the Senator from Vermont [Mr. JEFFORDS], and the Senator from Massachusetts [Mr. KENNEDY] were added as cosponsors of Senate Resolution 69, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the March 30, 1997, terrorist grenade attack in Cambodia.

SENATE RESOLUTION 71—RELATIVE TO THE CONGRESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. REID, Mr. WELLSTONE, Mr. MURKOWSKI, and Mr. BRYAN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. Res. 71

Resolved, That (a) an individual with a disability (as defined in section 3 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12102)) who has or is granted the privilege of the Senate floor may bring those supporting services (including service dogs, wheelchairs, and interpreters) on the Senate floor the employing or supervising office determines are necessary to assist the disabled individual in discharging the official duties of his or her position.

(b) The employing or supervising office of a disabled individual shall administer the provisions of this resolution.

Mr. WYDEN, Mr. President, the resolution that I submit today would change the Senate rules that deny floor access to those individuals who are visually impaired and need to use guide dogs to carry out their official duties.

By denying floor access to Ms. Shea and her guide dog, the Senate, in my view, is violating the Congressional Accountability Act, which requires that Congress abide by the requirements and intent of the Americans With Disabilities Act. A guide dog is a person's vision. A guide dog is a working dog, not a pet. This guide dog is with Ms. Shea all the time. He is with her in meetings in my office. He goes with her to energy committee hearings and has even gone with her to nuclear weapons facilities.

Mr. President and colleagues, I had hoped that there would be no need to

offer this resolution, but I am forced to because discrimination still persists here. Ms. Shea is being treated differently simply because she is visually impaired and needs to use a guide dog.

Now, some may believe that the Senate fulfills its obligations under the Americans With Disabilities Act—

Mr. REID. Will my friend yield for a unanimous-consent request?

Mr. WYDEN. Yes.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that I be added as a cosponsor of the Senator's resolution.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I also ask unanimous consent that I be made a cosponsor.

Mr. MURKOWSKI. I ask unanimous consent that I also be added as a cosponsor to the resolution.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the Senators will be added as cosponsors.

Mr. WYDEN. I thank my colleagues.

Mr. President, some believe that the Senate is fulfilling its obligations under the Americans With Disabilities Act if they provide someone to accompany Ms. Shea to the Senate floor. But let me say that an unknown staff person is no substitute for a working guide dog.

The relevant language from the Americans With Disabilities Act says that an employer must provide reasonable accommodation for an individual with a disability. The Equal Employment Opportunity Office has said, "reasonable accommodation [is] when an employer permits a person who is blind to use a guide dog at work."

Let us put ourselves in Ms. Shea's situation. Imagine that you need to go on the Senate floor to carry out your official duties, but, wait, you must first check your ability to see with the doorkeeper, or go to the Rules Committee to get a resolution. I fail to see the logic of this, and I fail to see the justice behind it. Miss Shea's situation doesn't require extra financial resources nor special treatment. She just wants to do her job as a professional.

A large part of the problem seems to be a lack of understanding. So let me tell the Senate a little bit about what guide dogs do. They are working dogs, not pets. A guide dog is that person's vision, an integral part of that person's essential activities and professional responsibilities. A blind person or a visually impaired person, such as Ms. Shea, has learned to turn over her diminishing sight to her dog and trusts that dog with her safety. This guide dog has blocked Ms. Shea from oncoming traffic. He knows his left from his right. He is a marker to others that Ms. Shea is visually impaired. She has gone to the Senate Energy Committee hearings and nuclear weapons facilities. This dog has even met more just access with respect to the Soviet Union.

Yet, here in the United States, on the Senate floor, where we passed the ADA and the Congressional Accountability Act, we are refusing access to someone

who needs to use a guide dog. This guide dog has a serious job, and, I might add, the dog performs it very well. This is the tool that Ms. Shea uses to be a productive member of the work force, and today we are denying her the ability to do her job to the best of her ability. Ms. Shea is part of a growing work force of persons who want to be independent, who want to be productive, and who have been raised with a can-do attitude.

Let me conclude by describing how the guide dog would work on the floor. Ms. Shea would most likely tell him to "follow me," and as they walked down the aisle, the dog would alert Ms. Shea to each step by stopping. Then Ms. Shea would say to him "find the chair," and then Ms. Shea would sit down and the dog would lay right beside her. We would all forget that the dog was even here. In leaving, Ms. Shea would tell the dog to "find the door" once again, and the dog would alert her to where all the steps are and take her right to the door.

Mr. President, that is all there is to it. It seems to me that the Senate should change its rules to ensure that there is justice for people like Ms. Shea. To tell someone like Ms. Shea that she cannot come to the Senate floor with either a white cane or a guide dog and only with an escort is demeaning. You take away her right to decide what is the best method for her to carry out her job as a professional. You take away her sense of independence. You take away her dignity. You make her dependent on others. That is not what the Americans With Disabilities Act is all about.

Ms. Shea has Usher's Syndrome. That is the leading cause of deaf-blindness in the United States. She has struggled and worked hard to get where she is today as a professional. She is independent and self-sufficient, and she told me that she can cope with losing her eyesight, but she should not be forced to face blatant discrimination.

It is time for the Senate to change its rules. I look forward to working with my colleagues on the Rules Committee to do this. It is time to ensure that the visually impaired in our country have justice, and have justice in the way that Congress envisioned with the Americans With Disabilities Act and the Congress Accountability Act. I thank my friends from Minnesota, Nevada, and Alaska for joining me as cosponsors this morning on this resolution.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED

THE NUCLEAR WASTE POLICY ACT OF 1997

LOTT AMENDMENT NO. 44

Mr. MURKOWSKI (for Mr. LOTT, for himself and Mr. WELLSTONE) proposed an amendment to amendment No. 30

proposed by Mr. WELLSTONE to the bill (S. 104) to amend the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982; as follows:

In the pending amendment, strike all after "SEC. ." and insert the following:

"SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING ASSISTANCE FOR ELDERLY AND DISABLED LEGAL IMMIGRANTS."

"It is the sense of the Senate that elderly and disabled legal immigrants who are unable to work should receive assistance essential to their well-being, and that the President, Congress, and States, and faith-based and other organizations should continue to work together toward that end."

NOTICES OF HEARINGS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, there will be a hearing held by the Subcommittee on Immigration, Senate Committee on the Judiciary, on Tuesday, April 15, 1997, at 10:30 a.m., in room 226, Senate Dirksen Building, on "Immigrant Entrepreneurs, Job Creation, and the American Dream."

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I would like to announce that the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry will hold a full committee hearing on Thursday, April 24, 1997, at 9 a.m. in SR-328A to receive testimony regarding U.S. agricultural exports.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEE TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, the Finance Committee requests unanimous consent to conduct a hearing on Monday, April 14, 1997, beginning at 1:30 p.m. in room 215 Dirksen.

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

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNITION OF HOME EDUCATION IN MISSOURI

• Mr. BOND. Mr. President, it is my pleasure to recognize homeschoolers in the State of Missouri. They are a part of the ongoing commitment to quality education for Missouri's youth.

Home educators make an effort to give their children a chance for success in today's ever-changing society by personally guiding the education of their children and ensuring that all facets of their children's development are included in scholastic endeavors.

Homeschoolers establish one-on-one relationships with their adult mentors and develop interpersonal skills with all age groups through apprenticeship opportunities and involvement in civic and community organizations.

Home education in Missouri has enjoyed considerable success in recent years because of the tremendous support received for countless citizens who realize the significance of family participation in the educational process.