

to get a full overview of Federal level lobbying. The bill I am introducing today is designed to ensure that the act achieves that goal in the most effective manner without imposing an undue burden on the registrants. The Lobbying Disclosure Act has already proved its worth. This technical amendments bill will, through a few commonsense corrections, make the LDA even more useful.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill appear in the RECORD.

S. 758

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE AND REFERENCE.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Lobbying Disclosure Technical Amendments Act of 1997".

(b) REFERENCE.—Whenever in this Act an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms of an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provision, the reference shall be considered to be made to a section or other provision of the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995.

SEC. 2. DEFINITION OF COVERED EXECUTIVE BRANCH OFFICIAL.

Section 3(3)(F) (2 U.S.C. 1602(3)(F)) is amended by striking "7511(b)(2)" and inserting "7511(b)(2)(B)".

SEC. 3. CLARIFICATION OF EXCEPTION TO LOBBYING CONTACT.

(a) CERTAIN COMMUNICATIONS.—Section 3(8)(B)(ix) (2 U.S.C. 1602(8)(B)(ix)) is amended by inserting before the semicolon the following: ", including any communication compelled by a Federal contract grant, loan, permit, or license".

(b) DEFINITION OF "PUBLIC OFFICIAL".—Section 3(15)(F) (2 U.S.C. 1602(15)(F)) is amended by inserting ", or a group of governments acting together as an international organization" before the period.

SEC. 4. ESTIMATES BASED ON TAX REPORTING SYSTEM.

(a) SECTION 15(a).—Section 15(a) (2 U.S.C. 1610(a)) is amended—

(1) by striking "A registrant" and inserting "A person, other than a lobbying firm,"; and

(2) by amending paragraph (2) to read as follows:

"(2) for all other purposes consider as lobbying contacts and lobbying activities only—

"(A) lobbying contacts with covered legislative branch officials (as defined in section 3(4)) and lobbying activities in support of such contacts; and

"(B) lobbying of Federal executive branch officials to the extent that such activities are influencing legislation as defined in section 4911(d) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.".

(b) SECTION 15(b).—Section 15(b) (2 U.S.C. 1610(b)) is amended—

(1) by striking "A registrant that is subject to" and inserting "A person, other than a lobbying firm, who is required to account and does account for lobbying expenditures pursuant to"; and

(2) by amending paragraph (2) to read as follows:

"(2) for all other purposes consider as lobbying contacts and lobbying activities only—

"(A) lobbying contacts with covered legislative branch officials (as defined in section 3(4)) and lobbying activities in support of such contacts; and

"(B) lobbying of Federal executive branch officials to the extent that amounts paid or costs incurred in connection with such activities are not deductible pursuant to sec-

tion 162(e) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986."

(c) SECTION 5(c).—Section 5(c) (2 U.S.C. 1604(c)) is amended by striking paragraph (3).

SEC. 5. EXEMPTION BASED ON REGISTRATION UNDER LOBBYING ACT.

Section 3(h) of the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938 (22 U.S.C. 613(h)) is amended by striking "is required to register and does register" and inserting "has engaged in lobbying activities and has registered".

By Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. HARKIN):

S. 761. A bill to amend the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 to establish certain additional requirements relating to electronic and information technology accessibility guidelines for individuals with disabilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

THE FEDERAL ELECTRONIC AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DISABILITY COMPLIANCE ACT OF 1997

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I introduce the Federal Electronic and Information Technology Disability Compliance Act of 1997. In an effort to make it easier for persons with disabilities to work, this legislation will allow the Federal Government to take the lead in providing Federal employees who have disabilities with critical access to technological tools in the workplace.

The Federal Electronic and Information Technology Accessibility Compliance Act of 1997 strengthens Federal requirements that electronic tools and information technology purchased by Federal agencies be made accessible to their employees. Additionally, it would require States that receive Federal resources toward disability programs to meet accessibility guidelines when they purchase technology. Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 requires such compliance, but currently there is no enforcement mechanism to assure that this is done. The House of Representatives today passed similar legislation introduced by Representative ANNA ESHOO.

Barriers to information and technology must be broken down. By giving Federal employees with disabilities the opportunity to utilize technological advancements, we provide them hope and encourage self-sufficiency.

Additionally, I believe these new efforts will encourage the private sector to adopt similar procedures. Let the Federal Government provide a good example to the private sector in its efforts.

Concrete examples of technological advancements that have aided persons with disabilities include: Telephones and fax machines with voice features for the visually impaired; voice mail that is converted for the deaf or hearing impaired; and CD-ROM or network-based information systems that can be equipped with audio descriptions of visual elements.

Nationally, there are 49 million Americans who have disabilities. It is critical, Mr. President, that given the

rapid introduction of new technologies, persons with disabilities not be allowed to fall behind. The more we can do to promote their equality, independence, and dignity, the better.

I want to commend Mr. William Paul of United Technologies Corp., in my state of Connecticut, for first bringing this matter to my attention. Mr. Paul has identified a critical need among members of our society. His civic-minded actions deserve to be commended not only by people with disabilities, but by all Americans.

Mr. President, I believe this a modest measure, that will improve the lives of the millions of Americans who have disabilities across this country and benefit our society as a whole. I hope to have my colleagues support.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 61

At the request of Mr. LOTT, the name of the Senator from Illinois [Mr. DURBIN] was added as a cosponsor of S. 61, a bill to amend title 46, United States Code, to extend eligibility for veterans' burial benefits, funeral benefits, and related benefits for veterans of certain service in the United States merchant marine during World War II.

S. 75

At the request of Mr. KYL, the name of the Senator from Utah [Mr. BENNETT] was added as a cosponsor of S. 75, a bill to repeal the Federal estate and gift taxes and the tax on generation-skipping transfers.

S. 202

At the request of Mr. LOTT, the name of the Senator from Montana [Mr. BURNS] was added as a cosponsor of S. 202, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to eliminate the earnings test for individuals who have attained retirement age.

S. 263

At the request of Mr. MCCONNELL, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania [Mr. SPECTER] was added as a cosponsor of S. 263, a bill to prohibit the import, export, sale, purchase, possession, transportation, acquisition, and receipt of bear viscera or products that contain or claim to contain bear viscera, and for other purposes.

S. 537

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the name of the Senator from Iowa [Mr. GRASSLEY] was added as a cosponsor of S. 537, a bill to amend title III of the Public Health Service Act to revise and extend the mammography quality standards program.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 24

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from South Carolina [Mr. HOLLINGS] was added as a cosponsor of Senate Joint Resolution 24, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relative to equal rights for women and men.

SENATE RESOLUTION 85

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

[Mr. COCHRAN] was added as a cosponsor of Senate Resolution 85, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that individuals affected by breast cancer should not be alone in their fight against the disease.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

EMPLOYEE EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT

• Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I recently added my name to the list of 37 cosponsors of S. 127 on behalf of those hard-working folks who are trying to get ahead in their jobs by going back to school while they work. The Employee Educational Assistance Act will make permanent the tax exclusion for employer-provided educational assistance under section 127 of the Internal Revenue Code. By doing so, it will remove the penalty part-time students face in the form of higher taxes when their employers provide educational assistance.

Mr. President, this bill's sponsor, Senator MOYNIHAN, said it well: This is a very effective program which requires no bureaucracy and which administers itself. Employers and employees arrange for the educational assistance, and the Government's role is to stay out of the way. For example, MSE Technologies Inc. in Butte, MT, provides assistance to its employees who are working on undergraduate or graduate degrees. For MSE this is a wise investment in its employees and helps to keep the company competitive. With section 127 in place, employees can receive up to \$5,250 annually in tuition reimbursements from their employer without paying additional taxes. Without section 127, employees are taxed on the educational assistance they receive. This tax is exactly the wrong message to send to businesses and their employees trying to stay ahead.

Section 127, which first went into effect in 1979, will expire in 3 months. The provision has been extended numerous times, and it has widespread support. But the uncertainty of the provision's future has been disruptive to workers and made planning ahead difficult. The full potential of its benefits to workers and employers is not being met, and it won't be until we make it permanent. Let's make helping American workers stay competitive a top priority.●

ABORTION

• Mr. GLENN. Mr. President, I agree with a May 10, 1997, New York Times editorial regarding legislation to ban so-called partial-birth abortions and the alternatives to it which we are considering today in the Senate. The editorial states,

These proposed bills, while well intentioned, still interfere in judgments best left to doctors and their patients. Some of the 40

states that have passed or are considering bans on 'partial-birth' abortions have fallen into the same trap. Whether at the state or the Federal level, these political intrusions into medical practice and attempts to limit women's access to abortions deserve to be defeated.

I am opposed to the Government making medical decisions that should be handled by qualified physicians on a case-by-case basis. During my 22 years in the Senate, I have voted to uphold the Supreme Court's 1973 Roe versus Wade decision that a woman's right to choose whether to have an abortion is protected, within specified limits, under the constitutional right to privacy. This means that a woman can make her own choice, based on her moral and religious beliefs and in consultation with her family, her physician, her priest, rabbi, minister, or whomever she chooses. I respect the heartfelt views of those who are opposed to abortion, but I do not believe they should be imposed on those who hold a different but equally firm conviction.

Having said that, I did support Senator FEINSTEIN's amendment as a substitute to the partial-birth abortion ban. Senator FEINSTEIN's amendment would have banned postviability abortions, but like Roe versus Wade, it includes exceptions for cases where the attending physician makes a medical decision that the abortion is necessary to preserve the life of the woman or to avert serious adverse health consequences. As you know, under the provisions of Roe, States can pass such laws now. If this amendment had passed, I believe late-term abortions would remain available to women who need them for serious medical reasons.

I opposed Senator DASCHLE's amendment because I believe its health exception could provide roadblocks to a woman seeking a late-term abortion for serious medical reasons. I have concerns about the constitutionality of the health exceptions in this amendment because they are more restrictive than those in Roe versus Wade.

Mr. President, the American people overwhelmingly support the right of a woman to choose regarding abortion. This does not mean they are pro-abortion, it means they are pro-choice as I am. I urge my colleagues to oppose the partial-birth abortion ban, which is clearly unconstitutional, and to allow women and their physicians to make the best decisions based on each individual case.●

RAINN DAY

• Mr. D'AMATO. Mr. President, in 1995, there were over 350,000 victims of rape or sexual assault. The Uniform Crime Reports indicate that means that there is one forcible rape every 5 minutes. The most startling aspect of sex crimes is that they go unreported. There are estimates that only 37 percent of all rapes are reported to the police.

Victims of rape and sexual assault need a place to turn to and RAINN's

national toll-free hotline for survivors of sexual assault reaches them. The hotline provides callers access to counseling 24 hours a day, from anywhere in the country.

RAINN is an acronym for rape, abuse, and incest national network. When a survivor calls the 800 number, a computer identifies the caller's location by reading the area code and the first three digits of the phone number. The call is routed to the rape crisis center nearest the caller. If the line is busy, the call will be routed to the next closest center.

RAINN networks with 628 crisis centers across the Nation, responding to victim's immediate needs. Since its inception in 1994, this organization has helped more than 140,000 victims of sexual assault.

I am bringing attention to the tremendous work of RAINN because at noon today, on May 16, radio stations across the United States will interrupt their regular programming to play a song from a rape survivor, Tori Amos. This is a nationwide call to action—a way to raise public awareness to what is happening to those victimized by rapists.

I am proud to be an honorary co-chair of RAINN and commend all those involved in working on this national hotline, one of the most valuable resources for the survivor of rape or sexual abuse.

RAINN was founded in July 1994 with grants from the Atlantic Group and Warner Music Group. Support is also provided by Westwood One, MCI, the Jacobs Family Foundation, the Ryka Rose Foundation, and the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences.●

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, MAY 19, 1997

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today it stand in adjournment until the hour of 12 p.m. on Monday, May 19. I further ask unanimous consent that on Monday, immediately following the prayer, the routine requests through the morning hour be granted and the Senate then be in a period of morning business with Senators recognized to speak up to 5 minutes, with the following exceptions: Senator HELMS, 20 minutes; Senator DASCHLE or his designee, 45 minutes; and Senator ASHCROFT or his designee from the hour of 1:30 to 2:15.

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

ORDER FOR RECORD TO REMAIN OPEN

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the RECORD stay open until the hour of 3 p.m. today to allow Senators to submit statements for the RECORD.

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