

will at last be able to receive the quality and access to health care they deserve.

Mr. President, my legislation would also reauthorize and extend the Rural Health Transition Grant Program. This grant program helps small rural hospitals and their communities adapt to the changing health care marketplace. Specifically, the grants help hospitals adjust to reductions in the need for inpatient services and increased demand for outpatient and emergency services and help rural hospitals meet the increasingly difficult task of recruiting staff.

Rural hospitals use these funds for a variety of programs. For example, Marengo Memorial Hospital, Mitchell County Hospital, Franklin General in Hampton, and Kossuth County Hospital as well as other hospitals used funds to help develop rural health care networks. Pochahontas Community Hospital and Community Memorial Hospital in Sumner used funds to recruit health professionals and Holy Family Hospital in Estherville used funds to improve emergency services.

These grants are provided over 3 years. They represent a small but vital source of revenue for hospitals struggling to adjust to a new health care environment. Unfortunately, these grants were not reauthorized last year, and there are many hospitals that were promised transition grant funds but for whom the money is no longer available. This legislation would help ensure that these few hospitals are able to finish out their grants and meet the changing needs of their patients and communities.

Mr. President, the health care system is undergoing tremendous change and our rural hospitals must adjust to this new environment. The Transition Grant Program helps hospitals modify the type and extent of services so they can better serve rural communities.

Mr. President, the legislation I am introducing will help improve access and enhance the quality of health care in rural areas. And it will help shore up the fragile health care infrastructure in our rural communities and small towns.

By Mr. INHOFE:

S. 861. A bill to amend the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 to authorize donation of Federal law enforcement canines that are no longer needed for official purposes to individuals with experience handling canines in the performance of law enforcement duties; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

DONATION OF LAW ENFORCEMENT DOGS TO
THEIR HANDLERS

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce a bill to address the situation encountered when certain members of our Federal law enforcement community are no longer able to perform their assigned duties. These members of the Federal law enforcement community to which I refer are not people, but canines.

The purpose of this legislation is simple. The bill will streamline the regulations that govern the adoption of Federal law enforcement canines by their handlers. Currently, these animals are considered Federal property and when their tenure of service has ended, they are considered surplus Government property. Under current Federal regulations, Government agencies are forced to comply with procedures to ensure maximum return for the Government's investment in the animal at auction.

These animals have received special security training to best equip them for the demands of their duties. Because of the hazards associated with their duties, this specialized training often makes these animals unsuitable as pets for those not trained to handle these animals.

Because of the highly specialized training these animals receive, they should not be simply auctioned to the highest bidder. Currently, if no trained handler comes forward and offers the highest bid for the animal, the possibility exists that it will spend the rest of its life caged, or even worse, destroyed.

Under this legislation, the eligible animals would be donated to their handlers, who would then assume all costs and responsibilities associated to the care of that animal. This practice is commonplace for local law enforcement agencies nationwide.

This is not a drastic departure from previous Government procedure. In 1993, the General Services Administration granted a waiver for Border Patrol canine handlers to purchase their partners for a nominal fee. Unfortunately, this waiver has expired and has not been renewed.

Mr. President, this is a commonsense solution to a very simple problem. I urge my colleagues to support this bill and ease the restrictions concerning the adoption of Federal law enforcement canines.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 261

At the request of Mr. DOMENICI, the name of the Senator from Utah [Mr. HATCH] was added as a cosponsor of S. 261, a bill to provide for a biennial budget process and a biennial appropriations process and to enhance oversight and the performance of the Federal Government.

At the request of Mr. DOMENICI, the name of the Senator from Georgia [Mr. CLELAND] was withdrawn as a cosponsor of S. 261, supra.

S. 293

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the names of the Senator from Washington [Mrs. MURRAY], and the Senator from Illinois [Mr. DURBIN] were added as cosponsors of S. 293, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the credit for clinical testing expenses for certain drugs for rare diseases or conditions.

S. 339

At the request of Mr. LEVIN, the name of the Senator from Montana [Mr. BURNS] was added as a cosponsor of S. 339, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to revise the requirements for procurement of products of Federal Prison Industries to meet needs of Federal agencies, and for other purposes.

S. 358

At the request of Mr. DEWINE, the name of the Senator from Georgia [Mr. CLELAND] was added as a cosponsor of S. 358, a bill to provide for compassionate payments with regard to individuals with blood-clotting disorders, such as hemophilia, who contracted human immunodeficiency virus due to contaminated blood products, and for other purposes.

S. 360

At the request of Mr. CRAIG, the names of the Senator from Alaska [Mr. MURKOWSKI], and the Senator from Idaho [Mr. KEMPTHORNE] were added as cosponsors of S. 360, a bill to require adoption of a management plan for the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area that allows appropriate use of motorized and nonmotorized river craft in the recreation area, and for other purposes.

S. 364

At the request of Mr. LIEBERMAN, the names of the Senator from Kentucky [Mr. MCCONNELL], and the Senator from North Carolina [Mr. HELMS] were added as cosponsors of S. 364, a bill to provide legal standards and procedures for suppliers of raw materials and component parts for medical devices.

S. 385

At the request of Mr. CONRAD, the names of the Senator from South Dakota [Mr. DASCHLE], and the Senator from South Carolina [Mr. HOLLINGS] were added as cosponsors of S. 385, a bill to provide reimbursement under the Medicare Program for telehealth services, and for other purposes.

S. 422

At the request of Mr. DOMENICI, the name of the Senator from Connecticut [Mr. LIEBERMAN] was added as a cosponsor of S. 422, a bill to define the circumstances under which DNA samples may be collected, stored, and analyzed, and genetic information may be collected, stored, analyzed, and disclosed, to define the rights of individuals and persons with respect to genetic information, to define the responsibilities of persons with respect to genetic information, to protect individuals and families from genetic discrimination, to establish uniform rules that protect individual genetic privacy, and to establish effective mechanisms to enforce the rights and responsibilities established under this Act.

S. 436

At the request of Mr. ROTH, the name of the Senator from Texas [Mrs. HUTCHISON] was added as a cosponsor of S. 436, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the

establishment of an intercity passenger rail trust fund, and for other purposes.

S. 479

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from North Dakota [Mr. DORGAN] was added as a cosponsor of S. 479, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide estate tax relief, and for other purposes.

S. 496

At the request of Mr. CHAFEE, the names of the Senator from West Virginia [Mr. ROCKEFELLER], the Senator from New York [Mr. D'AMATO], the Senator from Indiana [Mr. COATS], and the Senator from North Carolina [Mr. HELMS] were added as cosponsors of S. 496, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a credit against income tax to individuals who rehabilitate historic homes or who are the first purchasers of rehabilitated historic homes for use as a principal residence.

S. 498

At the request of Mr. CHAFEE, the name of the Senator from Vermont [Mr. JEFFORDS] was added as a cosponsor of S. 498, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow an employee to elect to receive taxable cash compensation in lieu of non-taxable parking benefits, and for other purposes.

S. 499

At the request of Mr. CHAFEE, the names of the Senator from Virginia [Mr. WARNER] and the Senator from West Virginia [Mr. ROCKEFELLER] were added as cosponsors of S. 499, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an election to exclude from the gross estate of a decedent the value of certain land subject to a qualified conservation easement, and to make technical changes to alternative valuation rules.

S. 520

At the request of Mr. FEINGOLD, the name of the Senator from Oregon [Mr. WYDEN] was added as a cosponsor of S. 520, a bill to terminate the F/A-18 E/F aircraft program.

S. 536

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Oregon [Mr. WYDEN] 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.

S. 537

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the name of the Senator from Georgia [Mr. COVERDELL] 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.

S. 575

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from New York

[Mr. D'AMATO] and the Senator from New Mexico [Mr. BINGAMAN] were added as cosponsors of S. 575, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the deduction for health insurance costs of self-employed individuals.

S. 594

At the request of Mr. MCCONNELL, the names of the Senator from Utah [Mr. HATCH] and the Senator from Indiana [Mr. LUGAR] were added as cosponsors of S. 594, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the tax treatment of qualified State tuition programs.

S. 674

At the request of Mr. CHAFEE, the name of the Senator from South Carolina [Mr. HOLLINGS] was added as a cosponsor of S. 674, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to encourage States to expand health coverage of low-income children and pregnant women and to provide funds to promote outreach efforts to enroll eligible children under health insurance programs.

S. 690

At the request of Mr. BREAUX, the name of the Senator from Indiana [Mr. LUGAR] was added as a cosponsor of S. 690, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve preventive benefits under the Medicare Program.

S. 713

At the request of Mr. DEWINE, the names of the Senator from Maine [Ms. COLLINS] and the Senator from Mississippi [Mr. COCHRAN] were added as cosponsors of S. 713, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to allow for additional deferred effective dates for approval of applications under the new drugs provisions, and for other purposes.

S. 734

At the request of Mr. BREAUX, the name of the Senator from Michigan [Mr. ABRAHAM] was added as a cosponsor of S. 734, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to make certain changes to hospice care under the Medicare Program.

S. 756

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from New York [Mr. MOYNIHAN] was added as a cosponsor of S. 756, a bill to provide for the health, education, and welfare of children under 6 years of age.

S. 779

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from Georgia [Mr. CLELAND] was added as a cosponsor of S. 779, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to increase the number of physicians that complete a fellowship in geriatric medicine and geriatric psychiatry, and for other purposes.

S. 780

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from Georgia [Mr. CLELAND] was added as a cosponsor of

S. 780, a bill to amend title III of the Public Health Service Act to include each year of fellowship training in geriatric medicine or geriatric psychiatry as a year of obligated service under the National Health Corps Loan Repayment Program.

S. 832

At the request of Mr. KOHL, the name of the Senator from Florida [Mr. MACK] was added as a cosponsor of S. 832, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the deductibility of business meal expenses for individuals who are subject to Federal limitations on hours of service.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 21

At the request of Mr. MACK, the names of the Senator from Kentucky [Mr. MCCONNELL] and the Senator from Delaware [Mr. ROTH] were added as cosponsors of Senate Concurrent Resolution 21, a concurrent resolution congratulating the residents of Jerusalem and the people of Israel on the 30th anniversary of the reunification of that historic city, and for other purposes.

SENATE RESOLUTION 80

At the request of Mr. FEINGOLD, the name of the Senator from Oregon [Mr. WYDEN] was added as a cosponsor of Senate Resolution 80, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding Department of Defense plans to carry out three new tactical fighter aircraft programs concurrently.

SENATE RESOLUTION 85

At the request of Mr. GREGG, the name of the Senator from Hawaii [Mr. INOUE] 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.

SENATE RESOLUTION 87

At the request of Mr. THURMOND, his name was added as a cosponsor of Senate Resolution 87, a resolution commemorating the 15th anniversary of the construction and dedication of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

SENATE RESOLUTION 97

At the request of Mr. SHELBY, his name was added as a cosponsor of Senate Resolution 97, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the President should designate the month of June 1997, the 50th anniversary of the Marshall Plan, as George C. Marshall month, and for other purposes.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS

COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I would like to announce for information of the Senate and the public that a Executive Session of the Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources will be held on Wednesday, June 11, 1997, 9:30 a.m., in SD-430 of the Senate Dirksen Building. The following are on the agenda to be considered: budget reconciliation; S. 830, the Food and Drug Administration Modernization