

By Mr. TORRICELLI:

S. 911. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit against income tax to individuals who are active participants in neighborhood crime watch organizations which actively involve the community in the reduction of local crime; to the Committee on Finance.

TAKING BACK OUR NEIGHBORHOODS CRIME
FIGHTING ACT

Mr. TORRICELLI. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Taking Back Our Neighborhoods Crime Fighting Act. This bill has already been introduced in the House by Representative BOB FILNER, and I thank him for his efforts in crafting this innovative and exciting approach to neighborhood crime fighting.

Mr. President, this is a very simple bill. Our legislation would provide a \$50 tax credit to any American who actively participates in a Neighborhood Watch or other local crime fighting program. These local, citizen-run initiatives have proven extremely effective in reducing crime and restoring confidence in the safety of our local communities.

Neighborhood Watch programs empower residents and bring neighbors together, creating a renewed sense of community, and common purpose. Working hand in hand with law enforcement, these groups are a vital part of the community policing which has been so successful in dramatically reducing crime over the last few years. It is no wonder that this tax credit proposal has received support from hundreds of public officials, including dozens of big city mayors, local sheriffs, police chiefs, and district attorneys.

Mr. President, by providing this tax credit, we focus attention on the benefits of these local programs, and we reward those who already participate with a small token of appreciation. But more importantly, we also provide one more incentive to those who may have been reluctant to join a local group, or perhaps just didn't take the time to look into it. We hope that this additional incentive will create the final push needed to encourage everyone in our communities to join in the effort to stop crime and take back our streets.

Even if people intend to go just a couple of times in order to qualify for the tax credit, I am certain that many of them will become active and lifelong participants once they are exposed to what Neighborhood Watch is all about.

Mr. President, just a few months ago I traveled to a Newark townhouse and paid a visit to a courageous woman named Donna Cherry. Tired of the violence and the gunshots plaguing her neighborhood, Donna Cherry took matters into her own hands and formed a neighborhood watch organization to protect her community. Starting within her own townhouse complex, she and the group soon set their sights on surrounding areas. Members of the group patrol the streets, log and report suspicious activity, and plan youth conferences to educate local children

about cooperation and making the right choices. By their actions—indeed simply by their visible presence on the streets of their community—these people undoubtedly deter crime.

When I visited that neighborhood in March, I assured the group that the Federal Government would always stand behind efforts within communities to cooperate in the fight against crime—valiant efforts to save communities should not fail for lack of resources. We already provide indirect Federal funding for many of these groups, but funding is useless without the people to use it efficiently. Our bill will provide one more tool for community leaders like Donna Cherry to recruit new members and clean up our communities.

Mr. President, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this economical and exciting bill to encourage local crime fighting. Every step we take towards encouraging citizen action is a step toward the reduction of crime in our communities. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 911

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Taking Back Our Neighborhoods Crime Fighting Act".

SEC. 2. CREDIT FOR INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE ACTIVE PARTICIPANTS IN NEIGHBORHOOD CRIME WATCH ORGANIZATIONS WHICH ACTIVELY INVOLVE THE COMMUNITY IN THE REDUCTION OF LOCAL CRIME.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subpart A of part IV of subchapter A of chapter 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to nonrefundable personal credits) is amended by inserting after section 23 the following new section:

"SEC. 24. ACTIVE PARTICIPANTS IN NEIGHBORHOOD CRIME WATCH ORGANIZATIONS WHICH ACTIVELY INVOLVE THE COMMUNITY IN THE REDUCTION OF LOCAL CRIME.

"(a) GENERAL RULE.—In the case of an individual who is an active participant during the taxable year in a neighborhood crime watch organization which actively involves the community in the reduction of local crime, there shall be allowed as a credit against the tax imposed by this chapter for such taxable year the amount of \$50.

"(b) ACTIVE PARTICIPANT.—For purposes of subsection (a), the term 'active participant' means any individual who attends during the taxable year at least 2 meetings of an organization referred to in subsection (a) at which instruction is given by a local law enforcement officer on how individuals may best and lawfully—

"(1) protect themselves and their community against crime, and

"(2) assist local law enforcement officials in preventing crime."

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for such subpart A is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 23 the following new item:

"Sec. 24 Active participants in neighborhood crime watch organizations which actively involve the community in the reduction of local crime."

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply

to taxable years beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act.

By Mr. BOND:

S. 912. A bill to provide for certain military retirees and dependents a special medicare part B enrollment period during which the late enrollment penalty is waived and a special medigap open period during which no underwriting is permitted; to the Committee on Finance.

MEDICARE PART B LEGISLATION

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce a measure that would provide for certain military retirees a special Medicare part B enrollment period during which the late enrollment penalty is waived.

Major changes in the Department of Defense's [DOD] health care delivery system, including the introduction of a managed care program called TRICARE and the closing or downsizing of many military medical facilities, have hindered access to health care services for older military retirees, or those aged 65 and over. It is important to note that the TRICARE Program was designed for active duty and CHAMPUS eligible beneficiaries and the overall intent is for those aged 65 and older to receive their health care through the Medicare Program.

Many of our country's military retirees moved close to bases in order to receive care from these facilities. Due to the fact that they had medical services available on base, before the implementation of TRICARE and base closures, many of these retirees did not sign up for medicare part B. Once their access was restricted, many elected to choose part B after the enrollment period expired and were therefore slapped with a penalty for signing up late. Others chose not to sign up at all because they were unable to afford the late enrollment penalty.

Thus, waiving the part B penalty for those retirees who dedicated their lives to serving our country is a matter of justice. There was no way that military retirees could have anticipated the changes that have occurred within the DOD's health care delivery system.

Further, these changes were completely out of their control.

Mr. President, the Senate must act now. This measure rectifies the unfairness inherent in the Medicare part B penalty on certain military retirees and honors our Nation's commitment to those individuals who selflessly served our country through many years of military service. I look forward to the Senate's consideration of this proposal.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 112

At the request of Mr. MOYNIHAN, the name of the Senator from California [Mrs. BOXER] was added as a cosponsor

of S. 112, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to regulate the manufacture, importation, and sale of ammunition capable of piercing police body armor.

S. 363

At the request of Mr. HOLLINGS, the name of the Senator from West Virginia [Mr. BYRD] 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.

S. 370

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the names of the Senator from Illinois [Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN], and the Senator from Massachusetts [Mr. KERRY] were added as cosponsors 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 Massachusetts [Mr. KERRY] 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. 387

At the request of Mr. SARBANES, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 387, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide equity to exports of software.

S. 415

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the name of the Senator from Maine [Ms. COLLINS] was added as a cosponsor of S. 415, a bill to amend the Medicare program under title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve rural health services, and for other purposes.

S. 476

At the request of Mr. KERRY, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 476, a bill to provide for the establishment of not less than 2,500 Boys and Girls Clubs of America facilities by the year 2000.

S. 496

At the request of Mr. CHAFEE, the name of the Senator from New York [Mr. MOYNIHAN] was added as a cosponsor 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. 611

At the request of Mr. MACK, the name of the Senator from Nebraska [Mr.

HAGEL] was added as a cosponsor of S. 611, a bill to require the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System to focus on price stability in establishing monetary policy to ensure the stable, long-term purchasing power of the currency, to repeal the Full Employment and Balanced Growth Act of 1978, and for other purposes.

S. 646

At the request of Mr. FORD, the name of the Senator from Arkansas [Mr. HUTCHINSON] was added as a cosponsor of S. 646, a bill to ensure the competitiveness of the United States textile and apparel industry.

S. 649

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the names of the Senator from Alabama [Mr. SHELBY] and the Senator from Illinois [Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN] were added as cosponsors of S. 649, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage of bone mass measurements for certain individuals under part B of the Medicare program.

S. 720

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Illinois [Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN] was added as a cosponsor of S. 720, a bill to amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to expand and make permanent the availability of cost-effective, comprehensive acute and long-term care services to frail elderly persons through Programs of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) under the Medicare and Medicaid programs.

S. 755

At the request of Mr. CAMPBELL, the name of the Senator from South Carolina [Mr. HOLLINGS] was added as a cosponsor of S. 755, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to restore the provisions of chapter 76 of that title (relating to missing persons) as in effect before the amendments made by the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1997 and to make other improvements to that chapter.

S. 766

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the names of the Senator from Virginia [Mr. ROBB] and the Senator from Nevada [Mr. BRYAN] were added as cosponsors of S. 766, a bill to require equitable coverage of prescription contraceptive drugs and devices, and contraceptive services under health plans.

S. 836

At the request of Mr. ABRAHAM, the name of the Senator from Connecticut [Mr. LIEBERMAN] was added as a cosponsor of S. 836, a bill to offer small businesses certain protections from litigation excesses.

S. 852

At the request of Mr. LOTT, the name of the Senator from Alabama [Mr. SHELBY] was added as a cosponsor of S. 852, a bill to establish nationally uniform requirements regarding the titling and registration of salvage, non-repairable, and rebuilt vehicles.

S. 862

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Minnesota

[Mr. GRAMS] was added as a cosponsor of S. 862, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to change the payment system for health maintenance organizations and competitive medical plans.

S. 874

At the request of Mr. FAIRCLOTH, the name of the Senator from New York [Mr. D'AMATO] was added as a cosponsor of S. 874, a bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to provide for an exemption to the requirement that all Federal payments be made by electronic funds transfer.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 31

At the request of Mr. HELMS, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire [Mr. SMITH] was added as a cosponsor of Senate Joint Resolution 31, a joint resolution disapproving the extension of nondiscriminatory treatment (most-favored-nation treatment) to the products of the People's Republic of China.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED

THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS REFORM AND RESTRUCTURING ACT OF 1997

INOUE (AND OTHERS) AMENDMENT NO. 376

(Ordered to lie on the table.)

Mr. INOUE (for himself, Mr. HATCH, Mr. HOLLINGS, and Mr. AKAKA) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by them to the bill (S. 903) to consolidate the foreign affairs agencies of the United States, to authorize appropriations for the Department of State for fiscal years 1998 and 1999, and to provide for reform of the United Nations, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the end of section 1301(a) of the bill, insert the following new paragraph:

(6) "Center for Cultural and Technical Interchange between East and West", \$18,000,000 for the fiscal year 1998 and \$15,000,000 for the fiscal year 1999.

DURBIN AMENDMENT NO. 377

Mr. DURBIN proposed an amendment to the bill, S. 903, supra; as follows:

At the end of title XVI, add the following (and conform the table of contents accordingly):

SEC. . SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING UNITED STATES CITIZENS HELD IN PRISONS IN PERU.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) The Government of Peru has made substantial progress in the effort to restrict the flow of illicit drugs from Peru to the United States.

(2) The Government of Peru has cooperated greatly with the United States Government to stop individuals and organizations seeking to transport illicit drugs from Peru to the United States and to jail such drug exporters.

(3) Any individual engaging in such exporting of illicit drugs and convicted in a court of law should face stiff penalties.

(4) Any such individual should also have a right to timely legal procedures.

(5) Two United States citizens, Jennifer Davis and Krista Barnes, were arrested in