By Mr. DOMENICI:

S. 947. An original bill to provide for reconciliation pursuant to section 104(a) of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 1998; from the Committee on the Budget; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. BREAUX):

S. 948. A bill to amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to improve the provisions relating to pension rights demonstration projects; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

By Mr. ROTH:

S. 949. An original bill to provide revenue reconciliation pursuant to section 104(b) of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 1998; from the Committee on Finance; placed on the calendar.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. SPECTER (for himself, Mr. SANTORUM, and Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN):

S. Con. Res. 34. A concurrent resolution recognizing the importance of African-American music to global culture and calling on the people of the United States to study, reflect on, and celebrate African-American music; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. SPECTER (for himself and Mr. SANTORUM):

S. 943. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to clarify the application of the act popularly known as the ''Death on the High Seas Act'' to aviation accidents; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

DEATH ON THE HIGH SEAS REFORM ACT

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I have sought recognition today to introduce legislation which will provide equitable treatment for families of passengers involved in international aviation disasters. I am very pleased that my colleague, Senator SANTORUM, is joining me as an original cosponsor of this bill. Companion legislation is being introduced in the House of Representatives by Congressman JOE MCDADE and 10 other members of the Pennsylvania congressional delegation.

As my colleagues know, the devastating crash of Trans World Airlines flight 800 on July 17, 1996 took the lives of 230 individuals. Perhaps the community hardest hit by this tragedy was Montoursville, PA, which lost 16 students and 5 adult chaperones from Montoursville High School who were participating in a long-awaited French Club trip to France.

It has been brought to my attention by constituents who include parents of the Montoursville children lost on TWA 800 that their ability to seek redress in court is hampered by a 1920 shipping law known as the Death on the High Seas Act, which was originally intended to cover the widows of seafarers, not the relatives of jumbo-jet passengers embarking on international air travel.

Under the Warsaw Convention of 1929, airlines do not have to pay more than $75,000 to families of passengers who died on an international flight. However, domestic air crashes are covered by U.S. law, which allow for greater damages if negligent conduct is proven in court.

The Warsaw Convention limit on liability can be waived if the passengers' families show that there was intentional misconduct which led to the crash. This is where the Death on the High Seas Act comes into play. This law states that where the death of a person is caused by wrongful act, neglect, or default occurring on the high seas more than 1 marine league which is 3 miles from U.S. shores, a personal representative of a decedent can sue for pecuniary loss sustained by the decedent's wife, child, husband, parent, or dependent relative. The act, however, does not allow families of the victims of TWA 800 or other aviation incidents to obtain other types of damages, such as recovery for loss of society or punitive damages, no matter how great the wrongful act or neglect by an airline or airplane manufacturer.

My legislation would amend Federal law to provide that the Death on the High Seas Act shall not affect any remedy existing at common law or under State law with respect to any injury or death arising out of an aviation incident occurring after January 1, 1995. In effect, it would clarify that Federal aviation law does not limit remedies in the same manner as maritime law, and permits international flights to be governed by the same laws as domestic flights.

My legislation is not about blaming an airline or airplane manufacturer. It is not about multimillion dollar damage awards. It is about ensuring access to justice and clarifying the rights of families of victims of plane crashes such as TWA 800. I am open to exploring with my colleagues the possibility of expanding the retroactive relief provided in this legislation, bearing in mind that many of the plaintiffs in cases arising out of previous airplane disasters, such as the Korean Air Lines 007 incident in 1983, have agreed to out-of-court settlements.

The need for this legislation is suggested by the most recent Supreme Court decision on this issue, *Zicherman* v. *Korean Airlines*, 116 S. Ct. 629 (1996), in which a unanimous Court held that the Death on the High Seas Act of 1920 applies to determine damages in airline accidents that occur more than 3 miles from shore. By contrast, the Court has ruled that State tort law applies to determine damages in accidents that occur in waters 3 miles or less from our shores. *Yamaha* v. *Calhoun*, (1996 WL 5518)

I believe it is inequitable to make such a distinction at the 3 mile limit in civil aviation cases where the underlying statute predates international air travel. I would note that the Gore Commission on Aviation Safety and Security noted in its final report this February that ''certain statutes and international treaties, established over 50 years ago, historically have not provided equitable treatment for families of passengers involved in international aviation disasters. Specifically, the Death on the High Seas Act of 1920 and the Warsaw Convention of 1929, although designed to aid families of victims of maritime and aviation disasters, have inhibited the ability of family members of international aviation disasters from obtaining fair compensation.''

I would further note that in an October 1996 brief filed at the Department of Transportation by the Air Transport Association, the trade association of U.S. airlines, there is an acknowledgment that the Supreme Court in Zicherman did not apparently consider 49 U.S.C. 40120 (a) and (c), which preserve the application of State and common law remedies in tort cases and also prohibit the application of Federal shipping laws to aviation. My legislation amends 49 U.S.C. 40120(c) to clarify that nothing in the Death on the High Seas Act restricts the availability of remedies in suits arising out of aviation disasters.

At a time when so many Americans live, work, and travel abroad, taking part in the global economy or seeing the cultural riches of foreign lands, they and their families should know that the American civil justice system will be accessible to the fullest extent if the unthinkable occurs.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and look forward to working with them to ensure its ultimate enactment during the 105th Congress.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 943

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

SECTION 1. DEATH ON THE HIGH SEAS ACT.

Section 40120(c) of title 49, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''(c) ADDITIONAL REMEDIES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this part or the Act entitled 'An Act relating to the maintenance of actions for death on the high seas and other navigable waters' approved March 30, 1920 (46 U.S.C. App. 761 et seq.), popularly known as the 'Death on the High Seas Act', shall, with respect to any injury or death arising out of any covered aviation incident, affect any remedy—

''(A) under common law; or

''(B) under State law.

''(2) ADDITIONAL REMEDIES.—Any remedy provided for under this part or the Act referred to in paragraph (1) for an injury or death arising out of any covered aviation incident shall be in addition to any of the remedies described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (1).

''(3) COVERED AVIATION INCIDENT DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term 'covered aviation incident' means an aviation disaster occurring on or after January 1, 1995.''.

By Mr. D'AMATO:

S. 944. A bill to require the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to establish procedures for requesting waivers on behalf of qualified international medical graduates of the 2-year foreign residency requirement; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

THE COMMUNITY HEALTH CARE ACCESS ACT OF 1997

• Mr. D'AMATO. Mr. President, I introduce the Community Health Care Access Act of 1997. This act will help ensure that the residents of our inner-city and rural areas, in New York and across the Nation, will have increased access to affordable health care. This legislation will establish a procedure within the Department of Housing and Urban Development [HUD] for foreign medical students, who are granted temporary residency status in order to complete their medical education, to retain their legal status in exchange for practicing in areas with serious physician shortages.

Mr. President, throughout my home State of New York, there are numerous inner-city and rural communities which face a real crisis in the availability of qualified physicians. Too often, these communities face enormous difficulty attracting physicians to help serve the needs of their residents. Physicians are desperately needed to help cope with the growing incidence of drug-resistant tuberculosis, HIV, and other infectious diseases, as well as other critical health care needs such as pre-natal and neo-natal care.

The act I am introducing today will help address this crisis by requiring the Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development to request a J–1 visa waiver for any qualified medical professional who agrees to practice in an underserved area. This bill will allow hundreds of qualified doctors who are willing and able to serve in these communities to partner with existing health care facilities in order to serve needy populations who lack access to affordable health care.

This legislation will help hospitals which are located in areas which are designated by the Department of Health and Human Services [HHS] as ''Health Professional Shortage Areas'' to draw upon a pool of doctors who are among the best and the brightest in the world. Currently, there is a severe shortage of U.S. medical residents who are willing to serve in these areas. These urban and rural areas often have large uninsured populations with a variety of critical unmet health needs.

In a nation with the greatest health care system in the world, there exist communities which are unfairly denied access to affordable quality health care. This disparity can be seen both in isolated rural areas and in the high-impact urban cores of some of our largest cities. Too often, the members of these communities have been left out of the American dream. It is intolerable that certain parts of many American cities are experiencing higher infant mortality rates than many third-world countries.

The costs of providing health care increase as hospitals struggle to attract qualified physicians. As costs rise, the unmet health care needs of local residents are exacerbated. Thus, the supply shortage of qualified physicians creates a vicious cycle in which local residents are trapped.

My legislation will help break this cycle by increasing the availability of doctors in underserved areas while reducing health care costs.

Let me briefly provide some background information. Under the J–1 visa program, foreign medical students are temporarily admitted to the United States in order to complete their medical education and clinical training. Upon completion of their education, these students are required to leave the United States for a minimum of 2 years before they can become eligible for an extension of their legal residency status. However, current law provides an exception to this 2-year foreign residency requirement if the medical graduate agrees to practice in a designated ''Health Professional Shortage Area.''

Congress reaffirmed its commitment to the J–1 program, as well as to the waiver of the 2-year foreign residency requirement for international medical graduates who agree to practice in underserved areas, when it passed the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996—Public Law 104–208. This Act was signed into law on September 30, 1996.

Mr. President, in December 1996, the General Accounting Office [GAO] released a report assessing the J–1 visa waiver program. This report, entitled ''Foreign Physicians: Exchange Visitor Program Becoming Major Route to Practicing in U.S. Underserved Areas'' noted the growing use of the visa waiver process and made several recommendations for improvement.

In conjunction with the reforms enacted last year as part of the Immigration Reform Act, the legislation I introduce today will effectively implement several of the recommendations made by the GAO. As noted in the report, last year's Immigration Reform Act required Federal agencies to utilize the same criteria for approval that previously applied to State health departments seeking such waivers. These new safeguards required physicians to: First, agree to work for at least 3 years for the health facility named in the application; second, work in an area designated by the Secretary of HHS as having a shortage of health care professionals; third, commence work within 90 days of receipt of the waiver; and fourth, maintain a nonimmigrant status until the completion of the 3-year commitment term. In addition, physicians who fail to comply with the terms of their agreements would face a termination of their residency status and a loss of eligibility to apply for legal immigrant status in the future.

This legislation would further improve compliance with the waiver requirements. This act will address the GAO report's finding that Federal agencies need to improve coordination in granting waivers. The act requires HUD to report to HHS on the number and location of physicians requesting waivers. I fully expect the Department of Health and Human Services to utilize this information in its annual designations of physician underserved areas. In addition, the legislation would require the sponsoring hospitals to provide HUD with periodic notices as to the compliance of physicians with the terms of the waiver agreements. Hospitals will also be required to provide HUD with immediate notice of the termination or cessation of compliance with these terms.

The addition of these reforms will ensure the effective continuation of this vital program. The GAO noted that, as of January 1, 1996, there were approximately 1,374 physicians admitted to practice in underserved areas through the J–1 visa waiver program. These physicians served in 49 States and the District of Columbia. According to a survey conducted by the General Accounting Office, approximately 40 percent of these physicians served in nonprofit community or migrant health care centers. Almost all of these physicians were practicing in primary care specialties. More than half were practicing in internal medicine. The other major specialties were pediatrics and family practice.

Mr. President, it is important to note the outstanding caliber and the unique qualifications of the doctors participating in this program. In order to receive a J–1 visa, many of the participants were accepted into medical universities and world-renowned teaching hospitals with rigorous acceptance standards. In some cases, the admitted physicians are often specifically recruited by particular health facilities on the basis of their superior foreign language skills and cultural familiarity. For instance, the GAO cited a migrant health center in eastern Washington which actively recruited native-Spanish speakers for its program.

HUD plays a critical role in the reduction of health care costs. The agency operates a number of programs which benefit hospitals, nursing homes, and other health care organizations. The role played by HUD's hospital insurance program, for instance, is absolutely essential for many health care institutions in obtaining private market financing for hospital construction, renovation, and modernization. The credit enhancement provided by this program results in a tangible reduction in health care costs at little or no cost to the taxpayer.

I believe it is essential for Congress to continue to act expeditiously to address the valid concerns raised by the

GAO. At the same time, we must remain cognizant of the basic soundness of the waiver program and strive to improve and reform it. The waiver process has made basic health care available to many communities with desperate needs.

Mr. President, in conclusion I would emphasize the hardships which face many of our Nation's urban and rural residents as a result of the crisis in health care availability. The J–1 visa waiver program is an important tool to address these needs. The reforms to the current waiver process are also critical to ensuring that any noncompliance within the program is eradicated. I urge my colleagues to support the Community Health Care Access Act of 1997 in order to ensure that the waiver program remains a viable option in addressing our country's local health care needs for years to come.

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. 944

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 ''Community Health Care Access Act of 1997''.

SEC. 2. PROCEDURES.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Pursuant to section 212(e) and section 214(l) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(e) and 8 U.S.C. 1184(l)), the Secretary shall establish procedures under which an individual may apply to the Secretary to request the Director of the United States Information Agency to recommend a waiver of the foreign residence requirement under section 212(e) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(e)) for that individual.

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—The procedures under subsection (a) shall require the Secretary to issue a request on behalf of an applicant whenever the applicant—

(1) meets the requirements under section 214(l) (8 U.S.C. 1184(l)) of the Immigration and Nationality Act; and

(2) meets such other terms and conditions established by the Secretary, which may include a requirement for the applicant to include as part of the waiver application a written agreement on the part of the health facility or health care organization named in the application to provide the Secretary with—

(A) periodic notification of the applicant's continued employment; and

(B) immediate notification of a failure on the part of the applicant to comply with the terms of the contract between the applicant and the health facility or health care organization.

SEC. 3. HHS REPORTING REQUIREMENT.

At least biannually, the Secretary shall submit a report to the Secretary of Health and Human Services setting forth the number of requests issued under section 2 and identifying the geographic areas in which aliens serve under those requests.

SEC. 4. IMPLEMENTATION.

Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall issue final regulations to implement the provisions of the Act. Such regulations shall be issued only after notice and opportunity for public comment pursuant to the provisions of section 553 of title 5, United States Code, regarding notice or opportunity for comment.

SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) APPLICANT.—The term ''applicant'' means an alien as described in clause (iii) of section 212(e) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(e)).

(2) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development.●

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. BREAUX):

S. 948. A bill to amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to improve the provisions relating to pension rights demonstration projects; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

THE PENSION ASSISTANCE AND COUNSELING ACT OF 1997

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, today I am introducing legislation to achieve one of my primary objectives as chairman of the Special Committee on Aging: to help workers and retirees achieve a secure retirement.

As with any discussion about retirement planning, it is the norm to point to the ''three-legged stool'' of retirement—Social Security, personal savings, and a pension. Unfortunately, the legs of the stool may be getting warped.

Just this week, the Aging Committee confronted an issue that is affecting hundreds of thousands of workers and retirees—miscalculation of their hard-earned pensions. This hearing was intended to raise consumer awareness about the need to be proactive about policing your pension. As one of our witnesses said, ''never assume your pension is error-free.''

While it is impossible to know how many pension payments and lump sum distributions may be miscalculated, we know the number is on the rise. An audit conducted by the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation—focused on plans that were voluntarily terminated—showed that the number of people underpaid has increased from 2.8 to 8.2 percent. Anecdotal evidence suggests that the number of people receiving lump sum distributions who end up getting shortchanged could be 15 to 20 percent. Those numbers are very disturbing. The practical impact is that retirees, and young and old workers alike, are losing dollars that they have earned.

Workers and retirees need to be aware that they are at risk. They can help themselves by knowing how their benefits are calculated, that they should keep all the documents their employer gives them, and to start asking questions at a young age—don't wait until the eve of retirement.

Unfortunately, policing your pension is not easy. Employers are trying to do a good job but they are confronted with one of the most complex regulatory schemes in the Federal Government. Pensions operate in a complex universe of laws, rules, and regulations. Over the last 20 years, 16 laws have been enacted that require employers to amend their pension plans and then notify their workers of changes. It is not a simple task. If employers have problems trying to comply with Federal requirements, it is understandable that workers and retirees are having trouble getting a grasp on how their pension works.

Trying to educate yourself about pensions implies that someone is out there providing information to those who need it. That is where the legislation that I am introducing today comes in. People who are concerned about their pensions—whether it's an unintentional mistake or outright fraud—often don't have anywhere to go for expert advice.

Fortunately, there is an answer. Already authorized by the Older Americans Act, seven pension counseling projects have assisted thousands of people around this country with their pension problems. These projects provide information and counseling to retirees, and young and old workers in a very cost-effective manner.

Each project received $75,000 of Federal assistance over a 17-month period. As is normal for other programs under the Older Americans Act, these dollars were supplemented by money raised from private sources. During their operation, the projects recovered nearly $2 million in pension benefits and payments. That is a return of $4 for every $1 spent.

My legislation contains two key provisions: First, it updates the Older Americans Act to encourage the creation of more pension counseling projects. Seven projects are not enough to reach the 80 million people who are covered by pensions in this country. Hopefully, more counseling projects can be established to provide more regionally comprehensive assistance.

Second, the legislation would create an 800 number that people could call for one-stop advice on where to get assistance. Jurisdiction over pension issues is spread across three government agencies—none of which are focused on helping individuals with individual problems—especially if the problem does not seem to be a clear fiduciary breach or indicate that there may be criminal wrongdoing. An 800 number linking people to assistance will help close that gap.

I look forward to working with the Labor Subcommittee on Aging, the entity with jurisdiction over the Older Americans Act—to get these changes enacted as part of the reauthorization this year.

It is also crucial to emphasize the need for pension counseling projects with congressional appropriators. The projects have not received earmarked funding since the end of fiscal year 1996 and we simply cannot afford to lose the expertise that has been developed over the last 3½ years—especially in light of the growing concern over pension security.

My committee has been focusing on preparing for the retirement of the baby boom generation—it can be anticipated that the need for assistance with pensions will increase as that generation begins to retire. Social Security, by itself, was never intended to be the primary source of income for a retiree. A pension from an employer can prove to be a determining factor in whether retirees are able to maintain a decent standard of living. If there is no one to go for assistance to get all of the pension they have earned, their chances at a secure retirement are gloomy indeed.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 22

At the request of Mr. MOYNIHAN, the names of the Senator from South Carolina [Mr. HOLLINGS], the Senator from North Dakota [Mr. DORGAN], and the Senator from Connecticut [Mr. LIEBERMAN] were added as cosponsors of S. 22, a bill to establish a bipartisan national commission to address the year 2000 computer problem.

S. 537

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the name of the Senator from South Dakota [Mr. JOHNSON] 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. 570

At the request of Mr. NICKLES, the name of the Senator from Indiana [Mr. LUGAR] was added as a cosponsor of S. 570, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt certain small businesses from the mandatory electronic fund transfer system.

S. 738

At the request of Mrs. HUTCHISON, the name of the Senator from Ohio [Mr. DEWINE] was added as a cosponsor of S. 738, a bill to reform the statutes relating to Amtrak, to authorize appropriations for Amtrak, and for other purposes.

S. 770

At the request of Mr. NICKLES, the name of the Senator from Mississippi [Mr. COCHRAN] was added as a cosponsor of S. 770, a bill to encourage production of oil and gas within the United States by providing tax incentives, and for other purposes.

S. 832

At the request of Mr. KOHL, the name of the Senator from Arkansas [Mr. HUTCHINSON] 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.

S. 861

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from Idaho [Mr. KEMPTHORNE] was added as a cosponsor of 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.

SENATE RESOLUTION 85

At the request of Mr. GREGG, the names of the Senator from Oregon [Mr. SMITH] and the Senator from Alaska [Mr. STEVENS] were added as cosponsors 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.

AMENDMENT NO. 420

At the request of Mr. COCHRAN the name of the Senator from Indiana [Mr. LUGAR] was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 420 proposed to S. 936, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 1998 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. THURMOND his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 420 proposed to S. 936, supra.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 34—RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF AFRICAN-AMERICAN MUSIC

Mr. SPECTER (for himself, Mr. SANTORUM, and Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

S. CON. RES. 34

Whereas artists, songwriters, producers, engineers, educators, executives, and other professionals in the music industry provide inspiration and leadership through their creation of music, dissemination of educational information, and financial contributions to charitable and community-based organizations;

Whereas African-American music is indigenous to the United States and originates from African genres of music;

Whereas African-American genres of music such as gospel, blues, jazz, rhythm and blues, rap, and hip-hop have their roots in the African-American experience;

Whereas African-American music has a pervasive influence on dance, fashion, language, art, literature, cinema, media, advertisements, and other aspects of culture;

Whereas the prominence of African-American music in the 20th century has reawakened interest in the legacy and heritage of the art form of African-American music;

Whereas African-American music embodies the strong presence of, and significant contributions made by, African-Americans in the music industry and society as a whole;

Whereas the multibillion dollar African-American music industry contributes greatly to the domestic and worldwide economy; and

Whereas African-American music has a positive impact on and broad appeal to diverse groups, both nationally and internationally: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—

(1) recognizes the importance of the contributions of African-American music to global culture and the positive impact of African-American music on global commerce; and

(2) calls on the people of the United States to take the opportunity to study, reflect on, and celebrate the majesty, vitality, and importance of African-American music.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, this resolution, being cosponsored by my distinguished colleague from Pennsylvania, Senator SANTORUM, and our distinguished colleague from Illinois, Senator MOSELEY-BRAUN, is a resolution to recognize the importance of African-American music to global culture and to our Nation.

This is especially important because this month of June is celebrated as Black Music Month, and the designation is particularly important to the city of Philadelphia, which is the home of the International Association of African-American Music.

At the conclusion of the Civil War, military band instruments were abundant and could be purchased for petty cash or labor. It was during this time that the first age of African-American music, Ragtime, was born, and when Eubie Blake composed his famous ''Charleston Rag.'' Jazz artists flourished later, including W.C. Handy, Duke Ellington, and Count Basie. Dozens of African-American female singers contributed their talents as well—among them Bessie Smith, followed by Ella Fitzgerald.

Today, African-American music's universal popularity and appeal is evidenced through the appreciation of other cultures. Non-African-American musical artists, such as Elvis Presley, the Beatles, and Bonnie Raitt, have cited African-American artists as inspiration for their own music. Globally, African-American music is appreciated for its impact on language, dance, art, and media, as well as social and cultural values.

Its impact on our Nation's economy is just as great. The African-American music industry supports and creates countless jobs worldwide, from publishing companies to concert and club venues to advertisers. The Recording Industry Association of America reports that, in 1995, combined sales of what it terms ''urban music''—including soul, dance, funk, and reggae—amounted to $1.4 billion. Furthermore, if jazz, gospel, and rap are combined—all genres in which there are significant African-American contributions—the total rises to nearly $3 billion.

The work of Philadelphia's International Association of African-American Music helps to share the virtues of African-American music with people around the world. This resolution recognizes the work of those who help foster understanding of African-American culture through music, including the generations of African-American musicians whose talents have enriched America.

It is my hope that the Senate will adopt this resolution. A companion resolution has been introduced in the