

VA-HUD APPROPRIATIONS BILL

• Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I want to thank Senator BOND, Senator MIKULSKI, and all the members of the VA-HUD Appropriations Subcommittee for all their hard work in bringing this bill to the floor so quickly and with such widespread support. I want to add my voice to the many others offering you congratulations for such a good product.

I appreciate the understanding and expertise both of you bring to this bill. Your sensitivity to the need to create new affordable housing and homeownership opportunities serves every Member of the Senate well.

Unfortunately, no amount of good intentions and hard work can make up for the basic lack of funding for housing programs in this bill. While the bill maintains funding for most crucial programs, existing funding levels will not really solve the housing problems we face in this country.

Let us take a moment to put the problem into a broader context. There are about 16.5 million families that are eligible for housing assistance in America. Yet, only 4.3 million of these families receive any housing assistance whatsoever. This includes households living in public housing, assisted housing, housing built with the tax credit and HOME funds.

Of the 12 million unassisted families, about 5.5 million are faced with desperate housing needs, yet are receiving no help at all from the Federal Government.

These families are paying over half their incomes every month to keep a roof over their heads. Or, they live in housing that is falling down around them. These families teeter on the edge of homelessness. One unanticipated problem—a temporary layoff, an illness of a parent or child, even an unexpected car repair bill—can force these families to choose between paying the rent and buying groceries.

The committee did a good job of addressing many competing needs and interests that go far beyond housing programs. But they have simply not been given enough resources to address the larger need for adequate affordable housing.

The fact is, we are facing a likely reduction in the total affordable housing stock in America. We expect about 100,000 units of public housing to be demolished in the next several years. Private owners of some assisted housing are likely to prepay their subsidized mortgages to get out from under the affordable housing restrictions. Many owners of section 8 project-based housing will simply choose not to renew their contracts, eliminating some of the highest quality affordable housing stock in the inventory.

We cannot continue to go in this direction unless we are prepared to face a huge increase in the problem of homelessness. Already, in a time of low unemployment and strong economic growth, we have seen an increase in

homelessness of 5 percent, according to a Conference of Mayors study.

Mr. President, one casualty of the fiscal constraints that the committee labored within is the Low Income Housing Preservation and Homeownership Act [LIHPRH], better known as the Preservation Program. This program has preserved over 80,000 units of affordable housing permanently. Another 30,000 units in 37 States await funding. While the GAO has raised some concerns about this program, I want to make sure the facts get in the record. The average cost of preserving this housing is \$30,000 to \$33,000 per unit. This housing could not possibly be replaced for such a cheap price in my home State of Massachusetts, nor, I suspect, in many other States, either.

Given the overall reduction of affordable housing, the modest investment it would take to preserve this housing, housing that is unlikely to otherwise be replaced, is a wise investment indeed.

I urge the committee to work in conference to find some funding for this crucial program. I know Senator BOND's interest in accomplishing this goal, along with appropriate reforms to the program.

In doing so, I urge the chairman to adopt a priority for direct sales to tenants. One of the key elements of the Preservation Program has been to empower residents to participate in the decisionmaking regarding how their homes are to be preserved. Sales to the residents who live in these communities is the most direct way to achieve this important goal. It gives the tenants the opportunity to build equity, like other homeowners; it gives tenants a greater stake in the management of the property. In sum, Mr. President, it builds a bridge to the middle class for the residents of these projects. I would be happy to work with the chairman to achieve this goal.

Mr. President, I thank my colleagues for all their hard work. I support this bill and urge my colleagues to do so, as well. I will continue to work for more funding for housing programs, and look forward to the day when the chairman and ranking member are able to fully fund the needs of public housing, assisted housing, and the many other demands they face as well.●

TRIBUTE TO HAMILTON FISH

• Mr. D'AMATO. Mr. President, one year ago today, our friend and former colleague in the other body, Hamilton Fish, died here in Washington.

Ham and his forebears, statesman and patriots to a man, were gifts to our Nation's Capital from New York where they emerged from immigrant roots that were truly extraordinary in the American experience.

In the years I knew Ham, I saw reflected in his bearing, his code of life, his approach to the law and devotion to public service, a man whose very genes held rich lessons of bravery, honesty,

integrity and patriotism handed down from those who had formed this Nation, nurtured and served it since the 17th Century. And yet he never let on about the first Mayor of New York, the last Mayor of Brooklyn, a hero of the Battle of Yorktown who looks down from the nearby Rotunda's wall, the Secretary of State, the Senators, Rough Riders and Members of the House of Representatives who filled his family tree.

An impressive lineage was not what was important to him. To Ham, what one did in the time allotted by God was what mattered.

Officially, Hamilton Fish, was the 13-term Congressman from the Empire State's Hudson Valley, who from his earliest years in Congress wrestled with the turmoil of Watergate and the Vietnam war, the causes of civil rights, refugees, the environment, and a daily concern that Washington respond to and be a positive influence for his constituents and all Americans.

He was neither a "hawk" nor a "dove" in the contentious and important issues of his time, but rather an impressive "owl"—a wise owl, using head and heart, with the talons to fight a ferocious battle when needed, but possessing the sharp ears and keen eyes to recognize and counsel for the strength to be gained from collegial compromise; knowing the ways to bridge often great divides of politics and ideologies.

Ham Fish was also a very private figure in our midst. The deep love he shared with his wife and family was obvious soon after first meeting him; but the little known, almost spiritual way he approached, planned and prepared for each and every one of his days until he died, whether for legislating, trout fishing or making a favorite soup recipe, being with his grandchildren near his beloved Hudson River or meeting with the famous or not so famous, was astonishing. Hamilton Fish the private man knew each and every day was to be cherished; taken all in all, of limited number and deserving to be filled with actions and thoughts that were positive, moral and strong.

His memory will remain strong for all of us that worked with him. I hope those who are just beginning their lives of public service will take a moment today to think about Hamilton Fish of New York . . . a genuine gift to our nation.●

DEPARTMENTS OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1998

The text of the bill (H.R. 2158) making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes, as passed by the Senate on July 22, 1997, is as follows:

Resolved, That the bill from the House of Representatives (H.R. 2158) entitled "An Act making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes.", do pass with the following amendment:

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert:

That the following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes, namely:

TITLE I

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

VETERANS BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION

COMPENSATION AND PENSIONS

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For the payment of compensation benefits to or on behalf of veterans and a pilot program for disability examinations as authorized by law (38 U.S.C. 107, chapters 11, 13, 18, 51, 53, 55, and 61); pension benefits to or on behalf of veterans as authorized by law (38 U.S.C. chapters 15, 51, 53, 55, and 61; 92 Stat. 2508); and burial benefits, emergency and other officers' retirement pay, adjusted-service credits and certificates, payment of premiums due on commercial life insurance policies guaranteed under the provisions of Article IV of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act of 1940, as amended, and for other benefits as authorized by law (38 U.S.C. 107, 1312, 1977, and 2106, chapters 23, 51, 53, 55, and 61; 50 U.S.C. App. 540-548; 43 Stat. 122, 123; 45 Stat. 735; 76 Stat. 1198); \$19,932,997,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That not to exceed \$26,380,000 of the amount appropriated shall be reimbursed to "General operating expenses" and "Medical care" for necessary expenses in implementing those provisions authorized in the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990, and in the Veterans' Benefits Act of 1992 (38 U.S.C. chapters 51, 53, and 55), the funding source for which is specifically provided as the "Compensation and pensions" appropriation: Provided further, That such sums as may be earned on an actual qualifying patient basis, shall be reimbursed to "Medical facilities revolving fund" to augment the funding of individual medical facilities for nursing home care provided to pensioners as authorized by the Veterans' Benefits Act of 1992 (38 U.S.C. chapter 55).

READJUSTMENT BENEFITS

For the payment of readjustment and rehabilitation benefits to or on behalf of veterans as authorized by 38 U.S.C. chapters 21, 30, 31, 34, 35, 36, 39, 51, 53, 55, and 61, \$1,366,000,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That funds shall be available to pay any court order, court award or any compromise settlement arising from litigation involving the vocational training program authorized by section 18 of Public Law 98-77, as amended.

VETERANS INSURANCE AND INDEMNITIES

For military and naval insurance, national service life insurance, servicemen's indemnities, service-disabled veterans insurance, and veterans mortgage life insurance as authorized by 38 U.S.C. chapter 19; 70 Stat. 887; 72 Stat. 487, \$51,360,000, to remain available until expended.

VETERANS HOUSING BENEFIT PROGRAM FUND

PROGRAM ACCOUNT

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For the cost of direct and guaranteed loans, such sums as may be necessary to carry out the program, as authorized by 38 U.S.C. chapter 37, as amended: Provided, That such costs, including the cost of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional

Budget Act of 1974, as amended: Provided further, That during fiscal year 1998, within the resources available, not to exceed \$300,000 in gross obligations for direct loans are authorized for specially adapted housing loans.

In addition, for administrative expenses to carry out the direct and guaranteed loan programs, \$160,437,000, which may be transferred to and merged with the appropriation for "General operating expenses".

EDUCATION LOAN FUND PROGRAM ACCOUNT

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For the cost of direct loans, \$1,000, as authorized by 38 U.S.C. 3698, as amended: Provided, That such costs, including the cost of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, as amended: Provided further, That these funds are available to subsidize gross obligations for the principal amount of direct loans not to exceed \$3,000.

In addition, for administrative expenses necessary to carry out the direct loan program, \$200,000, which may be transferred to and merged with the appropriation for "General operating expenses".

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION LOANS PROGRAM

ACCOUNT

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For the cost of direct loans, \$44,000, as authorized by 38 U.S.C. chapter 31, as amended: Provided, That such costs, including the cost of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, as amended: Provided further, That these funds are available to subsidize gross obligations for the principal amount of direct loans not to exceed \$2,278,000.

In addition, for administrative expenses necessary to carry out the direct loan program, \$388,000, which may be transferred to and merged with the appropriation for "General operating expenses".

NATIVE AMERICAN VETERAN HOUSING LOAN

PROGRAM ACCOUNT

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For administrative expenses to carry out the direct loan program authorized by 38 U.S.C. chapter 37, subchapter V, as amended, \$515,000, which may be transferred to and merged with the appropriation for "General operating expenses".

VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

MEDICAL CARE

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses for the maintenance and operation of hospitals, nursing homes, and domiciliary facilities; for furnishing, as authorized by law, inpatient and outpatient care and treatment to beneficiaries of the Department of Veterans Affairs, including care and treatment in facilities not under the jurisdiction of the Department; and furnishing recreational facilities, supplies, and equipment; funeral, burial, and other expenses incidental thereto for beneficiaries receiving care in the Department; administrative expenses in support of planning, design, project management, real property acquisition and disposition, construction and renovation of any facility under the jurisdiction or for the use of the Department; oversight, engineering and architectural activities not charged to project cost; repairing, altering, improving or providing facilities in the several hospitals and homes under the jurisdiction of the Department, not otherwise provided for, either by contract or by the hire of temporary employees and purchase of materials; uniforms or allowances therefor, as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 5901-5902; aid to State homes as authorized by 38 U.S.C. 1741; administrative and legal expenses of the Department for collecting and recovering amounts owed the Department as authorized under 38 U.S.C. chapter 17, and the Federal Medical Care Recovery Act, 42 U.S.C. 2651 et

seq.; and not to exceed \$8,000,000 to fund cost comparison studies as referred to in 38 U.S.C. 8110(a)(5); \$17,026,846,000, plus reimbursements: Provided, That of the funds made available under this heading, \$550,000,000 is for the equipment and land and structures object classifications only, which amount shall not become available for obligation until August 1, 1998, and shall remain available until September 30, 1999.

In addition, contingent on enactment of legislation establishing the Medical Collections Fund, such sums as may be derived pursuant to 38 U.S.C. 1729(g) shall be deposited to such Fund and may be transferred to this account, to remain available until expended for the purposes of this account.

MEDICAL AND PROSTHETIC RESEARCH

For necessary expenses in carrying out programs of medical and prosthetic research and development as authorized by 38 U.S.C. chapter 73, to remain available until September 30, 1999, \$267,000,000, plus reimbursements.

MEDICAL ADMINISTRATION AND MISCELLANEOUS

OPERATING EXPENSES

For necessary expenses in the administration of the medical, hospital, nursing home, domiciliary, construction, supply, and research activities, as authorized by law; administrative expenses in support of planning, design, project management, architectural, engineering, real property acquisition and disposition, construction and renovation of any facility under the jurisdiction or for the use of the Department of Veterans Affairs, including site acquisition; engineering and architectural activities not charged to project cost; and research and development in building construction technology; \$60,160,000, plus reimbursements.

GENERAL POST FUND, NATIONAL HOMES

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For the cost of direct loans, \$7,000, as authorized by Public Law 102-54, section 8, which shall be transferred from the "General post fund": Provided, That such costs, including the cost of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, as amended: Provided further, That these funds are available to subsidize gross obligations for the principal amount of direct loans not to exceed \$70,000.

In addition, for administrative expenses to carry out the direct loan programs, \$54,000, which shall be transferred from the "General post fund", as authorized by Public Law 102-54, section 8.

DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION

GENERAL OPERATING EXPENSES

For necessary operating expenses of the Department of Veterans Affairs, not otherwise provided for, including uniforms or allowances therefor; not to exceed \$25,000 for official reception and representation expenses; hire of passenger motor vehicles; and reimbursement of the General Services Administration for security guard services, and the Department of Defense for the cost of overseas employee mail; \$786,385,000: Provided, That funds under this heading shall be available to administer the Service Members Occupational Conversion and Training Act.

NATIONAL CEMETERY SYSTEM

For necessary expenses for the maintenance and operation of the National Cemetery System, not otherwise provided for, including uniforms or allowances therefor; cemetery expenses as authorized by law; purchase of three passenger motor vehicles for use in cemetery operations; and hire of passenger motor vehicles, \$84,183,000.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For necessary expenses of the Office of Inspector General in carrying out the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended, \$31,013,000.

CONSTRUCTION, MAJOR PROJECTS
(INCLUDING RESCISSION OF FUNDS)

For constructing, altering, extending and improving any of the facilities under the jurisdiction or for the use of the Department of Veterans Affairs, or for any of the purposes set forth in sections 316, 2404, 2406, 8102, 8103, 8106, 8108, 8109, 8110, and 8122 of title 38, United States Code, including planning, architectural and engineering services, maintenance or guarantee period services costs associated with equipment guarantees provided under the project, services of claims analysts, offsite utility and storm drainage system construction costs, and site acquisition, where the estimated cost of a project is \$4,000,000 or more or where funds for a project were made available in a previous major project appropriation, \$92,800,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That the \$32,100,000 provided under this heading in Public Law 104-204 for a replacement hospital at Travis Air Force Base, Fairfield, CA, shall not be obligated for that purpose but shall be available instead to implement the decisions reached as a result of the capital facility recommendations contained in the final report entitled "Assessment of Veterans Health Care Needs in Northern California," (Department of Veterans Affairs Contract No. V101 (93)P-1444): Provided further, That except for advance planning of projects funded through the advance planning fund and the design of projects funded through the design fund, none of these funds shall be used for any project which has not been considered and approved by the Congress in the budgetary process: Provided further, That funds provided in this appropriation for fiscal year 1998, for each approved project shall be obligated (1) by the awarding of a construction documents contract by September 30, 1998, and (2) by the awarding of a construction contract by September 30, 1999: Provided further, That the Secretary shall promptly report in writing to the Comptroller General and to the Committees on Appropriations any approved major construction project in which obligations are not incurred within the time limitations established above; and the Comptroller General shall review the report in accordance with the procedures established by section 1015 of the Impoundment Control Act of 1974 (title X of Public Law 93-344): Provided further, That no funds from any other account except the "Parking revolving fund", may be obligated for constructing, altering, extending, or improving a project which was approved in the budget process and funded in this account until one year after substantial completion and beneficial occupancy by the Department of Veterans Affairs of the project or any part thereof with respect to that part only.

CONSTRUCTION, MINOR PROJECTS

For constructing, altering, extending, and improving any of the facilities under the jurisdiction or for the use of the Department of Veterans Affairs, including planning, architectural and engineering services, maintenance or guarantee period services costs associated with equipment guarantees provided under the project, services of claims analysts, offsite utility and storm drainage system construction costs, and site acquisition, or for any of the purposes set forth in sections 316, 2404, 2406, 8102, 8103, 8106, 8108, 8109, 8110, and 8122 of title 38, United States Code, where the estimated cost of a project is less than \$4,000,000; \$166,300,000, to remain available until expended, along with unobligated balances of previous "Construction, minor projects" appropriations which are hereby made available for any project where the estimated cost is less than \$4,000,000: Provided, That funds in this account shall be available for (1) repairs to any of the nonmedical facilities under the jurisdiction or for the use of the Department which are necessary because of loss or damage caused by any natural disaster or catastrophe, and (2) temporary measures necessary to prevent or to minimize further loss by such causes.

PARKING REVOLVING FUND

For the parking revolving fund as authorized by 38 U.S.C. 8109, income from fees collected, to remain available until expended, which shall be available for all authorized expenses except operations and maintenance costs, which will be funded from "Medical care".

GRANTS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF STATE EXTENDED CARE FACILITIES

For grants to assist States to acquire or construct State nursing home and domiciliary facilities and to remodel, modify or alter existing hospital, nursing home and domiciliary facilities in State homes, for furnishing care to veterans as authorized by 38 U.S.C. 8131-8137, \$80,000,000, to remain available until expended.

GRANTS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF STATE VETERAN CEMETERIES

For grants to aid States in establishing, expanding, or improving State veteran cemeteries as authorized by 38 U.S.C. 2408, \$10,000,000, to remain available until expended.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 101. Any appropriation for fiscal year 1998 for "Compensation and pensions", "Readjustment benefits", and "Veterans insurance and indemnities" may be transferred to any other of the mentioned appropriations.

SEC. 102. Appropriations available to the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 1998 for salaries and expenses shall be available for services authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109.

SEC. 103. No appropriations in this Act for the Department of Veterans Affairs (except the appropriations for "Construction, major projects", "Construction, minor projects", and the "Parking revolving fund") shall be available for the purchase of any site for or toward the construction of any new hospital or home.

SEC. 104. No appropriations in this Act for the Department of Veterans Affairs shall be available for hospitalization or examination of any persons (except beneficiaries entitled under the laws bestowing such benefits to veterans, and persons receiving such treatment under 5 U.S.C. 7901-7904 or 42 U.S.C. 5141-5204), unless reimbursement of cost is made to the "Medical care" account at such rates as may be fixed by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

SEC. 105. Appropriations available to the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 1998 for "Compensation and pensions", "Readjustment benefits", and "Veterans insurance and indemnities" shall be available for payment of prior year accrued obligations required to be recorded by law against the corresponding prior year accounts within the last quarter of fiscal year 1997.

SEC. 106. Appropriations accounts available to the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 1998 shall be available to pay prior year obligations of corresponding prior year appropriations accounts resulting from title X of the Competitive Equality Banking Act, Public Law 100-86, except that if such obligations are from trust fund accounts they shall be payable from "Compensation and pensions".

SEC. 107. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, during fiscal year 1998, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall, from the National Service Life Insurance Fund (38 U.S.C. 1920), the Veterans' Special Life Insurance Fund (38 U.S.C. 1923), and the United States Government Life Insurance Fund (38 U.S.C. 1955), reimburse the "General operating expenses" account for the cost of administration of the insurance programs financed through those accounts: Provided, That reimbursement shall be made only from the surplus earnings accumulated in an insurance program in fiscal year 1998, that are available for dividends in that program after claims have been paid and actuarially determined reserves have been set aside: Provided further, That if the cost of administration of an insurance program exceeds the amount of surplus earnings accumulated in that program, re-

imbursement shall be made only to the extent of such surplus earnings: Provided further, That the Secretary shall determine the cost of administration for fiscal year 1998, which is properly allocable to the provision of each insurance program and to the provision of any total disability income insurance included in such insurance program.

SEC. 108. Section 214(l)(1)(D) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1184(l)(1)(D)) (as added by section 220 of the Immigration and Nationality Technical Corrections Act of 1994 and redesignated as subsection (l) by section 671(a)(3)(A) of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996) is amended by inserting before the period at the end the following: ", except that, in the case of a request by the Department of Veterans Affairs, the alien shall not be required to practice medicine in a geographic area designated by the Secretary".

SEC. 109. None of the funds made available by title I of this Act may be used to provide a locality payment differential which would have the effect of causing a pay increase to any employee that was removed as a Director of a VA Hospital and transferred to another hospital as a result of the Inspector General's conclusion that the employee engaged in verbal sexual harassment and abusive behavior toward female employees.

TITLE II

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

PUBLIC AND INDIAN HOUSING

HOUSING CERTIFICATE FUND

For activities and assistance to prevent the involuntary displacement of low-income families, the elderly and the disabled because of the loss of affordable housing stock, expiration of subsidy contracts (other than contracts for which amounts are provided under another head) or expiration of use restrictions, or other changes in housing assistance arrangements, and for other purposes, \$10,119,000,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That of the total amount provided under this heading, \$8,666,000,000 shall be for assistance under the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437) for use in connection with expiring or terminating section 8 subsidy contracts including, where appropriate, congregate care services associated with the expiring or terminating contracts: Provided further, That the Secretary may determine not to apply section 8(o)(6)(B) of the Act to housing vouchers during fiscal year 1998: Provided further, That of the total amount provided under this heading, \$1,110,000,000 shall be for amendments to section 8 contracts other than contracts for projects developed under section 202 of the Housing Act of 1959, as amended: Provided further, That of the total amount provided under this heading, \$343,000,000 shall be for section 8 rental assistance under the United States Housing Act including assistance to relocate residents of properties (i) that are owned by the Secretary and being disposed of or (ii) that are discontinuing section 8 project-based assistance; for the conversion of section 23 projects to assistance under section 8; for funds to carry out the family unification program; and for the relocation of witnesses in connection with efforts to combat crime in public and assisted housing pursuant to a request from a law enforcement or prosecution agency: Provided further, That of the total amount made available in the preceding proviso, \$40,000,000 shall be made available to nonelderly disabled families affected by the designation of a public housing development under section 7 of such Act or the establishment of preferences in accordance with section 651 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1992 (42 U.S.C. 13611).

PUBLIC HOUSING CAPITAL FUND

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For the Public Housing Capital Fund Program under the United States Housing Act of 1937, as

amended (42 U.S.C. 1437), \$2,500,000,000, to remain available until expended for modernization of existing public housing projects as authorized under section 14 of such Act: Provided, That of the total amount, \$30,000,000 shall be for carrying out activities under section 6(j) of such Act and technical assistance for the inspection of public housing units, contract expertise, and training and technical assistance directly or indirectly, under grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements, to assist in the oversight and management of public housing (whether or not the housing is being modernized with assistance under this proviso) or tenant-based assistance, including, but not limited to, an annual resident survey, data collection and analysis, training and technical assistance by or to officials and employees of the Department and of public housing agencies and to residents in connection with the public housing program and for lease adjustments to section 23 projects: Provided further, That of the amount available under this heading, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development may use up to \$60,000,000 for a public and assisted housing self-sufficiency program of which up to \$5,000,000 may be used for the Moving to Work Demonstration and up to \$5,000,000 may be used for the Tenant Opportunity Program: Provided further, That, for the self-sufficiency activities, the Secretary may make grants to public housing agencies (including Indian housing authorities), nonprofit corporations, and other appropriate entities for a supportive services program to assist residents of public and assisted housing, former residents of such housing receiving tenant-based assistance under section 8 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1437f), and other low-income families and individuals to become self-sufficient: Provided, That the program shall provide supportive services, principally for the benefit of public housing residents, to the elderly and the disabled, and to families with children where the head of household would benefit from the receipt of supportive services and is working, seeking work, or is preparing for work by participating in job training or educational programs: Provided further, That the supportive services may include congregate services for the elderly and disabled, service coordinators, and coordinated educational, training, and other supportive services, including academic skills training, job search assistance, assistance related to retaining employment, vocational and entrepreneurship development and support programs, transportation, and child care: Provided further, That the Secretary shall require applications to demonstrate firm commitments of funding or services from other sources: Provided further, That the Secretary shall select public and Indian housing agencies to receive assistance under this head on a competitive basis, taking into account the quality of the proposed program, including any innovative approaches, the extent of the proposed coordination of supportive services, the extent of commitments of funding or services from other sources, the extent to which the proposed program includes reasonably achievable, quantifiable goals for measuring performance under the program over a three-year period, the extent of success an agency has had in carrying out other comparable initiatives, and other appropriate criteria established by the Secretary: Provided further, That all balances, as of September 30, 1997, of funds heretofore provided (other than for Indian families) for the development or acquisition costs of public housing, for modernization of existing public housing projects, for public housing amendments, for public housing modernization and development technical assistance, for lease adjustments under the section 23 program, and for the Family Investment Centers program, shall be transferred to and merged with amounts made available under this heading.

PUBLIC HOUSING OPERATING FUND
(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For payments to public housing agencies for operating subsidies for low-income housing projects as authorized by section 9 of the United States Housing Act of 1937, including the costs associated with congregate care and supportive services, as amended (42 U.S.C. 1437g), \$2,900,000,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That all balances outstanding, as of September 30, 1997, of funds heretofore provided (other than for Indian families) for payments to public housing agencies for operating subsidies for low-income housing projects, shall be transferred to and merged with amounts made available under this heading.

DRUG ELIMINATION GRANTS FOR LOW-INCOME HOUSING
(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For grants to public and Indian housing agencies for use in eliminating crime in public housing projects authorized by 42 U.S.C. 11901–11908, for grants for federally assisted low-income housing authorized by 42 U.S.C. 11909, and for drug information clearinghouse services authorized by 42 U.S.C. 11921–11925, \$290,000,000, to remain available until expended, of which \$10,000,000 shall be for grants, technical assistance, contracts and other assistance training, program assessment, and execution for or on behalf of public housing agencies, resident organizations, and Indian Tribes and their Tribally designated housing entities (including the cost of necessary travel for participants in such training); \$10,000,000 shall be used in connection with efforts to combat violent crime in public and assisted housing under the Operation Safe Home Program administered by the Inspector General of the Department of Housing and Urban Development; and \$5,000,000 shall be provided to the Office of Inspector General for Operation Safe Home: Provided, That the term “drug-related crime”, as defined in 42 U.S.C. 11905(2), shall also include other types of crime as determined by the Secretary: Provided further, That notwithstanding section 5130(c) of the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988 (42 U.S.C. 11909(c)), the Secretary may determine not to use any such funds to provide public housing youth sports grants.

REVITALIZATION OF SEVERELY DISTRESSED PUBLIC HOUSING (HOPE VI)

For grants to public housing agencies for assisting in the demolition of obsolete public housing projects or portions thereof, the revitalization (where appropriate) of sites (including remaining public housing units) on which such projects are located, replacement housing which will avoid or lessen concentrations of very low-income families, and tenant-based assistance in accordance with section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937; and for providing replacement housing and assisting tenants to be displaced by the demolition, \$550,000,000, to remain available until expended, of which the Secretary may use up to \$10,000,000 for technical assistance and contract expertise, to be provided directly or indirectly by grants, contracts or cooperative agreements, including training and cost of necessary travel for participants in such training, by or to officials and employees of the Department and of public housing agencies and to residents: Provided, That of the amount made available under this head, \$50,000,000 shall be made available, including up to \$10,000,000 for Heritage House in Kansas City, Missouri, for the demolition of obsolete elderly public housing projects and the replacement, where appropriate, and revitalization of the elderly public housing as new communities for the elderly designed to meet the special needs and physical requirements of the elderly: Provided further, That no funds appropriated in this title shall be used for any purpose that is not provided for herein, in the Housing Act of 1937, in the Appropriations Acts for Veterans Affairs, Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies,

for the fiscal years 1993, 1994, 1995, and 1997, and the Omnibus Consolidated Rescissions and Appropriations Act of 1996: Provided further, That none of such funds shall be used directly or indirectly by granting competitive advantage in awards to settle litigation or pay judgments, unless expressly permitted herein.

NATIVE AMERICAN HOUSING BLOCK GRANTS
(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For the Native American Housing Block Grants program, as authorized under title I of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (Public Law 104–330), \$485,000,000, to remain available until expended, of which \$5,000,000 shall be used to support the inspection of Indian housing units, contract expertise, training, and technical assistance in the oversight and management of Indian housing and tenant-based assistance, including up to \$200,000 for related travel: Provided, That of the amount available under this head, \$5,000,000 shall be made available for the credit subsidy cost of guaranteed loans, including the cost of modifying such loans, as authorized under section 601 of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act: Provided further, That these funds are available for the Secretary, in conjunction with Native American groups, Indian tribes and their tribally designated housing entities, for a demonstration on ways to enhance economic growth, access to private capital, and encourage the investment and participation of traditional financial institutions in tribal and other Native American areas: Provided, further: That all balances outstanding as of September 30, 1997, previously appropriated under the headings “Annual Contributions for Assisted Housing”, “Development of Additional New Subsidized Housing”, “Preserving Existing Housing Development”, “HOME Investment Partnerships Program”, “Emergency Shelter Grants Program”, and “Homeless Assistance Funds”, identified for Indian Housing Authorities and other agencies primarily serving Indians or Indian areas, shall be transferred to and merged with amounts made under this heading.

INDIAN HOUSING LOAN GUARANTEE FUND
PROGRAM ACCOUNT

For the cost of guaranteed loans, as authorized by section 184 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1992 (106 Stat. 3739) \$6,000,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That such costs, including the costs of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, as amended: Provided further, That these funds are available to subsidize total loan principal, any part of which is to be guaranteed, not to exceed \$73,800,000.

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PERSONS WITH AIDS

For carrying out the Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS program, as authorized by the AIDS Housing Opportunity Act (42 U.S.C. 12901), \$204,000,000, to remain available until expended.

CAPITAL GRANTS/CAPITAL LOANS PRESERVATION
ACCOUNT

That of any amounts recaptured in excess of \$250,000,000 from interest reduction payment contracts for section 236 contracts recaptured during fiscal year 1998, that excess amount shall be available for use in conjunction with properties that are eligible for assistance under the Low-Income Housing Preservation and Resident Homeownership Act of 1990 (LIHPRA) or the Emergency Low Income Housing Preservation Act of 1987 (ELIHPA) for projects that are currently eligible for funding, as provided under the VA/HUD Fiscal Year 1997 Appropriations Act: Provided, That the queue shall be reordered so that one project is funded per State using the current order of the funding queue for reordering the queue and 3 projects per HUD region with each project reordered (1) on the basis of

the lowest vacancy rates for the areas where each project is located and, where necessary, (2) using the current order of the funding queue for reordering the queue, where necessary: Provided further, That an owner of eligible low-income housing may prepay the mortgage or request voluntary termination of a mortgage insurance contract, so long as said owner agrees not to raise rents for sixty days after such prepayment: Provided further, that all appraisals of each property in the queue shall be revised to reflect the existing value of the property: Provided further, That, to be eligible, each development shall have been determined to have preservation equity at least equal to the lesser of \$5,000 per unit or \$500,000 per project or the equivalent of four times the most recently published monthly fair market rent for the areas in which the project is located while considering the appropriate unit size for all of the units in the eligible project: Provided further, That the Secretary may modify the regulatory agreement to permit owners and priority purchasers to retain rental income in excess of the basic rental charge for projects assisted under section 236 of the National Housing Act, for the purpose of preserving the low- and moderate-income character of the housing: Provided further, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, subject to the availability of appropriated funds, each low-income family or moderate income family who is elderly or disabled or is residing in a low-vacancy area, residing in the housing on the date of prepayment or voluntary termination, and whose rent, as a result of a rent increase occurring no later than one year after the date of the prepayment, exceeds 30 percent of adjusted income, shall be offered tenant-based assistance in accordance with section 8 or any successor program, under which the family shall pay no less for rent than it paid on such date: Provided further, That any family receiving tenant-based assistance under the preceding proviso may elect (1) to remain in the unit of the housing and if the rent exceeds the fair market rent or payment standard, if applicable, the rent shall be deemed to be the applicable standard, so long as the administering public housing agency finds that the rent is reasonable in comparison with rents charged for comparable unassisted housing units in the market or (2) to move from the housing and the rent will be subject to the fair market or the payment standard, as applicable, under existing program rules and procedures: Provided further, That the tenant-based assistance made available under the preceding two provisos are in lieu of benefits provided under subsections 223 (b), (c), and (d) of the Low-Income Housing Preservation and Resident Homeownership Act of 1990: Provided further, That any sales shall be funded using the capital grant available under subsections 220(d)(3)(A) of LIHPHA: Provided further, That any extensions shall be funded using a non-interest-bearing capital (direct) loan by the Secretary not in excess of the amount of the cost of rehabilitation approved in the plan of action plus 65 percent of the property's preservation equity and under such other terms and conditions as the Secretary may prescribe: Provided further, That any capital grant or capital loan, including rehabilitation costs, shall be limited to four times the fair market rent for fiscal year 1998 for the area in which the project is located, using the appropriate apartment sizes: Provided further, That section 241(f) of the National Housing Act is repealed and insurance under such section shall not be offered as an incentive under LIHPHA and ELIPHA: Provided further, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary shall, at the request of an owner or a priority purchaser, approve a one-time rent increase of up to 10 percent: Provided further, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, priority purchasers may utilize assistance under the Community Development Block Grant program, the HOME Investment Partnerships Act or the Low Income Housing Tax Credit: Pro-

vided further, That projects with approved plans of action may submit revised plans of action which conform to these requirements by March 15, 1998, and retain the new priority for funding under these provisos.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANTS (INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For grants to States and units of general local government and for related expenses, not otherwise provided for, to carry out a community development grants program as authorized by title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended (the "Act" herein) (42 U.S.C. 5301), \$4,600,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2000: Provided, That \$87,000,000 shall be for grants to Indian tribes notwithstanding section 106(a)(1) of the Act; \$2,100,000 shall be available as a grant to the Housing Assistance Council; \$1,500,000 shall be available as a grant to the National American Indian Housing Council; \$30,000,000 shall be for grants pursuant to section 107 of such Act; \$12,000,000 shall be for the Community Outreach Partnership program; \$30,000,000 shall be made available for "Capacity Building for Community Development and Affordable Housing," as authorized by section 4 of the HUD Demonstration Act of 1993 (Public Law 103-120) with not less than \$10,000,000 of the funding to be used in rural areas, including tribal areas: Provided further, That not to exceed 20 percent of any grant made with funds appropriated herein (other than a grant made available under the preceding proviso to the Housing Assistance Council or the National American Indian Housing Council, or a grant using funds under section 107(b)(3) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended) shall be expended for "Planning and Management Development" and "Administration" as defined in regulations promulgated by the Department.

Of the amount made available under this heading, notwithstanding any other provision of law, \$35,000,000 shall be available for youthbuild program activities authorized by subtitle D of title IV of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act, as amended, and such activities shall be an eligible activity with respect to any funds made available under this heading. Local youthbuild programs that demonstrate an ability to leverage private and nonprofit funding shall be given a priority for youthbuild funding.

Of the amount made available under this heading, notwithstanding any other provision of law, \$60,000,000 shall be available for the lead-based paint hazard reduction program as authorized under sections 1011 and 1053 of the Residential Lead-Based Hazard Reduction Act of 1992.

Of the amounts made available under this heading, \$30,000,000 shall be available for the New Approach Anti-Drug program for competitive grants to entities managing or operating public housing developments, federally assisted multifamily housing developments, or other multifamily housing development for low-income families supported by non-Federal Governmental entities or similar housing developments supported by nonprofit private sources; to reimburse local law enforcement entities for additional police presence in and around such housing developments; to provide or augment such security services by other entities or employees of the recipient agency; to assist in the investigation and/or prosecution of drug related criminal activity in and around such developments; and to provide assistance for the development of capital improvements at such developments directly relating to the security of such developments: Provided, That such grants be made on a competitive basis as specified in section 102 of the HUD Reform Act.

Of the amounts made available under this heading \$42,000,000 shall be available for the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture, to make grants, not to exceed

\$7,000,000 each, for rural and tribal areas, including at least one Native American area in Alaska, to test out comprehensive approaches to developing a job base through economic development, developing affordable low- and moderate-income rental and homeownership housing, and the investment of both private and nonprofit capital.

Of the amounts made available under this heading, \$40,000,000 for the Economic Development Initiative (EDI) to finance a variety of efforts, including those identified in the Senate committee report, that promote economic revitalization that links people to jobs and supportive services. Failure to fund any project identified for EDI funds in the Senate committee report shall result in all funding under this paragraph to be allocated as funding under the Community Development Block Grant Program as authorized under title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended.

For the cost of guaranteed loans, \$29,000,000, as authorized by section 108 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974: Provided, That such costs, including the cost of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, as amended: Provided further, That these funds are available to subsidize total loan principal, any part of which is to be guaranteed, not to exceed \$1,261,000,000, notwithstanding any aggregate limitation on outstanding obligations guaranteed in section 108(k) of the Housing and Community Development Act. In addition, for administrative expenses to carry out the guaranteed loan program, \$1,000,000, which shall be transferred to and merged with the appropriation for departmental salaries and expenses.

EMPOWERMENT ZONES AND ENTERPRISE COMMUNITIES

For grants to Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities, to be designated by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, to continue efforts to stimulate economic opportunity in America's distressed communities, \$25,000,000, to remain available until expended.

HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAM

For the HOME investment partnerships program, as authorized under title II of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (Public Law 101-625), as amended, \$1,400,000,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That up to \$7,000,000 shall be available for the development and operation of integrated community development management information systems: Provided further, That \$20,000,000 shall be available for Housing Counseling under section 106 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968.

SUPPORTIVE HOUSING PROGRAM

(RESCISSION)

Of the funds made available under this heading in Public Law 102-389 and prior laws for the Supportive Housing Demonstration Program, as authorized by the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act, \$6,000,000 of funds recaptured during fiscal year 1998 shall be rescinded.

SHELTER PLUS CARE

(RESCISSION)

Of the funds made available under this heading in Public Law 102-389 and prior laws for the Shelter Plus Care program, as authorized by the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act, \$4,000,000 of funds recaptured during fiscal year 1998 shall be rescinded.

HOMELESS ASSISTANCE GRANTS

For the emergency shelter grants program (as authorized under subtitle B of title IV of the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act, as amended); the supportive housing program (as authorized under subtitle C of title IV of such Act); the section 8 moderate rehabilitation single room occupancy program (as authorized under the United States Housing Act of 1937, as amended) to assist homeless individuals pursuant to section 441 of the Stewart B. McKinney

Homeless Assistance Act; and the shelter plus care program (as authorized under subtitle F of title IV of such Act), \$823,000,000, to remain available until expended: Provided further, That any unobligated balances available or recaptured in, or which become available in the Emergency Shelter Grants Program account, Supportive Housing Program account, Supplemental Assistance for Facilities to Assist the Homeless account, Shelter Plus Care account, Innovative Homeless Initiatives Demonstration Program account and Section 8 Moderate Rehabilitation (SRO) account, shall be transferred to and merged with the amounts in this account and shall be used for purposes under this account.

HOUSING PROGRAMS

HOUSING FOR SPECIAL POPULATIONS (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For assistance for the purchase, construction, acquisition, or development of additional public and subsidized housing units for low income families under the United States Housing Act of 1937, as amended (42 U.S.C. 1437), not otherwise provided for, \$839,000,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That of the total amount provided under this heading, \$645,000,000 shall be for capital advances, including amendments to capital advance contracts, for housing for the elderly, as authorized by section 202 of the Housing Act of 1959, as amended, and for project rental assistance, and amendments to contracts for project rental assistance, for the elderly under section 202(c)(2) of the Housing Act of 1959, and for supportive services associated with the housing; and \$194,000,000 shall be for capital advances, including amendments to capital advance contracts, for supportive housing for persons with disabilities, as authorized by section 811 of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act, for project rental assistance, for amendments to contracts for project rental assistance, and supportive services associated with the housing for persons with disabilities as authorized by section 811 of such Act: Provided further, That the Secretary may designate up to 25 percent of the amounts earmarked under this paragraph for section 811 of such Act for tenant-based assistance, as authorized under that section, including such authority as may be waived under the next proviso, which assistance is five years in duration: Provided further, That the Secretary may waive any provision of section 202 of the Housing Act of 1959 and section 811 of the National Affordable Housing Act (including the provisions governing the terms and conditions of project rental assistance and tenant-based assistance) that the Secretary determines is not necessary to achieve the objectives of these programs, or that otherwise impedes the ability to develop, operate or administer projects assisted under these programs, and may make provision for alternative conditions or terms where appropriate: Provided further, That all obligated and unobligated balances remaining in either the "Annual Contributions for Assisted Housing" account or the "Development of Additional New Subsidized Housing" account for capital advances, including amendments to capital advances, for housing for the elderly, as authorized by section 202 of the Housing Act of 1959, as amended, and for project rental assistance, and amendments to contracts for project rental assistance, for supportive housing for the elderly, under section 202(c)(2) of such Act, shall be transferred to and merged with the amounts for those purposes under this heading; and, all obligated and unobligated balances remaining in either the "Annual Contributions for Assisted Housing" account or the "Development of Additional New Subsidized Housing" account for capital advances, including amendments to capital advances, for supportive housing for persons with disabilities, as authorized by section 811 of the Cranston-Gonzales National Affordable Housing Act, and for project rental assist-

ance, and amendments to contracts for project rental assistance, for supportive housing for persons with disabilities, as authorized under section 811 of such Act, shall be transferred to and merged with the amounts for those purposes under this heading.

OTHER ASSISTED HOUSING PROGRAMS

RENTAL HOUSING ASSISTANCE (RESCISSION)

The limitation otherwise applicable to the maximum payments that may be required in any fiscal year by all contracts entered into under section 236 of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1715z-1) is reduced in fiscal year 1998 by not more than \$7,350,000 in uncommitted balances of authorizations provided for this purpose in appropriation Acts: Provided, That up to \$125,000,000 of recaptured budget authority shall be canceled.

FLEXIBLE SUBSIDY FUND (TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

From the Rental Housing Assistance Fund, all uncommitted balances of excess rental charges as of September 30, 1997, and any collections made during fiscal year 1998, shall be transferred to the Flexible Subsidy Fund, as authorized by section 236(g) of the National Housing Act, as amended.

FEDERAL HOUSING ADMINISTRATION

FHA—MUTUAL MORTGAGE INSURANCE PROGRAM ACCOUNT

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

During fiscal year 1998, commitments to guarantee loans to carry out the purposes of section 203(b) of the National Housing Act, as amended, shall not exceed a loan principal of \$110,000,000,000.

During fiscal year 1998, obligations to make direct loans to carry out the purposes of section 204(g) of the National Housing Act, as amended, shall not exceed \$200,000,000: Provided, That the foregoing amount shall be for loans to nonprofit and governmental entities in connection with sales of single family real properties owned by the Secretary and formerly insured under the Mutual Mortgage Insurance Fund.

For administrative expenses necessary to carry out the guaranteed and direct loan program, \$333,421,000, to be derived from the FHA-mutual mortgage insurance guaranteed loans receipt account, of which not to exceed \$326,309,000 shall be transferred to the appropriation for departmental salaries and expenses; and of which not to exceed \$12,112,000 shall be transferred to the appropriation for the Office of Inspector General.

FHA—GENERAL AND SPECIAL RISK PROGRAM ACCOUNT

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For the cost of guaranteed loans, as authorized by sections 238 and 519 of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1715z-3 and 1735c), including the cost of loan guarantee modifications (as that term is defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, as amended), \$81,000,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That these funds are available to subsidize total loan principal, any part of which is to be guaranteed, of up to \$17,400,000,000: Provided further, That any amounts made available in any prior appropriations Act for the cost (as such term is defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974) of guaranteed loans that are obligations of the funds established under section 238 or 519 of the National Housing Act that have not been obligated or that are deobligated shall be available to the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development in connection with the making of such guarantees and shall remain available until expended, notwithstanding the expiration of any period of availability otherwise applicable to such amounts.

Gross obligations for the principal amount of direct loans, as authorized by sections 204(g),

207(l), 238(a), and 519(a) of the National Housing Act, shall not exceed \$120,000,000; of which not to exceed \$100,000,000 shall be for bridge financing in connection with the sale of multifamily real properties owned by the Secretary and formerly insured under such Act; and of which not to exceed \$20,000,000 shall be for loans to nonprofit and governmental entities in connection with the sale of single-family real properties owned by the Secretary and formerly insured under such Act.

In addition, for administrative expenses necessary to carry out the guaranteed and direct loan programs, \$222,305,000, of which \$218,134,000, including \$25,000,000 for the enforcement of housing standards on FHA-insured multifamily projects, shall be transferred to the appropriation for departmental salaries and expenses; and of which \$4,171,000 shall be transferred to the appropriation for the Office of Inspector General.

GOVERNMENT NATIONAL MORTGAGE ASSOCIATION

GUARANTEES OF MORTGAGE-BACKED SECURITIES LOAN GUARANTEE PROGRAM ACCOUNT

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

During fiscal year 1998, new commitments to issue guarantees to carry out the purposes of section 306 of the National Housing Act, as amended (12 U.S.C. 1721(g)), shall not exceed \$130,000,000,000.

For administrative expenses necessary to carry out the guaranteed mortgage-backed securities program, \$9,383,000, to be derived from the Ginnie Mae-guarantees of mortgage-backed securities guaranteed loan receipt account, of which not to exceed \$9,383,000 shall be transferred to the appropriation for salaries and expenses.

POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND RESEARCH

RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY

For contracts, grants, and necessary expenses of programs of research and studies relating to housing and urban problems, not otherwise provided for, as authorized by title V of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1970, as amended (12 U.S.C. 1701z-1 et seq.), including carrying out the functions of the Secretary under section 1(a)(1)(i) of Reorganization Plan No. 2 of 1968, \$34,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 1999.

FAIR HOUSING AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

FAIR HOUSING ACTIVITIES

For contracts, grants, and other assistance, not otherwise provided for, as authorized by title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, as amended by the Fair Housing Amendments Act of 1988, and section 561 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1987, as amended, \$30,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 1999, of which \$10,000,000 shall be to carry out activities pursuant to such section 561. No funds made available under this heading shall be used to lobby the executive or legislative branches of the Federal Government in connection with a specific contract, grant or loan.

MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary administrative and non-administrative expenses of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, not otherwise provided for, including not to exceed \$7,000 for official reception and representation expenses, \$954,826,000, of which \$544,443,000 shall be provided from the various funds of the Federal Housing Administration, \$9,383,000 shall be provided from funds of the Government National Mortgage Association, and \$1,000,000 shall be provided from the "Community Development Grants Program" account.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses of the Office of Inspector General in carrying out the Inspector

General Act of 1978, as amended, \$57,850,000, of which \$16,283,000 shall be provided from the various funds of the Federal Housing Administration and \$5,000,000 shall be provided from the amount earmarked for Operation Safe Home in the "Drug Elimination Grants for Low Income Housing" account.

OFFICE OF FEDERAL HOUSING ENTERPRISE
OVERSIGHT
SALARIES AND EXPENSES
(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For carrying out the Federal Housing Enterprise Financial Safety and Soundness Act of 1992, \$15,500,000, to remain available until expended, to be derived from the Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight Fund: Provided, That not to exceed such amount shall be available from the General Fund of the Treasury to the extent necessary to incur obligations and make expenditures pending the receipt of collections to the Fund: Provided further, That the General Fund amount shall be reduced as collections are received during the fiscal year so as to result in a final appropriation from the General Fund estimated at not more than \$0.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS
EXTENDERS

SEC. 201. (a) ONE-FOR-ONE REPLACEMENT OF PUBLIC AND INDIAN HOUSING.—Section 1002(d) of Public Law 104-19 is amended by striking "1997" and inserting "1998".

(b) STREAMLINING SECTION 8 TENANT-BASED ASSISTANCE.—Section 203(d) of the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 1996 is amended by striking "fiscal years 1996 and 1997" and inserting "fiscal years 1996, 1997, and 1998".

(c) SECTION 8 RENT ADJUSTMENTS.—Section 8(c)(2)(A) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 is amended—

(1) in the third sentence, by striking "fiscal year 1997" and inserting "fiscal years 1997 and 1998";

(2) in the last sentence, by striking "fiscal year 1997" and inserting "fiscal years 1997 and 1998".

(3) in the fourth sentence, by striking "For" and inserting "Except for assistance under the certificate program, for";

(4) after the fourth sentence, by inserting the following new sentence: "In the case of assistance under the certificate program, 0.01 shall be subtracted from the amount of the annual adjustment factor (except that the factor shall not be reduced to less than 1.0), and the adjusted rent shall not exceed the rent for a comparable unassisted unit of similar quality, type, and age in the market area."; and

(5) in the last sentence, by—

(A) striking "sentence" and inserting "two sentences"; and

(B) inserting " , fiscal year 1996 prior to April 26, 1996, and fiscal year 1997" after "1995".

(d) PUBLIC AND ASSISTED HOUSING RENTS, INCOME ADJUSTMENTS AND PREFERENCES.—

(1) Section 402(a) of The Balanced Budget Downpayment Act, I is amended by striking "fiscal year 1997" and insert in lieu thereof "fiscal year 1998".

(2) Section 402(f) of The Balanced Budget Downpayment Act, I is amended by striking "fiscal years 1996 and 1997" and inserting in lieu thereof "fiscal years 1997 and 1998".

DELAY REISSUANCE OF VOUCHERS AND
CERTIFICATES

SEC. 202. Section 403(c) of The Balanced Budget Downpayment Act, I is amended—

(1) by striking "fiscal years 1996 and 1997" and inserting "fiscal years 1996, 1997, and 1998"; and

(2) by inserting before the semicolon the following: "and October 1, 1998 for assistance made available during fiscal year 1998".

FINANCING ADJUSTMENT FACTORS

SEC. 203. Fifty per centum of the amounts of budget authority, or in lieu thereof 50 per cen-

tum of the cash amounts associated with such budget authority, that are recaptured from projects described in section 1012(a) of the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Amendments Act of 1988 (Public Law 100-628, 102 Stat. 3224, 3268) shall be rescinded, or in the case of cash, shall be remitted to the Treasury, and such amounts of budget authority or cash recaptured and not rescinded or remitted to the Treasury shall be used by State housing finance agencies or local governments or local housing agencies with projects approved by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development for which settlement occurred after January 1, 1992, in accordance with such section. Notwithstanding the previous sentence, the Secretary may award up to 15 percent of the budget authority or cash recaptured and not rescinded or remitted to the Treasury to provide project owners with incentives to refinance their project at a lower interest rate.

ANNUAL ADJUSTMENT FACTORS

SEC. 204. Section 8(c)(2)(A) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 is amended by inserting the following new sentences at the end: "In establishing annual adjustment factors for units in new construction and substantial rehabilitation projects, the Secretary shall take into account the fact that debt service is a fixed expense. The immediately foregoing sentence shall be effective only during fiscal year 1998.".

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT

SEC. 205. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the \$7,100,000 appropriated for an industrial park at 18th Street and Indiana Avenue shall be made available by the Secretary instead to 18th and Vine for rehabilitation and infrastructure development associated with the "Negro Leagues Baseball Museum" and the Jazz Museum.

FAIR HOUSING AND FREE SPEECH

SEC. 206. None of the amounts made available under this Act may be used during fiscal year 1998 to investigate or prosecute under the Fair Housing Act any otherwise lawful activity engaged in by one or more persons, including the filing or maintaining of a nonfrivolous legal action, that is engaged in solely for the purpose of achieving or preventing action by a government official or entity, or a court of competent jurisdiction.

REQUIREMENT FOR HUD TO MAINTAIN PUBLIC
NOTICE AND COMMENT RULEMAKING

SEC. 207. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, for fiscal year 1998 and for all fiscal years thereafter, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development shall maintain all current requirements under part 10 of the Department of Housing and Urban Development's regulations (24 CFR part 10) with respect to the Department's policies and procedures for the promulgation and issuance of rules, including the use of public participation in the rulemaking process.

BROWNFIELDS AS ELIGIBLE CDBG ACTIVITY

SEC. 208. States and entitlement communities may use funds allocated under the community development block grant program under title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 for remediation and development activities related to brownfields projects in conjunction with the appropriate environmental regulatory agencies.

PARTIAL PAYMENT OF CLAIMS ON HEALTH CARE
FACILITIES

SEC. 209. Section 541(a) of the National Housing Act is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by adding "AND HEALTH CARE FACILITIES" AT THE END; AND

(2) in subsection (a)—

(A) by inserting "or a health care facility (including a nursing home, intermediate care facility, or board and care home (as those terms are defined in section 232), a hospital (as that term is defined in section 242), or a group practice facility (as that term is defined in section 1106))" after "1978"; and

(B) by inserting "or for keeping the health care facility operational to serve community needs," after "character of the project,".

FHA MULTIFAMILY MORTGAGE CREDIT
DEMONSTRATIONS

SEC. 210. Section 542 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1992 is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(5) by adding before the period at the end of the first sentence " , and not more than an additional 15,000 units over fiscal year 1998"; and

(2) in the first sentence of subsection (c)(4) inserting after "fiscal year 1997" the following: "and not more than an additional 15,000 units during fiscal year 1998.".

CALCULATION OF DOWNPAYMENT

SEC. 211. Section 203(b) of the National Housing Act is amended by striking "fiscal year 1997" in paragraph (10)(A) and inserting in lieu thereof "fiscal year 1997 and thereafter".

SECTION 8 MARK-TO-MARKET MULTIFAMILY
HOUSING REFORM

SEC. 212. Subtitle B, the Multifamily Assisted Housing Reform and Affordability Act of 1997", of title II of S. 947, the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, as passed by the Senate on June 25, 1997, is incorporated by reference in this bill, the Department of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Bill, 1998.

HOPE VI NOFA

SEC. 213. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, including the July 22, 1996 Notice of Funding Availability (61 Fed. Reg. 38024), the demolition of units at developments funded under the Notice of Funding Availability shall be at the option of the New York City Housing Authority and the assistance awarded shall be allocated by the public housing agency among other eligible activities under the HOPE VI program and without the development costs limitations of the Notice, provided that the public housing agency shall not exceed the total cost limitations for the public housing agency, as provided by the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

ENHANCED DISPOSITION AUTHORITY

SEC. 214. Section 204 of the Department of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 1997 is amended by inserting after "owned by the Secretary" the following: " , including, for fiscal year 1998, the provision of grants and loans from the General Insurance Fund (12 U.S.C. 1735c) for the necessary costs of rehabilitation or demolition.

HOME PROGRAM FORMULA

SEC. 215. The first sentence of section 217(b)(3) of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act is amended by striking "only those jurisdictions that are allocated an amount of \$500,000 or greater shall receive an allocation" and inserting in lieu thereof the following: "jurisdictions that are allocated an amount of \$500,000 or more, and participating jurisdictions (other than consortia that fail to renew the membership of all of their member jurisdictions) that are allocated an amount less than \$500,000, shall receive an allocation".

INDIAN HOUSING REFORM

SEC. 216. Upon a finding by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development that any person has substantially, significantly, or materially violated the requirements of any activity under the Native American Housing Block Grants Program under title I of the Native American Self-Determination Act of 1996 or any associated activity under the jurisdiction of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Secretary shall bar that person from any such participation in programs under that title thereafter and shall require reimbursement for any losses or costs associated with these violations.

TITLE III—INDEPENDENT AGENCIES
AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION
SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses, not otherwise provided for, of the American Battle Monuments Commission, including the acquisition of land or interest in land in foreign countries; purchases and repair of uniforms for caretakers of national cemeteries and monuments outside of the United States and its territories and possessions; rent of office and garage space in foreign countries; purchase (one for replacement only) and hire of passenger motor vehicles; and insurance of official motor vehicles in foreign countries, when required by law of such countries; \$23,897,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That where station allowance has been authorized by the Department of the Army for officers of the Army serving the Army at certain foreign stations, the same allowance shall be authorized for officers of the Armed Forces assigned to the Commission while serving at the same foreign stations, and this appropriation is hereby made available for the payment of such allowance: Provided further, That when traveling on business of the Commission, officers of the Armed Forces serving as members or as Secretary of the Commission may be reimbursed for expenses as provided for civilian members of the Commission: Provided further, That the Commission shall reimburse other Government agencies, including the Armed Forces, for salary, pay, and allowances of personnel assigned to it.

CHEMICAL SAFETY AND HAZARD INVESTIGATION BOARD

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses in carrying out activities pursuant to section 112(r)(6) of the Clean Air Act, including hire of passenger vehicles, and for services authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109, but at rates for individuals not to exceed the per diem equivalent to the maximum rate payable for senior level positions under 5 U.S.C. 5376, \$4,000,000.

CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Consumer Product Safety Commission, including hire of passenger motor vehicles, services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109, but at rates for individuals not to exceed the per diem rate equivalent to the maximum rate payable under 5 U.S.C. 5376, purchase of nominal awards to recognize non-Federal officials' contributions to Commission activities, and not to exceed \$500 for official reception and representation expenses, \$45,000,000.

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAMS
OPERATING EXPENSES

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses for the Corporation for National and Community Service (referred to in the matter under this heading as the "Corporation") in carrying out programs, activities, and initiatives under the National and Community Service Act of 1990 (referred to in the matter under this heading as the "Act") (42 U.S.C. 12501 et seq.), \$420,500,000, to remain available until September 30, 1999: Provided, That not more than \$25,000,000 shall be available for administrative expenses authorized under section 501(a)(4) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 12671(a)(4)): Provided further, That not more than \$2,500 shall be for official reception and representation expenses: Provided further, That not more than \$59,000,000, to remain available without fiscal year limitation, shall be transferred to the National Service Trust account for educational awards authorized under subtitle D of title I of the Act (42 U.S.C. 12601 et seq.): Provided further, That not more than \$215,000,000 of the amount provided under this heading shall be available for grants under the National Service Trust program authorized under subtitle C of

title I of the Act (42 U.S.C. 12571 et seq.) (relating to activities including the AmeriCorps program), of which not more than \$40,000,000 may be used to administer, reimburse, or support any national service program authorized under section 121(d)(2) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 12581(d)(2)): Provided further, That not more than \$5,500,000 of the funds made available under this heading shall be made available for the Points of Light Foundation for activities authorized under title III of the Act (42 U.S.C. 12661 et seq.): Provided further, That no funds shall be available for national service programs run by Federal agencies authorized under section 121(b) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 12571(b)): Provided further, That to the maximum extent feasible, funds appropriated under subtitle C of title I of the Act shall be provided in a manner that is consistent with the recommendations of peer review panels in order to ensure that priority is given to programs that demonstrate quality, innovation, replicability, and sustainability: Provided further, That not more than \$18,000,000 of the funds made available under this heading shall be available for the Civilian Community Corps authorized under subtitle E of title I of the Act (42 U.S.C. 12611 et seq.): Provided further, That not more than \$43,000,000 shall be available for school-based and community-based service-learning programs authorized under subtitle B of title I of the Act (42 U.S.C. 12521 et seq.): Provided further, That not more than \$30,000,000 shall be available for quality and innovation activities authorized under subtitle H of title I of the Act (42 U.S.C. 12853 et seq.): Provided further, That \$20,000,000 shall be available for the America Reads Initiative: Provided further, That not more than \$5,000,000 shall be available for audits and other evaluations authorized under section 179 of the Act (42 U.S.C. 12639): Provided further, That no funds from any other appropriation, or from funds otherwise made available to the Corporation, shall be used to pay for personnel compensation and benefits, travel, or any other administrative expense for the Board of Directors, the Office of the Chief Executive Officer, the Office of the Managing Director, the Office of the Chief Financial Officer, the Office of National and Community Service Programs, the Civilian Community Corps, or any field office or staff of the Corporation working on the National and Community Service or Civilian Community Corps programs: Provided further, That to the maximum extent practicable, the Corporation shall increase significantly the level of matching funds and in-kind contributions provided by the private sector, shall expand significantly the number of educational awards provided under subtitle D of title I, and shall reduce the total Federal costs per participant in all programs.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For necessary expenses of the Office of Inspector General in carrying out the provisions of the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended, \$3,000,000.

COURT OF VETERANS APPEALS

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses for the operation of the United States Court of Veterans Appeals as authorized by 38 U.S.C. sections 7251-7298, \$9,320,000, of which \$790,000, shall be available for the purpose of providing financial assistance as described, and in accordance with the process and reporting procedures set forth, under this heading in Public Law 102-229.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE—CIVIL

CEMETERIAL EXPENSES, ARMY

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses, as authorized by law, for maintenance, operation, and improvement of Arlington National Cemetery and Soldiers' and Airmen's Home National Cemetery, including the purchase of two passenger motor vehicles for replacement only, and not to exceed \$1,000 for official reception and representation expenses, \$11,815,000, to remain available until expended.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For science and technology, including research and development activities, which shall include research and development activities under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA), as amended; necessary expenses for personnel and related costs and travel expenses, including uniforms, or allowances therefore, as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 5901-5902; services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109, but at rates for individuals not to exceed the per diem rate equivalent to the rate for GS-18; procurement of laboratory equipment and supplies; other operating expenses in support of research and development; construction, alteration, repair, rehabilitation, and renovation of facilities, not to exceed \$75,000 per project, \$600,000,000, which shall remain available until September 30, 1999.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS AND MANAGEMENT

For environmental programs and management, including necessary expenses, not otherwise provided for, for personnel and related costs and travel expenses, including uniforms, or allowances therefore, as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 5901-5902; services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109, but at rates for individuals not to exceed the per diem rate equivalent to the rate for GS-18; hire of passenger motor vehicles; hire, maintenance, and operation of aircraft; purchase of reprints; library memberships in societies or associations which issue publications to members only or at a price to members lower than to subscribers who are not members; construction, alteration, repair, rehabilitation, and renovation of facilities, not to exceed \$75,000 per project; and not to exceed \$6,000 for official reception and representation expenses, \$1,801,000,000, which shall remain available until September 30, 1999.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For necessary expenses of the Office of Inspector General in carrying out the provisions of the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended, and for construction, alteration, repair, rehabilitation, and renovation of facilities, not to exceed \$75,000 per project, \$28,500,000, to remain available until September 30, 1999.

BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

For construction, repair, improvement, extension, alteration, and purchase of fixed equipment or facilities of, or for use by, the Environmental Protection Agency, \$19,420,000, to remain available until expended.

HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE SUPERFUND

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses to carry out the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA), as amended, including sections 111 (c)(3), (c)(5), (c)(6), and (e)(4) (42 U.S.C. 9611), and for construction, alteration, repair, rehabilitation, and renovation of facilities, not to exceed \$75,000 per project; not to exceed \$1,400,000,000 (of which \$100,000,000 shall not become available under September 1, 1998), to remain available until expended, consisting of \$1,150,000,000, as authorized by section 517(a) of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (SARA), as amended by Public Law 101-508, and \$250,000,000 as a payment from general revenues to the Hazardous Substance Superfund as authorized by section 517(b) of SARA, as amended by Public Law 101-508: Provided, That funds appropriated under this heading may be allocated to other Federal agencies in accordance with section 111(a) of CERCLA: Provided further, That \$11,641,000 of the funds appropriated under this heading shall be transferred to the "Office of Inspector General" appropriation to remain available until September 30, 1999: Provided further, That notwithstanding section 111(m) of CERCLA or any other provision of law, \$68,000,000 of the funds appropriated under

this heading shall be available to the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry to carry out activities described in sections 104(i), 111(c)(4), and 111(c)(14) of CERCLA and section 118(f) of SARA: Provided further, That \$35,000,000 of the funds appropriated under this heading shall be transferred to the "Science and Technology" appropriation to remain available until September 30, 1999: Provided further, That none of the funds appropriated under this heading shall be available for the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry to issue in excess of 40 toxicological profiles pursuant to section 104(i) of CERCLA during fiscal year 1998.

**LEAKING UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK PROGRAM
(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)**

For necessary expenses to carry out leaking underground storage tank cleanup activities authorized by section 205 of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986, and for construction, alteration, repair, rehabilitation, and renovation of facilities, not to exceed \$75,000 per project, \$65,000,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That no more than \$7,500,000 shall be available for administrative expenses.

OIL SPILL RESPONSE

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For expenses necessary to carry out the Environmental Protection Agency's responsibilities under the Oil Pollution Act of 1990, \$15,000,000, to be derived from the Oil Spill Liability trust fund, and to remain available until expended: Provided, That not more than \$8,500,000 of these funds shall be available for administrative expenses.

STATE AND TRIBAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS

For environmental programs and infrastructure assistance, including capitalization grants for State revolving funds and performance partnership grants, \$3,047,000,000, to remain available until expended, of which \$1,350,000,000 shall be for making capitalization grants for the Clean Water State Revolving Funds under title VI of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, as amended, and \$725,000,000 shall be for capitalization grants for the Drinking Water State Revolving Funds under section 1452 of the Safe Drinking Water Act, as amended; \$100,000,000 for architectural, engineering, planning, design, construction and related activities in connection with the construction of high priority water and wastewater facilities in the area of the United States-Mexico Border, after consultation with the appropriate border commission; \$50,000,000 for grants to the State of Texas for the purpose of improving wastewater treatment for colonias; \$15,000,000 for grants to the State of Alaska to address drinking water and wastewater infrastructure needs of rural and Alaska Native Villages as provided by section 303 of Public Law 104-182; \$82,000,000 for making grants for the construction of wastewater and water treatment facilities and groundwater protection infrastructure in accordance with the terms and conditions specified for such grants in the report accompanying this Act; and \$725,000,000 for grants to States, federally recognized tribes, and air pollution control agencies for multi-media or single media pollution prevention, control and abatement and related activities pursuant to the provisions set forth under this heading in Public Law 104-134, including grants under section 103 of the Clean Air Act for particulate matter monitoring and data collection activities: Provided, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, hereafter, States may combine the assets of State Revolving Funds (SRFs) established under section 1452 of the Safe Drinking Water Act, as amended, and title VI of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, as amended, as security for bond issues to enhance the lending capacity of one or both SRFs, but not to acquire the State match for either SRF program provided that revenues from the bonds are allocated for the purposes of the Safe Drinking Water Act and title

VI of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, respectively, in the same portion as the funds are used as security for the bonds: Provided further, That, hereafter from funds appropriated under this heading, the Administrator is authorized to make grants to federally recognized Indian governments for the development of multi-media environmental programs: Provided further, That, hereafter, the funds available under this heading for grants to States, federally recognized tribes, and air pollution control agencies for multi-media or single media pollution prevention, control and abatement and related activities may also be used for the direct implementation by the Federal Government of a program required by law in the absence of an acceptable State or tribal program: Provided further, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Administrator is authorized to make a grant of \$4,326,000 under title II of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, as amended, from funds appropriated in prior years under section 205 of the Act for the State of Florida and available due to deobligation, to the appropriate instrumentality for wastewater treatment works in Monroe County, Florida.

WORKING CAPITAL FUND

Under this heading in Public Law 104-204, delete the following: the phrases, "franchise fund pilot to be known as the"; "as authorized by section 403 of Public Law 103-356,"; and "as provided in such section"; and the final proviso. After the phrase, "to be available", insert "without fiscal year limitation".

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY

For necessary expenses of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, in carrying out the purposes of the National Science and Technology Policy, Organization, and Priorities Act of 1976 (42 U.S.C. 6601 and 6671), hire of passenger motor vehicles, and services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109, not to exceed \$2,500 for official reception and representation expenses, and rental of conference rooms in the District of Columbia, \$4,932,000.

**COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY AND
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**

For necessary expenses to continue functions assigned to the Council on Environmental Quality and Office of Environmental Quality pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the Environmental Quality Improvement Act of 1970, and Reorganization Plan No. 1 of 1977, \$2,436,000: Provided, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, no funds other than those appropriated under this heading, shall be used for or by the Council on Environmental Quality and Office of Environmental Quality.

FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses of the Office of Inspector General in carrying out the provisions of the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended, \$34,265,000, to be derived from the Bank Insurance Fund, the Savings Association Insurance Fund, and the FSLIC Resolution Fund.

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

DISASTER RELIEF

For necessary expenses in carrying out the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.), \$320,000,000, and, notwithstanding 42 U.S.C. 5203, to remain available until expended: Provided, That none of the funds appropriated for the Federal Emergency Management Agency may be used to perform repair, replacement, reconstruction, or restoration activities with respect to (1) trees and other natural features belonging to State and local governments that are located within parks and recreational facilities, as well as on the grounds of other publicly-owned property; or (2) parks, recreational areas,

marinas, golf courses, stadiums, arenas or other similar facilities which generate any portion of their operational revenue through user fees, rents, admission charges, or similar fees.

**DISASTER ASSISTANCE DIRECT LOAN PROGRAM
ACCOUNT**

For the cost of direct loans, \$1,495,000, as authorized by section 319 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act: Provided, That such costs, including the cost of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, as amended: Provided further, That these funds are available to subsidize gross obligations for the principal amount of direct loans not to exceed \$25,000,000.

In addition, for administrative expenses to carry out the direct loan program, \$341,000.

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses, not otherwise provided for, including hire and purchase of motor vehicles as authorized by 31 U.S.C. 1343; uniforms, or allowances therefor, as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 5901-5902; services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109, but at rates for individuals not to exceed the per diem rate equivalent to the rate for GS-18; expenses of attendance of cooperating officials and individuals at meetings concerned with the work of emergency preparedness; transportation in connection with the continuity of Government programs to the same extent and in the same manner as permitted the Secretary of a Military Department under 10 U.S.C. 2632; and not to exceed \$2,500 for official reception and representation expenses, \$171,773,000.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For necessary expenses of the Office of Inspector General in carrying out the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended, \$4,803,000.

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLANNING AND
ASSISTANCE**

For necessary expenses, not otherwise provided for, to carry out activities under the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968, as amended, and the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4001 et seq.), the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.), the Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act of 1977, as amended (42 U.S.C. 7701 et seq.), the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974, as amended (15 U.S.C. 2201 et seq.), the Defense Production Act of 1950, as amended (50 U.S.C. App. 2061 et seq.), sections 107 and 303 of the National Security Act of 1947, as amended (50 U.S.C. 404-405), and Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1978, \$207,146,000: Provided, That for purposes of pre-disaster mitigation pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 5131 (b) and (c) and 42 U.S.C. 5196 (e) and (i), \$5,000,000 of the funds made available under this heading shall be available until expended for project grants for State and local governments.

EMERGENCY FOOD AND SHELTER PROGRAM

To carry out an emergency food and shelter program pursuant to title III of Public Law 100-77, as amended, \$100,000,000: Provided, That total administrative costs shall not exceed three and one-half percent of the total appropriation.

**NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE FUND
(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)**

For activities under the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968, the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973, and the National Flood Insurance Reform Act of 1994, not to exceed \$21,610,000 for salaries and expenses associated with flood mitigation and flood insurance operations, and not to exceed \$78,464,000 for flood mitigation, including up to \$20,000,000 for expenses under section 1366 of the National Flood Insurance Act, which amount shall be available for transfer to the National Flood Mitigation Fund until September 30, 1999. In fiscal year 1998, no funds in excess of (1) \$47,000,000 for operating expenses, (2) \$375,165,000 for agents' commissions and

taxes, and (3) \$50,000,000 for interest on Treasury borrowings shall be available from the National Flood Insurance Fund without prior notice to the Committees on Appropriations. For fiscal year 1998, flood insurance rates shall not exceed the level authorized by the National Flood Insurance Reform Act of 1994.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISION

The Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency shall promulgate through rule-making a methodology for assessment and collection of fees to be assessed and collected beginning in fiscal year 1998 applicable to persons subject to the Federal Emergency Management Agency's radiological emergency preparedness regulations. The aggregate charges assessed pursuant to this section during fiscal year 1998 shall approximate, but not be less than, 100 per centum of the amounts anticipated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency to be obligated for its radiological emergency preparedness program for such fiscal year. The methodology for assessment and collection of fees shall be fair and equitable, and shall reflect the full amount of costs of providing radiological emergency planning, preparedness, response and associated services. Such fees shall be assessed in a manner that reflects the use of agency resources for classes of regulated persons and the administrative costs of collecting such fees. Fees received pursuant to this section shall be deposited in the general fund of the Treasury as offsetting receipts. Assessment and collection of such fees are only authorized during fiscal year 1998.

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

CONSUMER INFORMATION CENTER FUND

For necessary expenses of the Consumer Information Center, including services authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109, \$2,419,000, to be deposited into the Consumer Information Center Fund: Provided, That the appropriations, revenues and collections deposited into the fund shall be available for necessary expenses of Consumer Information Center activities in the aggregate amount of \$7,500,000. Appropriations, revenues, and collections accruing to this fund during fiscal year 1998 in excess of \$7,500,000 shall remain in the fund and shall not be available for expenditure except as authorized in appropriations Acts: Provided further, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Consumer Information Center may accept and deposit to this account, during fiscal year 1998 and hereafter, gifts for the purpose of defraying its costs of printing, publishing, and distributing consumer information and educational materials and undertaking other consumer information activities; may expend those gifts for those purposes, in addition to amounts appropriated or otherwise made available; and the balance shall remain available for expenditure for such purpose.

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE

ADMINISTRATION

HUMAN SPACE FLIGHT

For necessary expenses, not otherwise provided for, in the conduct and support of human space flight research and development activities, including research, development, operations, and services; maintenance; construction of facilities including repair, rehabilitation, and modification of real and personal property, and acquisition or condemnation of real property, as authorized by law; space flight, spacecraft control and communications activities including operations, production, and services; and purchase, lease, charter, maintenance and operation of mission and administrative aircraft, \$5,326,500,000, to remain available until September 30, 1999: Provided, That of the amount appropriated or otherwise made available by this heading, \$1,000,000 may be available for the Neutral Buoyancy Simulator program.

SCIENCE, AERONAUTICS AND TECHNOLOGY

For necessary expenses, not otherwise provided for, in the conduct and support of science,

aeronautics and technology research and development activities, including research, development, operations, and services; maintenance; construction of facilities including repair, rehabilitation, and modification of real and personal property, and acquisition or condemnation of real property, as authorized by law; space flight, spacecraft control and communications activities including operations, production, and services; and purchase, lease, charter, maintenance and operation of mission and administrative aircraft, \$5,642,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 1999.

MISSION SUPPORT

For necessary expenses, not otherwise provided for, in carrying out mission support for human space flight programs and science, aeronautical, and technology programs, including research operations and support; space communications activities including operations, production and services; maintenance; construction of facilities including repair, rehabilitation, and modification of facilities, minor construction of new facilities and additions to existing facilities, facility planning and design, environmental compliance and restoration, and acquisition or condemnation of real property, as authorized by law; program management; personnel and related costs, including uniforms or allowances therefor, as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 5901-5902; travel expenses; purchase, lease, charter, maintenance, and operation of mission and administrative aircraft; not to exceed \$35,000 for official reception and representation expenses; and purchase (not to exceed 33 for replacement only) and hire of passenger motor vehicles; \$2,503,200,000, to remain available until September 30, 1999.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For necessary expenses of the Office of Inspector General in carrying out the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended, \$18,300,000.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

Notwithstanding the limitation on the availability of funds appropriated for "Human space flight", "Science, aeronautics and technology", or "Mission support" by this appropriations Act, when any activity has been initiated by the incurrence of obligations for construction of facilities as authorized by law, such amount available for such activity shall remain available until expended. This provision does not apply to the amounts appropriated in "Mission support" pursuant to the authorization for repair, rehabilitation and modification of facilities, minor construction of new facilities and additions to existing facilities, and facility planning and design.

Notwithstanding the limitation on the availability of funds appropriated for "Human space flight", "Science, aeronautics and technology", or "Mission support" by this appropriations Act, the amounts appropriated for construction of facilities shall remain available until September 30, 2000.

Notwithstanding the limitation on the availability of funds appropriated for "Mission support" and "Office of Inspector General", amounts made available by this Act for personnel and related costs and travel expenses of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration shall remain available until September 30, 1998 and may be used to enter into contracts for training, investigations, costs associated with personnel relocation, and for other services, to be provided during the next fiscal year.

Of the funds provided to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration in this Act, the Administrator shall by November 1, 1998, make available no less than \$400,000 for a study by the National Research Council, with an interim report to be completed by June 1, 1998, that evaluates, in terms of the potential impact on the Space Station's assembly schedule, budget, and capabilities, the engineering challenges posed by extravehicular activity (EVA) requirements, United States and non-United States

space launch requirements, the potential need to upgrade or replace equipment and components after assembly complete, and the requirement to decommission and disassemble the facility.

NATIONAL CREDIT UNION ADMINISTRATION

CENTRAL LIQUIDITY FACILITY

During fiscal year 1998, gross obligations of the Central Liquidity Facility for the principal amount of new direct loans to member credit unions, as authorized by the National Credit Union Central Liquidity Facility Act (12 U.S.C. 1795), shall not exceed \$600,000,000: Provided, That administrative expenses of the Central Liquidity Facility in fiscal year 1998 shall not exceed \$203,000.

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

RESEARCH AND RELATED ACTIVITIES

For necessary expenses in carrying out the National Science Foundation Act of 1950, as amended (42 U.S.C. 1861-1875), and the Act to establish a National Medal of Science (42 U.S.C. 1880-1881); services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109; maintenance and operation of aircraft and purchase of flight services for research support; acquisition of aircraft; \$2,524,700,000, of which not to exceed \$228,530,000 shall remain available until expended for Polar research and operations support, and for reimbursement to other Federal agencies for operational and science support and logistical and other related activities for the United States Antarctic program; the balance to remain available until September 30, 1999: Provided, That receipts for scientific support services and materials furnished by the National Research Centers and other National Science Foundation supported research facilities may be credited to this appropriation: Provided further, That to the extent that the amount appropriated is less than the total amount authorized to be appropriated for included program activities, all amounts, including floors and ceilings, specified in the authorizing Act for those program activities or their subactivities shall be reduced proportionally: Provided further, That \$40,000,000 of the funds available under this heading shall be made available for a comprehensive research initiative on plant genomes, including the corn genome: Provided further, That \$359,000,000 of the funds available under this heading shall not be made available for initiatives in Knowledge and Distributed Intelligence and Life and Earth's Environment until the agency submits appropriate milestones to be achieved by the initiatives in fiscal year 1998.

MAJOR RESEARCH EQUIPMENT

For necessary expenses of major construction projects pursuant to the National Science Foundation Act of 1950, as amended, \$85,000,000, to remain available until expended.

EDUCATION AND HUMAN RESOURCES

For necessary expenses in carrying out science and engineering education and human resources programs and activities pursuant to the National Science Foundation Act of 1950, as amended (42 U.S.C. 1861-1875), including services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109 and rental of conference rooms in the District of Columbia, \$625,500,000, to remain available until September 30, 1999: Provided, That to the extent that the amount of this appropriation is less than the total amount authorized to be appropriated for included program activities, all amounts, including floors and ceilings, specified in the authorizing Act for those program activities or their subactivities shall be reduced proportionally.

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For salaries and expenses necessary in carrying out the National Science Foundation Act of 1950, as amended (42 U.S.C. 1861-1875); services authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109; hire of passenger motor vehicles; not to exceed \$9,000 for official reception and representation expenses; uniforms or allowances therefor, as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 5901-5902; rental of conference rooms in the District of Columbia; reimbursement of the

General Services Administration for security guard services and headquarters relocation; \$136,950,000: Provided, That contracts may be entered into under "Salaries and expenses" in fiscal year 1998 for maintenance and operation of facilities, and for other services, to be provided during the next fiscal year.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For necessary expenses of the Office of Inspector General as authorized by the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended, \$4,850,000, to remain available until September 30, 1999.

NEIGHBORHOOD REINVESTMENT CORPORATION PAYMENT TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD REINVESTMENT CORPORATION

For payment to the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation for use in neighborhood reinvestment activities, as authorized by the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation Act (42 U.S.C. 8101-8107), \$50,000,000.

SELECTIVE SERVICE SYSTEM

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Selective Service System, including expenses of attendance at meetings and of training for uniformed personnel assigned to the Selective Service System, as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 4101-4118 for civilian employees; and not to exceed \$1,000 for official reception and representation expenses; \$23,413,000: Provided, That during the current fiscal year, the President may exempt this appropriation from the provisions of 31 U.S.C. 1341, whenever he deems such action to be necessary in the interest of national defense: Provided further, That none of the funds appropriated by this Act may be expended for or in connection with the induction of any person into the Armed Forces of the United States.

TITLE IV—GENERAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 401. Where appropriations in titles I, II, and III of this Act are expendable for travel expenses and no specific limitation has been placed thereon, the expenditures for such travel expenses may not exceed the amounts set forth therefore in the budget estimates submitted for the appropriations: Provided, That this provision does not apply to accounts that do not contain an object classification for travel: Provided further, That this section shall not apply to travel performed by uncompensated officials of local boards and appeal boards of the Selective Service System; to travel performed directly in connection with care and treatment of medical beneficiaries of the Department of Veterans Affairs; to travel performed in connection with major disasters or emergencies declared or determined by the President under the provisions of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act; to travel performed by the Offices of Inspector General in connection with audits and investigations; or to payments to interagency motor pools where separately set forth in the budget schedules: Provided further, That if appropriations in titles I, II, and III exceed the amounts set forth in budget estimates initially submitted for such appropriations, the expenditures for travel may correspondingly exceed the amounts therefore set forth in the estimates in the same proportion.

SEC. 402. Appropriations and funds available for the administrative expenses of the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Selective Service System shall be available in the current fiscal year for purchase of uniforms, or allowances therefor, as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 5901-5902; hire of passenger motor vehicles; and services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109.

SEC. 403. Funds of the Department of Housing and Urban Development subject to the Government Corporation Control Act or section 402 of the Housing Act of 1950 shall be available, without regard to the limitations on administrative expenses, for legal services on a contract or fee basis, and for utilizing and making payment for services and facilities of Federal National Mortgage Association, Government National Mort-

gage Association, Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, Federal Financing Bank, Federal Reserve banks or any member thereof, Federal Home Loan banks, and any insured bank within the meaning of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Act, as amended (12 U.S.C. 1811-1831).

SEC. 404. No part of any appropriation contained in this Act shall remain available for obligation beyond the current fiscal year unless expressly so provided herein.

SEC. 405. No funds appropriated by this Act may be expended—

(1) pursuant to a certification of an officer or employee of the United States unless—

(A) such certification is accompanied by, or is part of, a voucher or abstract which describes the payee or payees and the items or services for which such expenditure is being made, or

(B) the expenditure of funds pursuant to such certification, and without such a voucher or abstract, is specifically authorized by law; and

(2) unless such expenditure is subject to audit by the General Accounting Office or is specifically exempt by law from such audit.

SEC. 406. None of the funds provided in this Act to any department or agency may be expended for the transportation of any officer or employee of such department or agency between his domicile and his place of employment, with the exception of any officer or employee authorized such transportation under 31 U.S.C. 1344 or 5 U.S.C. 7905.

SEC. 407. None of the funds provided in this Act may be used for payment, through grants or contracts, to recipients that do not share in the cost of conducting research resulting from proposals not specifically solicited by the Government: Provided, That the extent of cost sharing by the recipient shall reflect the mutuality of interest of the grantee or contractor and the Government in the research.

SEC. 408. None of the funds in this Act may be used, directly or through grants, to pay or to provide reimbursement for payment of the salary of a consultant (whether retained by the Federal Government or a grantee) at more than the daily equivalent of the rate paid for level IV of the Executive Schedule, unless specifically authorized by law.

SEC. 409. None of the funds provided in this Act shall be used to pay the expenses of, or otherwise compensate, non-Federal parties intervening in regulatory or adjudicatory proceedings. Nothing herein affects the authority of the Consumer Product Safety Commission pursuant to section 7 of the Consumer Product Safety Act (15 U.S.C. 2056 et seq.).

SEC. 410. Except as otherwise provided under existing law or under an existing Executive Order issued pursuant to an existing law, the obligation or expenditure of any appropriation under this Act for contracts for any consulting service shall be limited to contracts which are (1) a matter of public record and available for public inspection, and (2) thereafter included in a publicly available list of all contracts entered into within twenty-four months prior to the date on which the list is made available to the public and of all contracts on which performance has not been completed by such date. The list required by the preceding sentence shall be updated quarterly and shall include a narrative description of the work to be performed under each such contract.

SEC. 411. Except as otherwise provided by law, no part of any appropriation contained in this Act shall be obligated or expended by any executive agency, as referred to in the Office of Federal Procurement Policy Act (41 U.S.C. 401 et seq.), for a contract for services unless such executive agency (1) has awarded and entered into such contract in full compliance with such Act and the regulations promulgated thereunder, and (2) requires any report prepared pursuant to such contract, including plans, evaluations, studies, analyses and manuals, and any report prepared by the agency which is substantially

derived from or substantially includes any report prepared pursuant to such contract, to contain information concerning (A) the contract pursuant to which the report was prepared, and (B) the contractor who prepared the report pursuant to such contract.

SEC. 412. Except as otherwise provided in section 406, none of the funds provided in this Act to any department or agency shall be obligated or expended to provide a personal cook, chauffeur, or other personal servants to any officer or employee of such department or agency.

SEC. 413. None of the funds provided in this Act to any department or agency shall be obligated or expended to procure passenger automobiles as defined in 15 U.S.C. 2001 with an EPA estimated miles per gallon average of less than 22 miles per gallon.

SEC. 414. None of the funds appropriated in title I of this Act shall be used to enter into any new lease of real property if the estimated annual rental is more than \$300,000 unless the Secretary submits, in writing, a report to the Committees on Appropriations of the Congress and a period of 30 days has expired following the date on which the report is received by the Committees on Appropriations.

SEC. 415. (a) It is the sense of the Congress that, to the greatest extent practicable, all equipment and products purchased with funds made available in this Act should be American-made.

(b) In providing financial assistance to, or entering into any contract with, any entity using funds made available in this Act, the head of each Federal agency, to the greatest extent practicable, shall provide to such entity a notice describing the statement made in subsection (a) by the Congress.

SEC. 416. None of the funds appropriated in this Act may be used to implement any cap on reimbursements to grantees for indirect costs, except as published in Office of Management and Budget Circular A-21.

SEC. 417. Such sums as may be necessary for fiscal year 1998 pay raises for programs funded by this Act shall be absorbed within the levels appropriated in this Act.

SEC. 418. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used for any program, project, or activity, when it is made known to the Federal entity or official to which the funds are made available that the program, project, or activity is not in compliance with any Federal law relating to risk assessment, the protection of private property rights, or unfunded mandates.

SEC. 419. Corporations and agencies of the Department of Housing and Urban Development which are subject to the Government Corporation Control Act, as amended, are hereby authorized to make such expenditures, within the limits of funds and borrowing authority available to each such corporation or agency and in accord with law, and to make such contracts and commitments without regard to fiscal year limitations as provided by section 104 of the Act as may be necessary in carrying out the programs set forth in the budget for 1998 for such corporation or agency except as hereinafter provided: Provided, That collections of these corporations and agencies may be used for new loan or mortgage purchase commitments only to the extent expressly provided for in this Act (unless such loans are in support of other forms of assistance provided for in this or prior appropriations Acts), except that this proviso shall not apply to the mortgage insurance or guaranty operations of these corporations, or where loans or mortgage purchases are necessary to protect the financial interest of the United States Government.

SEC. 420. Notwithstanding section 320(g) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1330(g)), funds made available pursuant to authorization under such section for fiscal year 1998 and prior fiscal years may be used for implementing comprehensive conservation and management plans.

SEC. 421. Such funds as may be necessary to carry out the orderly termination of the Office of Consumer Affairs shall be made available from funds appropriated to the Department of Health and Human Services for fiscal year 1998.

AMERICORPS STUDENT LOAN REPAYMENT

SEC. 422. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the term "qualified student loan" with respect to national service education awards shall mean any loan made directly to a student and certified through an institution of higher education as necessary to assist the student in paying the cost of attendance, in addition to other meanings under section 148(b)(7) of the National and Community Service Act.

SENSE OF THE SENATE CONCERNING CATASTROPHIC NATURAL DISASTERS

SEC. 423. (a) FINDINGS.—The Senate finds that—

(1) catastrophic natural disasters are occurring with great frequency, a trend that is likely to continue for several decades according to prominent scientists;

(2) estimated damage to homes, buildings, and other structures from catastrophic natural disasters has totaled well over \$100,000,000,000 during the last decade, not including the indirect costs of the disasters such as lost productivity and economic decline;

(3) the lack of adequate planning for catastrophic natural disasters, coupled with inadequate private insurance, has led to increasing reliance on the Federal Government to provide disaster relief, including the appropriation of \$40,000,000,000 in supplemental funding since 1989;

(4) in the foreseeable future, a strong likelihood exists that the United States will experience a megacatastrophe, the impact of which would cause widespread economic disruption for homeowners and businesses and enormous cost to the Federal Government; and

(5) the Federal Government has failed to anticipate catastrophic natural disasters and take comprehensive action to reduce their impact.

(b) SENSE OF THE SENATE.—It is the sense of the Senate that Congress should consider legislation that embodies the following principles:

(1) Persons who live in areas at risk of natural disaster should assume a practical level of personal responsibility for the risks through private insurance.

(2) The insurance industry, in partnership with the Federal Government and other private sector entities, should establish new mechanisms for the spreading of the risk of catastrophes that minimize the involvement and liability of the Federal Government.

(3) A partnership should be formed between the private sector and government at all levels to encourage better disaster preparation and respond quickly to the physical and financial impacts of catastrophic natural disasters.

SEC. 424. It is the sense of the Senate that Congress should appropriate for the Department of Veterans Affairs for discretionary activities in each of fiscal years 1999 through 2002 an amount equal to the amount required by the Department in such fiscal year for such activities.

SEC. 425. (a) Not later than 60 days after enactment of this Act, the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs shall hold one or more hearings to consider legislation which would add the following diseases at the end of section 1112(c)(2) of title 38, United States Code:

- (1) Lung cancer.
- (2) Bone cancer.
- (3) Skin cancer.
- (4) Colon cancer.
- (5) Kidney cancer.
- (6) Posterior subcapsular cataracts.
- (7) Non-malignant thyroid nodular disease.
- (8) Ovarian cancer.
- (9) Parathyroid adenoma.
- (10) Tumors of the brain and central nervous system.
- (11) Rectal cancer.

(b) Not later than 30 days after enactment of this Act, the Congressional Budget Office shall provide to the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs and the Senate Appropriations Committee an estimate of the cost of the provision contained in subsection (a).

This Act may be cited as the "Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 1998".

NATIONAL GEOLOGIC MAPPING REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 1997

Mr. COCHRAN. I ask unanimous consent that the Energy Committee be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 709 and, further, that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 709) to reauthorize and amend the National Geologic Mapping Act of 1992, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the bill?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read the third time, and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating to the bill appear at this point in the RECORD.

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

The bill (H.R. 709) was considered read the third time, and passed.

TAXPAYER BROWSING PROTECTION ACT

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 39, H.R. 1226.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the clerk will report.

A bill (H.R. 1226) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to prevent the unauthorized inspection of tax returns or tax return information.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the bill?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read the third time, and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the bill appear at this point in the RECORD.

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

The bill (H.R. 1226) was considered read the third time, and passed.

OAS-CIAV MISSION IN NICARAGUA

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate

proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 114, S. Con. Res. 40.

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

The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 40) expressing the sense of the Congress regarding OAS-CIAV Mission in Nicaragua.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the concurrent resolution?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table and that any statements relating to the resolution appear at this point in the RECORD.

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

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 40) was agreed to, as follows:

S. CON. RES. 40

Whereas the International Support and Verification Commission of the Organization of American States (in this resolution referred to as the "OAS-CIAV") was established in the August 7, 1989, Tela Accords by the presidents of the Central American countries and by the Secretaries General of the United Nations and the Organization of American States for the purpose of ending the Nicaraguan war and reintegrating members of the Nicaraguan Resistance into civil society;

Whereas the OAS-CIAV, originally comprised of 53 unarmed Latin Americans, successfully demobilized 22,500 members of the Nicaraguan Resistance and distributed food and humanitarian assistance to more than 119,000 repatriated Nicaraguans prior to July 1991;

Whereas the OAS-CIAV provided seeds, starter plants, and fertilizer to more than 17,000 families of demobilized combatants;

Whereas the OAS-CIAV assisted former Nicaraguan Resistance members in the construction of nearly 3,000 homes for impoverished families, 45 schools, 50 health clinics, and 25 community multi-purpose centers, as well as the development of microenterprises;

Whereas the OAS-CIAV assisted rural communities with the reparation of roads, development of potable water sources, veterinary and preventative medical training, raising basic crops, cattle ranching, and reforestation;

Whereas the OAS-CIAV, together with the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO), trained local paramedics to staff 22 health posts in the Atlantic and Pacific regions of Nicaragua and provided medical supplies to treat mothers, young children, and cholera patients, among others, in a five-month program that benefited nearly 50,000 Nicaraguans;

Whereas the OAS-CIAV, with 15 members under a new mandate effective June 9, 1993, has investigated and documented more than 1,800 human rights violations, including 653 murders and has presented these cases to Nicaraguan authorities, following and advocating justice in each case;

Whereas the OAS-CIAV has demobilized 20,745 rearmed contras and Sandinistas, as well as apolitical criminal groups, and recently brokered and mediated the successful