

New Mexico [Mr. BINGAMAN] were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 1177 proposed to S. 830, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act and the Public Health Service Act to improve the regulation of food, drugs, devices, and biological products, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. DURBIN his name was added as a cosponsor of Amendment No. 1177 proposed to S. 830, supra.

AMENDMENT NO. 1182

At the request of Mr. HATCH the name of the Senator from Oregon [Mr. WYDEN] was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1182 proposed to S. 830, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act and the Public Health Service Act to improve the regulation of food, drugs, devices, and biological products, and for other purposes.

NOTICE OF HEARINGS

COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I would like to announce for information of the Senate and the public that a Executive Session of the Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources will be held on Wednesday, September 24, 1997, 9:30 a.m., in SD-430 of the Senate Dirksen Building. The following are on the agenda to be considered: S.1186, Workforce Investment Partnership Act of 1997; and nominations, Public Health Service Corps, 128 candidates. For further information, please call the committee, 202/224-5375.

COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I would like to announce for information of the Senate and the public that a hearing of the Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources will be held on Thursday, September 25, 1997, 10 a.m., in SD-430 of the Senate Dirksen Building. The subject of the hearing is Tobacco Settlement, part II. For further information, please call the committee, 202/224-5375.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, for the information of the Senate and the public I am announcing that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources will hold an oversight hearing to receive testimony on the impacts of a new climate treaty on U.S. labor, electricity supply, manufacturing, and the general economy.

The hearing will be held on Tuesday, September 30, 1997, at 9:30 a.m., in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

Those interested in testifying or submitting material for the hearing record should write to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510 attn: David Garman at (202) 224-8115.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO THE UNIFORMED SERVICES UNIVERSITY OF THE HEALTH SCIENCES UPON ITS 25TH ANNIVERSARY

• Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize the 25th Anniversary of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences [USUHS]. Over the past 25 years, USUHS has provided an invaluable service to our Armed Forces and to our Nation.

The founders of USUHS wanted to create a medical school to produce physicians who would remain on active duty for a full career, ensuring the continuity of lessons learned in the practice of uniformed medicine. This concept has made USUHS a unique institution which enables doctors to target their skills to meet the changing demands of the modern battlefield.

USUHS is essential to our military mission because it ensures readiness. Readiness doesn't just mean supplying our troops with the best equipment and training. It also means that we are ready to provide the best possible medical care in the worst possible situations. If we send our military to battle without skilled and experienced medical professionals—we are sending them out unarmed.

This concept for medical training was a success during recent conflicts. During Operation Desert Storm, USUHS physicians were immediately deployable to combat areas and utilized their training in military combat, unconventional warfare, and preventive medicine. This saved countless lives during the gulf war and will keep our troops safe in any future military conflict.

I am proud of USUHS's accomplishments. I hope they will continue serving our armed services by keeping them safe and healthy well into the 21st century. •

AVIATION INSURANCE REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 1997

• Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, I am pleased to join with my distinguished colleagues, Senator MCCAIN, Senator HOLLINGS, and Senator FORD, to introduce the aviation insurance reauthorization Act of 1997. The bill would reauthorize the aviation insurance program for five years. The program is set to expire at the end of this fiscal year.

The aviation insurance program, commonly known as war-risk insurance, has been in place since 1951. It insures air carriers against losses resulting from war, terrorism, or other hostile acts, when commercial insurance is canceled, or is unavailable at reasonable rates. For an air carrier to qualify for the program, the President must determine that a flight is essential to the foreign policy interests of the United States.

The FAA can issue both premium and nonpremium insurance under the pro-

gram. Premium insurance is issued to air carriers flying commercial operations in foreign air commerce, or between two or more points outside the United States. Nonpremium insurance is issued to air carriers flying missions for Federal agencies, such as the Departments of Defense and State, that have indemnification agreements with the Department of Transportation. Nonpremium insurance accounts for 99 percent of the aviation insurance program.

Both the premium and nonpremium insurance provides hull coverage for the loss of, or damage to aircraft. The insurance also provides liability coverage for death or bodily injury, and damage to property, baggage and personal effects. Program coverage is limited to the amount of insurance that an air carrier's commercial policy would have provided. The program is self-financed through the aviation insurance revolving fund.

Reauthorization of the aviation insurance program is noncontroversial. The program enjoys the support of all of its participants. I want to note, however, that my bill adds a new element to the program. It authorizes the Federal Aviation Administration [FAA] to borrow money from the Federal treasury to pay a claim, in the event that the revolving fund is not sufficient to cover a large claim, or simultaneous claims. I believe that this provision is necessary to ensure that timely payments for hull losses can be made to air carriers. These same carriers typically lease aircraft under agreements that stipulate that the carriers must repair or replace damaged aircraft within 30 days of the incident.

Although the Congressional Budget Office claims that this provision does not have a significant budget impact, I understand that the Office of Management and Budget [OMB] may disagree. The FAA and the OMB are working with the aviation leadership on the Commerce Committee to resolve this issue. I pledge my full cooperation, and I hope and expect that we can resolve this issue before the Commerce Committee reports out the legislation.

The Commerce Committee plans to report out the bill as early as next week. The House plans to approve companion legislation next week, as well. I urge my colleagues to work with me to reauthorize the aviation insurance program before it expires at the end of the fiscal year. •

IN RECOGNITION OF 10TH ANNUAL HEAT'S ON DAY

• Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I rise today to bring to my colleagues' attention to the HEAT'S ON partnership of Grand Rapids, MI, which serves people who need special assistance in preparation for the harsh winter months that lie ahead.

On Saturday, September 27, 1997, plumbers and steamfitters of UA Local

70 and the Mechanical Contractors Association of Grand Rapids will join together with Community Action to participate in the 10th annual HEAT'S ON Day. The HEAT'S ON—Handicapped and Elderly Assistance to Serve Our Neighbors—Program began in 1987 in Minneapolis and St. Paul, MN. HEAT'S ON Day has become an annual event in the Grand Rapids area, as members of plumbers and steamfitters local 70 and the Mechanical Contractors Association of Grand Rapids donate their time and talents to ensure that the homes of elderly and disabled people in Grand Rapids and the nearby cities of Grandville, Kentwood, Walker, and Wyoming are safe for the winter.

Participating servicepeople check homes approved for the program and repair and replace broken parts in furnaces and heating units. They also install easy-to-read thermostats and smoke alarms for people who need them. In the past 9 years, HEAT'S ON participants have discovered more serious—and potentially life-threatening—problems, such as plugged chimneys, defective furnaces, and homes exposed to carbon monoxide poisoning. These discoveries have enabled homeowners to have the problems repaired before suffering dangerous accidents.

HEAT'S ON is a community effort, as evidenced by local businesses who contribute time, money, and products to help defray the costs. Consumers Power, Meijer, and Dominos are just a few of the local businesses who participate in this vital program.

HEAT'S ON Day brings together many people to help ensure that nobody who requires assistance needlessly suffers through a cold winter. In Grand Rapids, union workers and business owners combine their resources and abilities to serve those in need. They are an inspiration, and they deserve our recognition. I know my colleagues will join me in extending our congratulations and thanks to the HEAT'S ON partnership of Grand Rapids, MI for 10 years of service to their community.●

CHARACTER COUNTS IN NEW MEXICO

● Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, as we approach National Character Counts Week, October 19–25, I want to relate another example of how character education programs are expanding across the State of New Mexico.

In New Mexico, over 30 communities and cities have adopted partnerships with their school systems to promote the Six Pillars of Character: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship. There are literally thousands of young people involved in character-related programs in their youth organizations and public or private schools. Some communities have expanded their local efforts to include Character in the Workplace programs.

Character Counts is not just a slogan. It represents, instead, exciting and well-developed programs by citizens

who believe there are important and positive benefits to be derived from good character. Because families, churches, community groups, civic leaders, and school administrators and teachers want to place more emphasis on the value of ethical behavior, Character Counts has become one of the fastest growing and localized movements in the State's history.

As an example, in Farmington, NM, the Navajo Preparatory School is initiating an all-encompassing character education program for its students. The Navajo Preparatory School is chartered by the Navajo Nation to operate as a college preparatory school program for Navajo and other native American youth. Its mission is to educate highly motivated and talented students who have the potential and desire to achieve a college education and become leaders of their respective communities. It has 195 boarding and day students from the Navajo Nation, Jicarilla Apache, and various Pueblo Tribes. It has an excellent academic record, with 85 percent of its graduating students enrolled in college.

Some weeks ago I was invited to visit the school to hear about its Character Counts Program. Attending were teachers, students, school administration officials, and members of the board of trustees. The briefing included an innovative audio-visual program designed to transfer the concepts of the Six Pillars of Character into traditional Navajo teachings, as well as a review of the schools's translation of the Six Pillars into the Navajo language. In addition to its Character Counts curriculum, Navajo Prep also supports the development of student activities that will maximize the messages of the Six Pillars. It wants to ensure that its students have a comprehensive and cohesive program that surrounds both their academic and social conduct.

The board of trustees presented their resolution for "Endorsing and Implementing the Character Counts Program at the Navajo Preparatory School." I would like to quote from this resolution so Members of Congress will know how thoroughly the school's officials have developed this character education program.

The Navajo Preparatory School Board supports and endorses Character Counts which are based on six core ethical values: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship.

The Navajo Preparatory School Board requests its staff to examine the curriculum and integrate Navajo-specific character development teachings, strategies, methods and partnership initiatives into the overall school program as an ongoing part of school instruction.

The Navajo Preparatory School Board empowers the school staff to join forces with the State of New Mexico Navajo Nation and other local organizations and become a leader for community action through teaching, enforcing, advocating and modeling the six pillars of character.

The Navajo Preparatory School staff shall pursue available funding to develop Navajo curriculum materials which promote the development of good character.

As evidenced by Navajo Prep's creative character education program and

as explained well in its resolution, " * * * no single entity can instill ethical behavior in youth and adults if it is acting without the support of the other institutions and groups." Character-building activities are for all. They can be embraced by the young and old and the public and private sectors in a way the transcends political, cultural, religious, and socioeconomic differences.

In New Mexico, Character Counts is a statewide and communitywide effort. It is a program with unbelievable energy because everyone who hears about it believes in it and wants it to work. It works because people, like those associated with the Navajo Preparatory School, are wholeheartedly committed to making it a reality.

I applaud the fine work of the Navajo Preparatory School, and welcome it as a new member of the ever-growing family of Character Counts enthusiasts.●

AMERICAN HERITAGE RIVERS INITIATIVE

● Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, I rise in strong opposition to the proposed amendment by my colleague from Arkansas.

First, I think it is important to point out that the American heritage rivers initiative does not force designation upon any river or river community. It is a voluntary program.

American heritage rivers enables communities who wish to protect, restore, and revitalize their waterways, who want to protect their vital natural, historical, cultural, and recreational resources, to voluntarily develop and submit a locally driven nomination and to seek designation.

As proposed by the administration, any nominated river must demonstrate broad community support for the nomination. It must demonstrate that members of the river community have had ample opportunities to comment on the nomination and plan of action. The administration has also made it very clear that if a Member of Congress opposes a river designation in his or her district, the designation will not occur in that district.

Second, American heritage rivers establishes no new regulations, and was specifically designed to streamline Federal assistance to community-led riparian restoration efforts. By requiring written approval from all property owners along a river, and subjecting designation to a lengthy congressional selection process, this amendment in effect creates crippling delays and places unnecessary regulatory burdens on the nomination preparation and selection processes.

Third, this amendment unnecessarily restricts the broad objectives of American heritage rivers by focusing only on the water pollution aspects of river revitalization. American heritage rivers is designed to celebrate and address