

my hope that we can continue this momentum and pass meaningful legislation this year.

Many think autism is rare. In fact, it is the third most prevalent childhood disability, affecting an estimated four hundred thousand Americans and their families. It is also a condition that doctors and scientists believe can be cured. It is not something that we simply must accept.

When people think of autism they might remember the character played by Dustin Hoffman in the movie "Rainman." Yet autism has many faces; it affects people from every background, social and ethnic category. Children with autism may be profoundly retarded and may never learn to speak, while other may be extremely hyperactive and bright. Some may have extraordinary talents, such as an exceptional memory or skill in mathematics. However, all share the common traits of difficulty with communication and social interaction. And for reasons we do not yet understand, eighty percent of those with autism are males.

But autism is not about statistics or medical definitions—it is about children and families. The Kruegers, from Washington state, have an all too typical story. Their little girl Chanel developed like any other child—she happily played with her parents, took her first steps, learned some of her first words and then she started to regress. In four short months, by the time she was two, Chanel had become almost completely enveloped in her own private world. Chanel's mother told me "it was like somebody came in the middle of the night and took my child."

Like many children with autism, the Krueger's daughter no longer responded when her parents called her name; words she once spoke clearly became garbled; and socializing became more and more difficult. Fortunately, due to her parents' dedication and intervention Chanel Krueger at age 5, is doing remarkably well.

But, many autistic children completely lose the ability to interact with the outside world. The hours these kids should be spending in little league or playing with their friends are often spent staring out the window, transfixed by the dust floating in the sunlight or the pattern of leaves on the ground.

Even today, with advances in therapy and early intervention, few of these children will go to college, hold a regular job, live independently or marry. More than half never learn how to speak.

The facts about autism can be sobering—but there is hope. Early intervention and treatment has helped many children. Science has also made great strides in understanding this disorder. We now know that autism is a biological condition, it is not an emotional problem and it is not caused by faulty parenting. Scientists believe that au-

tism is one of the most heritable developmental disorders and is the most likely to benefit from the latest advances in genetics and neurology. Once the genetic link is discovered, the opportunities for understanding, treating, and eventually curing autism are endless.

The promise of research is exactly why I am introducing this legislation. This bill will increase the federal commitment to autism research. Its cornerstone is authorization for five Centers of Excellence where basic researchers, clinicians and scientists can come together to increase our understanding of this devastating disorder.

Because so little is known about the prevalence of autism, I have added a provision that establishes at the Centers for Disease Control at least three centers of expertise on autism in an effort to identify the causes of autism. The epidemiology research will help us confirm or dismiss whether a genetic disposition to autism may be triggered by environmental factors. If so, identifying those factors may help us in taking steps to prevent autism from developing.

A library of genetic information will be a valuable tool for researchers trying to identify the genetic basis for autism. The bill includes a provision to fund a gene and brain tissue bank developed from families affected with autism to be available for research purposes.

While we are hoping to advance our understanding and treatment of autism through research, it is also important that pediatricians and other health professionals have the most current information so that children and their families can receive help as early as possible. The bill includes authorization for an Autism Awareness Program to educate doctors and other health professionals about autism.

Finally, it is vital that we encourage collaboration among the scientists conducting this important work throughout the Department of Health and Human Services. The bill establishes an Inter-Agency Autism Coordinating Committee to bring together the scientists at the various Institutes at the NIH, at the Centers for Disease Control and other agencies conducting autism research.

While the focus of this bill is on autism, advances in this area are also likely to shed light on related problems such as attention deficit disorder, obsessive compulsive disorders, and various seizure disorders and learning disabilities.

Research is the key to unlocking the door and freeing those with autism from the isolation and loneliness of their private world. This bill is intended to give the NIH and the CDC the resources to take advantage of the tremendous opportunity before us to find more effective treatments and ultimately a cure for autism. The promise is real. Fulfillment of that promise only requires our commitment. I urge

my Senate colleagues to support this important investment in the future of our children and our Nation.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 38

At the request of Mr. CAMPBELL, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. HUTCHINSON) was added as a co-sponsor of S. 38, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to phase out the estate and gift taxes over a 10-year period.

S. 51

At the request of Mr. BIDEN, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. SARBAKES) were added as cosponsors of S. 51, a bill to reauthorize the Federal programs to prevent violence against women, and for other purposes.

S. 52

At the request of Mr. BOND, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. MACK) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. COVERDELL) were added as cosponsors of S. 52, a bill to provide a direct check for education.

S. 67

At the request of Mr. MOYNIHAN, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. HOLLINGS) was added as a co-sponsor of S. 67, a bill to designate the headquarters building of the Department of Housing and Urban Development in Washington, District of Columbia, as the "Robert C. Weaver Federal Building."

S. 98

At the request of Mr. McCAIN, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. BREAUX) was added as a cosponsor of S. 98, a bill to authorize appropriations for the Surface Transportation Board for fiscal years 1999, 2000, 2001, and 2002, and for other purposes.

S. 101

At the request of Mr. LUGAR, the names of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. McCONNELL), the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN), and the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. THOMAS) were added as cosponsors of S. 101, a bill to promote trade in United States agricultural commodities, livestock, and value-added products, and to prepare for future bilateral and multilateral trade negotiations.

S. 148

At the request of Mr. ABRAHAM, the names of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) and the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) were added as cosponsors of S. 148, a bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to establish a program to provide assistance in the conservation of neotropical migratory birds.

S. 171

At the request of Mr. MOYNIHAN, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD) were added as co-sponsors of S. 171, a bill to amend the

Clean Air Act to limit the concentration of sulfur in gasoline used in motor vehicles.

S. 185

At the request of Mr. ASHCROFT, the names of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) and the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL) were added as cosponsors of S. 185, a bill to establish a Chief Agricultural Negotiator in the Office of the United States Trade Representative.

S. 192

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 192, a bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to increase the Federal minimum wage.

S. 211

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 211, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the exclusion for employer-provided educational assistance programs, and for other purposes.

S. 223

At the request of Mr. LAUTENBERG, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 223, a bill to help communities modernize public school facilities, and for other purposes.

S. 260

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. FEINGOLD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 260, a bill to make chapter 12 of title 11, United States Code, permanent, and for other purposes.

S. 271

At the request of Mr. FRIST, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. JEFFORDS), and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. DOMENICI) were added as cosponsors of S. 271, a bill to provide for education flexibility partnerships.

S. 280

At the request of Mr. FRIST, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. JEFFORDS), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. DOMENICI), and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. HELMS) were added as cosponsors of S. 280, a bill to provide for education flexibility partnerships.

S. 285

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. ASHCROFT), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. THURMOND), and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES) were added as cosponsors of S. 285, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to restore the link between the maximum amount of earnings by blind individuals permitted without demonstrating ability to engage in substantial gainful activity and the exempt amount permitted in determining excess earnings under the earnings test.

S. 311

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, her name was added as a cosponsor of S.

311, a bill to authorize the Disabled Veterans' LIFE Memorial Foundation to establish a memorial in the District of Columbia or its environs, and for other purposes.

S. 314

At the request of Mr. BOND, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. ASHCROFT), the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. SMITH), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. EDWARDS), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED), the Senator from Montana (Mr. BURNS), and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. ROBB) were added as cosponsors of S. 314, a bill to provide for a loan guarantee program to address the Year 2000 computer problems of small business concerns, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. DASCHLE, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 314, *supra*.

At the request of Mr. BUNNING, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 314, *supra*.

S. 322

At the request of Mr. CAMPBELL, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. EDWARDS) and the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 322, a bill to amend title 4, United States Code, to add the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday to the list of days on which the flag should especially be displayed.

S. 327

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 327, a bill to exempt agricultural products, medicines, and medical products from U.S. economic sanctions.

S. 331

At the request of Mr. JEFFORDS, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. EDWARDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 331, a bill to amend the Social Security Act to expand the availability of health care coverage for working individuals with disabilities, to establish a Ticket to Work and Self-Sufficiency Program in the Social Security Administration to provide such individuals with meaningful opportunities to work, and for other purposes.

S. 345

At the request of Mr. ALLARD, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 345, a bill to amend the Animal Welfare Act to remove the limitation that permits interstate movement of live birds, for the purpose of fighting, to States in which animal fighting is lawful.

S. 346

At the request of Mrs. HUTCHISON, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) were added as cosponsors of S. 346, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to prohibit the recoupment of funds recovered by States from one or more tobacco manufacturers.

S. 349

At the request of Mr. HAGEL, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. JEFFORDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 349, a bill to allow depository institutions to offer negotiable order of withdrawal accounts to all businesses, to repeal the prohibition on the payment of interest on demand deposits, and for other purposes.

S. 351

At the request of Mr. GRAMS, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 351, a bill to provide that certain Federal property shall be made available to States for State and local organization use before being made available to other entities, and for other purposes.

S. 387

At the request of Mr. MCCONNELL, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 387, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an exclusion from gross income for distributions from qualified State tuition programs which are used to pay education expenses.

S. 389

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. BREAUX) was added as a cosponsor of S. 389, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to improve and transfer the jurisdiction over the troops-to-teachers program, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. ROBB, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 389, *supra*.

S. 393

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 393, a bill to provide Internet access to certain Congressional documents, including certain Congressional Research Service publications, Senate lobbying and gift report filings, and Senate and Joint Committee documents.

S. 395

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) and the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) were added as cosponsors of S. 395, a bill to ensure that the volume of steel imports does not exceed the average monthly volume of such imports during the 36-month period preceding July 1997.

S. 403

At the request of Mr. ALLARD, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 403, a bill to prohibit implementation of "Know Your Customer" regulations by the Federal banking agencies.

S. 414

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 414, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a 5-year extension of the credit for producing

electricity from wind, and for other purposes.

S. 456

At the request of Mr. CONRAD, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. AKAKA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 456, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow employers a credit against income tax for information technology training expenses paid or incurred by the employer, and for other purposes.

S. 458

At the request of Mr. HAGEL, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. AKAKA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 458, a bill to modernize and improve the Federal Home Loan Bank System, and for other purposes.

S. 469

At the request of Mr. BREAUX, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CONRAD) was withdrawn as a cosponsor of S. 469, a bill to encourage the timely development of a more cost effective United States commercial space transportation industry, and for other purposes.

S. 484

At the request of Mr. CAMPBELL, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. GREGG) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. HELMS) were added as cosponsors of S. 484, a bill to provide for the granting of refugee status in the United States to nationals of certain foreign countries in which American Vietnam War POW/MIAs or American Korean War POW/MIAs may be present, if those nationals assist in the return to the United States of those POW/MIAs alive.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 5

At the request of Mr. BROWNBACK, the names of the Senator from Utah (Mr. BENNETT), the Senator from Montana (Mr. BURNS), the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. HUTCHINSON), the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. HAGEL), the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN), the Senator from Nevada (Mr. BRYAN), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAIG), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. COVERDELL), the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUYE), and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. GREGG) were added as cosponsors of Senate Concurrent Resolution 5, a concurrent resolution expressing congressional opposition to the unilateral declaration of a Palestinian state and urging the President to assert clearly United States opposition to such a unilateral declaration of statehood.

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, her name was added as a cosponsor of Senate Concurrent Resolution 5, *supra*.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 11

At the request of Mr. CAMPBELL, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. SMITH), and the Senator from

Montana (Mr. BURNS) were added as cosponsors of Senate Concurrent Resolution 11, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress with respect to the fair and equitable implementation of the amendments made by the Food Quality Protection Act of 1996.

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, her name was added as a cosponsor of Senate Concurrent Resolution 11, *supra*.

SENATE RESOLUTION 19

At the request of Mr. SPECTER, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE), the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), and the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) were added as cosponsors of Senate Resolution 19, a resolution to express the sense of the Senate that the Federal investment in biomedical research should be increased by \$2,000,000,000 in fiscal year 2000.

SENATE RESOLUTION 26

At the request of Mr. MURKOWSKI, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. ROTH) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. DEWINE) were added as cosponsors of Senate Resolution 26, a resolution relating to Taiwan's Participation in the World Health Organization.

SENATE RESOLUTION 34

At the request of Mr. TORRICELLI, the names of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. COVERDELL) were added as cosponsors of Senate Resolution 34, a resolution designating the week beginning April 30, 1999, as "National Youth Fitness Week."

SENATE RESOLUTION 47

At the request of Mr. MURKOWSKI, the names of the Senator from Montana (Mr. BURNS), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CLELAND), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. DOMENICI), and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUYE) were added as cosponsors of Senate Resolution 47, a resolution designating the week of March 21 through March 27, 1999, as "National Inhalants and Poisons Awareness Week."

SENATE RESOLUTION 48

At the request of Mrs. HUTCHISON, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. ABRAHAM), the Senator from Texas (Mr. GRAMM), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY), the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BOND), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. KOHL), the Senator from Montana (Mr. BURNS), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. LUGAR), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. BROWNBACK), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. BREAUX), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. EDWARDS), the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU), the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN), the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. SARBAKES), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG), the Senator from Massachusetts

(Mr. KENNEDY), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. SMITH), the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH), and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SPECTER) were added as cosponsors of Senate Resolution 48, a resolution designating the week beginning March 7, 1999, as "National Girl Scout Week."

SENATE RESOLUTION 53

At the request of Mr. HUTCHINSON, the names of the Senator from Washington (Mr. GORTON) and the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. HAGEL) were added as cosponsors of Senate Resolution 53, a resolution to designate March 24, 1999, as "National School Violence Victims' Memorial Day."

SENATE RESOLUTION 55—MAKING APPOINTMENTS TO CERTAIN SENATE COMMITTEES FOR THE 106TH CONGRESS

Mr. LOTT (for himself and Mr. DASCHLE) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 55

Resolved, That notwithstanding the provisions of S. Res. 400 of the 95th Congress, or the provisions of rule XXV, the following shall constitute the membership on those Senate committees listed below for the 106th Congress, or until their successors are appointed:

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Mr. Specter (Chairman), Mr. Murkowski, Mr. Thurmond, Mr. Jeffords, Mr. Campbell, Mr. Craig, Mr. Hutchinson of Arkansas, Mr. Rockefeller, Mr. Graham of Florida, Mr. Akaka, Mr. Wellstone, and Mrs. Murray.

Special Committee on Aging: Mr. Grassley (Chairman), Mr. Jeffords, Mr. Craig, Mr. Burns, Mr. Shelby, Mr. Santorum, Mr. Hagel, Ms. Collins, Mr. Enzi, Mr. Bunning, Mr. Hutchinson of Arkansas, Mr. Breaux, Mr. Reid of Nevada, Mr. Kohl, Mr. Feingold, Mr. Wyden, Mr. Reed of Rhode Island, Mr. Bayh, Mrs. Lincoln, and Mr. Bryan.

Committee on Indian Affairs: Mr. Campbell (Chairman), Mr. Murkowski, Mr. McCain, Mr. Gorton, Mr. Domenici, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Hatch, Mr. Inhofe, Mr. Inouye (Vice Chairman), Mr. Conrad, Mr. Reid of Nevada, Mr. Akaka, Mr. Wellstone, and Mr. Dorgan.

Special Committee on the Year 2000 Technology Problems: Mr. Bennett (Chairman), Mr. Kyl, Mr. Smith of Oregon, Ms. Collins, Mr. Stevens (ex-officio), Mr. Dodd (Vice Chairman), Mr. Moynihan, Mr. Edwards, and Mr. Byrd (ex-officio).

SENATE RESOLUTION 56—RECOGNIZING MARCH 2 AS "NATIONAL READ ACROSS AMERICA DAY," AND ENCOURAGING READING THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

Mr. COVERDELL (for himself, Mr. TORRICELLI, and Mr. ROBB) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 56

Whereas reading is a fundamental part of life and every American should be given the chance to experience the many joys it can bring;

Whereas National Read Across America Day calls for every child in every American