

these children. The federal contribution available to use in this school year is \$3.8 billion. That level of funding represents 10.8 percent of the national average per pupil expenditure for each child with a disability. That represents a mere \$635.83 per child. It's time to deliver on the missing 29.2 percent.

In a letter of March 24, 1999, the National School Boards Association urges us to increase funding for IDEA by \$2.1 billion a year for the next ten years. It reports that 38 cents of every new tax dollar is being spent on special education. Local school districts desperately need our help. If IDEA had been fully funded in fiscal year 1999, my State, Vermont, would have received \$20 million more than the \$5.7 million it will receive this July 1.

By putting our urge to create and fund new initiatives on hold and by focusing on increased funding for IDEA as our first priority, we will be giving relief to school districts, resources to teachers, hope to parents, and opportunities to children with disabilities.

Please join us in cosponsoring this important resolution.

#### AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED

#### CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET FOR THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

#### DOMENICI AMENDMENT NO. 252

Mr. DOMENICI proposed an amendment to the motion to instruct conferees proposed by Mr. KENNEDY to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 68) establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2000 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for each of fiscal years 2001 through 2009; as follows:

At the end add the following in the conference report:

(1) amendment #176, offered in the Senate by Senator Roth and Breaux, regarding Medicare reform; and

(2) Section 209 of the Senate-passed resolution, offered in the Budget Committee by Senator Snowe and Wyden, regarding the use of on-budget surpluses for a prescription drug benefit.

#### NOTICES OF HEARINGS

##### COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I would like to announce that a closed hearing has been scheduled before the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. This hearing is titled: "Damage to the National Security from Chinese Espionage at DOE Nuclear Weapons Laboratories."

The hearing will take place on Wednesday, April 14, 1999, at 9:30 a.m. in room 219 of the Hart Senate Office Building in Washington, D.C.

Those who wish further information may write to the Committee on Energy

and Natural Resources, U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510.

##### COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be allowed to meet on Tuesday, April 13, 1999, at 9:30 a.m. on Telco/Broadband.

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

##### COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, the Finance Committee requests unanimous consent to conduct a hearing on Tuesday, April 13, 1999 beginning at 10 a.m. in room 215 Dirksen.

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

##### COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, April 13, 1999 at 2:30 p.m. to hold a hearing.

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

##### COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, the Committee on Veterans' Affairs would like to request unanimous consent to hold a hearing on the reductions in force in the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The hearing will be held on Tuesday, April 13, 1999, at 2:30 p.m., in room 418 of the Russell Senate Office Building.

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

##### SUBCOMMITTEE ON ANTITRUST, BUSINESS RIGHTS, AND COMPETITION

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Antitrust, Business Rights, and Competition, of the Senate Judiciary Committee, be authorized to hold a hearing during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, April 13, 1999 at 10 a.m. in room 226 of the Senate Dirksen Office Building, on: "S. 467, the Antitrust Merger Review Act: Accelerating FCC Review of Mergers."

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

##### SUBCOMMITTEE ON READINESS AND MANAGEMENT

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support of the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet at 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 13, 1999, in open session, to receive testimony on Department of Defense land withdrawals and environmental programs in review of the defense authorization request for fiscal year 2000 and the Future Years Defense Program.

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

##### SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE CONSTITUTION, FEDERALISM AND PROPERTY RIGHTS

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on the Constitution, Federalism and Property Rights of the

#### AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

##### COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, April 13, 1999, in open session, to receive testimony from the unified commanders on their military strategy and operational requirements in review of the fiscal year 2000 Defense Authorization Request and Future Years Defense program.

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

##### COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet on Tuesday, April 13, 1999, at 2:30 p.m., in closed/open session, to review submarine warfare in the 21st century.

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

Committee on the Judiciary, be authorized to hold an executive business meeting during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, April 13, 1999, at 2 p.m., in room 226 of the Senate Dirksen Office Building.

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

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO CAL RIPKEN, SR.

• Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, on March 25, the game of baseball experienced a tremendous loss when former Baltimore Orioles' manager, coach and minor-league player Cal Ripken, Sr., passed away at the age of 63.

Cal Ripken, Sr. was a monumental figure in Baltimore's baseball heritage. For nearly four decades, Cal Sr. was the heart of the Baltimore Orioles' organization. He exemplified everything that is good about baseball and about America—hard work, dedication and integrity. He taught his sons, Cal Ripken, Jr. and Bill Ripken, to play baseball when they were young and inspired in them his own legendary love of our national pastime.

In 1987, Cal Sr. was named manager of the Orioles, and became the first father to manage two sons simultaneously at the major league level. Ripken Sr. retired in 1992, having spent 36 years with the Orioles' organization.

I will never forget going to the ball park, year after year, and seeing the competitive fire Cal Ripken Sr. brought to the Orioles. He knew how to bring out the best in the players he coached and managed.

Cal Ripken, Sr. will be remembered for what he instilled in his family, in Baltimore and in all of us: work hard, show up every day, and always give it everything you've got. His spirit will live forever in the hearts of every Baltimore Oriole and every Oriole fan.●

##### RECOGNIZING INNOVATIVE EDUCATION AT OAK HARBOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

• Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, today I would like to recognize a school in Oak Harbor, Washington for their wonderful success in becoming a 'school of choice.' Oak Harbor Elementary is another shining example for why I began my 'Innovation in Education Award' program—to highlight to my colleagues in the good things that are happening in education at the local level.

When Oak Harbor Elementary underwent a massive remodel of its north annex, originally built in 1934, it had the opportunity to add 200 more students to its student body. Rather than change attendance boundary areas, the school board and superintendent saw it as an opportunity to make it a magnet school to draw students from the most crowded schools in the district.

Over the course of a year, Principal Glenda Merwine met with parents and

staff to determine what the ideal elementary school could look like. After many meetings, surveys, and discussions, the school chose to make a series of reforms including: requiring uniforms for all students in grades K-5; including curriculum in every classroom about various positive character traits like honesty, generosity and integrity; requiring parent compacts for participation in their children's education; and eventually implementing strong fine arts programs.

With this innovative new structure, Oak Harbor Elementary attracted over 200 student transfers from other schools including private schools and home-schooled children in the area.

The Oak Harbor "school of choice" is now in its second semester under the new plan. Staff and parents are highly enthusiastic over the improved discipline, motivation and achievements of the entire student body. Ms. Merwine said she has seen a dramatic change in the students' attitudes. The student body at Oak Harbor Elementary has increased by 230, yet Ms. Merwine said suspensions and disciplinary incidents decreased dramatically.

She gave one example of how the uniforms have brought down artificial barriers between students. Last year, a kindergartener frequently asked Ms. Merwine or a teacher to play with her, claiming the other children wouldn't. Ms. Merwine eventually observed another student telling the girl she wouldn't play with her because she wasn't wearing the "right brand of jeans." This year, on the first day of school, Ms. Merwine said she saw the same two girls—now in 1st grade and wearing nearly identical uniforms—happily playing in the school yard.

I hope my colleagues will recognize the importance educators like Glenda Merwine, and the exciting things happening in our local schools when they are given the freedom to innovate. I for one, want to do all I can to increase their flexibility and resources so local educators—our parents, teachers, principals, school board members and superintendents—can continue to make the best decisions about the education of our children.●

##### MICHAEL "MICK" BIRD AND THE TRANS-OCEANIC ROWING EXPEDITION

• Mr. INOUYE. Mr. President, I rise today to bring my colleagues' attention to a very exciting expedition. In September 1998, Mr. Michael "Mick" Bird completed the second leg of an unprecedented 24,000 mile voyage around the world. On August 19, 1997, Mick Bird started rowing out to sea from Fort Bragg, California in his vessel Reach. After 66 days of rowing, on October 23, 1997, Mick arrived in Hilo Bay on the Big Island of Hawaii.

After putting the Reach in drydock in Hawaii, Mick returned to his home base in California to raise support and prepare for the next leg of his historic

journey. Mick returned to Hawaii last summer and put to sea in Reach on July 18, 1998 rowing for the Gilbert Islands, about 2500 miles southwest of Hawaii and halfway point between Hawaii and Australia. On September 22, 1998, 66 days and more than 2200 miles from Hawaii, Mick made landfall on Majuro in the Marshall Islands, a bit north of his intended destination in the Gilberts. Mick is now happily home in California with his family preparing for his next leg to the north central coast of Australia; another 2500 mile row.

Mick Bird, a former U.S. Air Force officer, is of Pacific Island descent and has family ties to the State of Hawaii. His voyage is more formally known as Trans-Oceanic, which is the name of the non-profit organization sponsoring this attempt at the world's first solo circumnavigation of the globe by a rowing vessel. The goals of this expedition are, among others, to explore the limits of the human spirit, to raise awareness about ocean ecosystems, to be an example of individual achievement as well as teamwork, and to generate support for the National Tuberous Sclerosis Association. The expedition is also using its World Wide Web sites ([www.naau.com](http://www.naau.com) and [www.goals.com/transrow](http://www.goals.com/transrow)) to create a direct link between Mick's vessel Reach and educators and students to share experiences and practical applications of math, science and geography.

I would like to congratulate Mr. Bird on his very impressive accomplishments to this point, and to express my good wishes for the safety and success of the rest of this voyage around the world. I also wish to commend him and Trans-Oceanic for enhancing public awareness and education. I encourage my colleagues to have a look at Trans-Oceanic's web sites and share them with educators at home to follow along with this amazing journey.●

##### TRIBUTE TO EDITH SCHMIDTCHEN ON HER RETIREMENT

• Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Edith ("Edie") Schmidtchen on her retirement as the Town Clerk for Bedford, New Hampshire after thirty-five years of service. She has had an exceptionally distinguished career with the Town of Bedford.

Edie began her career in Bedford as the Assistant to the Town Clerk. She was promoted and served as the Deputy Town Clerk and then served as the Town Clerk for twenty-one years. Her dedication to the Town and the State of New Hampshire is truly admirable.

Edie has also been very active in the community during her time in the Town Clerk's office. She has been a volunteer teacher for the Bedford Mother's Club, an active member of the Bedford Presbyterian Church, and Secretary of the Town of Bedford Planning Board. She has also participated in