

PRISON HEALTH CARE SERVICES
LEGISLATION

LEAHY AMENDMENT NO. 538

Mr. HUTCHINSON (for Mr. LEAHY) proposed an amendment to the bill (S. 704) to amend title 18, United States Code, to combat the overutilization of prison health care services and control rising prisoner health care costs; as follows:

On page 8, strike lines 1 through 3 and insert the following:

“(4) the term ‘health care visit’—

“(A) means a visit, as determined by the Director, initiated by a prisoner to an institutional or noninstitutional health care provider; and

“(B) does not include a visit initiated by a prisoner—

“(i) pursuant to a staff referral; or

“(ii) to obtain staff-approved follow-up treatment for a chronic condition;

On page 8, line 20, after “services” insert “, emergency services, prenatal care, diagnosis or treatment of contagious diseases, mental health care, or substance abuse treatment”.

On page 10, line 16, strike “2 years” and insert “1 year”.

On page 10, line 21, strike “24-month” and insert “12-month”.

On page 12, strike lines 6 through 9 and insert the following:

“(ii) constitute a health care visit within the meaning of section 4048(a)(4) of this title; and

“(iii) are not preventative health care services, emergency services, prenatal care, diagnosis or treatment of contagious diseases, mental health care, or substance abuse treatment.”

NOTICES OF HEARINGS

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL
RESOURCES

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the public that a hearing has been scheduled before the Subcommittee on Forests and Public Land Management of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

The hearing will take place on Tuesday, June 15, at 2:30 p.m. in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, D.C.

The purpose of this hearing is to conduct oversight on the issues related to vacating the Record of Decision and denial of a Plan of Operations for the Crown Jewel Mine in Okanogan County, Washington.

Those who wish to submit written statements should write to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510. For further information, please call Mike Menge (202) 224-6170.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL
RESOURCES

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I would like to announce that a full committee hearing has been scheduled before the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

The hearing will take place Thursday, June 17, 1999, at 9:30 a.m. in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, D.C.

The purpose of this hearing is to receive testimony on S. 1049, the “Federal Oil and Gas Lease Management Improvement Act of 1999”.

Those wishing to testify or who wish to submit written statements should write to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510. For further information, please call Dan Kish at (202) 224-8276.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO
MEET

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND
FORESTRY

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I would like to announce that the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry will meet on May 27, 1999 in SR-328A at 9:30 a.m. The purpose of this meeting will be to discuss “The New Petroleum: S. 935 the National Sustainable Fuels and Chemical Act of 1999.”

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

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND
FORESTRY

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, be allowed to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday May 27, 1999. The purpose of this meeting will be to discuss the National Sustainable Fuels and Chemical Act of 1999.

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

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND
TRANSPORTATION

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation be authorized to meet on Thursday, May 27, 1999 at 10 a.m. on S. 761—Millennium Digital Commerce Act.

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

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL
RESOURCES

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be granted permission to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 27, for purposes of conducting a full committee hearing which is scheduled to begin at 10 a.m. The purpose of this hearing is to consider the nomination of David L. Godwyn to be Assistant Secretary of Energy for International Affairs and James B. Lewis to be Director of the Office of Minority Economic Impact, Department of Energy.

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

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, the Finance Committee requests unanimous consent to conduct a hearing on Thursday, May 27, 1999, beginning at 10 a.m. in room 215 Dirksen.

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 27, 1999, at 2 p.m. to hold a hearing.

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

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR AND
PENSIONS

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to meet for a hearing on “Reauthorization for the National Endowments of the Arts and Humanities” during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 27, 1999, at 10 a.m.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON AGING

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, Subcommittee on Aging be authorized to meet for a hearing on “Older Americans Act” during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 27, 1999, at 2:30 p.m.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EAST ASIA AND PACIFIC
AFFAIRS

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on East Asian and Pacific Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 27, 1999, at 10 a.m. to hold a hearing.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FISHERIES, WILDLIFE, AND
DRINKING WATER

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, and Drinking Water be granted permission to conduct a hearing on S. 1100, a bill to provide that the designation of critical habitat for endangered and threatened species be required as a part of the development of recovery plans for those species, Thursday, May 27, 10:30 a.m., Hearing Room (SD-406).

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER AND POWER

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Water and Power of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be granted permission to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 27, for purposes of conducting a Water & Power Subcommittee hearing which is scheduled to begin at 2 p.m. The purpose of this hearing is to receive testimony on S. 244, a bill to authorize the construction of the Lewis and Clark Rural Water System and to authorize assistance to the Lewis and Clark Rural Water System, Inc., for the planning and construction of the water supply system,

and for other purposes; S. 623, a bill to amend Public Law 89-108 to increase authorization levels for State and Indian tribal, municipal, rural, and industrial water supplies, to meet current and future water quantity and quality needs of the Red River Valley, to deauthorize certain project features and irrigation service areas, to enhance natural resources and fish and wildlife habitat, and for other purposes; S. 769, a bill to provide a final settlement on certain debt owed by the city of Dickinson, North Dakota, for construction of the bascule gates on the Dickinson Dam; S. 1027, a bill to reauthorize the participation of the Bureau of Reclamation in the Deschutes Resources Conservancy; and H.R. 459, a bill to extend the deadline under the Federal Power Act for FERC Project No. 9401, the Mt. Hope Waterpower Project.

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

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

NEW MILLENNIUM CLASSROOMS ACT

• Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise to call to the attention of the Senate a letter of endorsement given to my bill, the New Millennium Classrooms Act, by a group of 11 senior executives of Silicon Valley's leading technology and venture capital firms.

Mr. President, the New Millennium Classrooms Act, through tax-based incentives, would provide schools and companies the means by which partnerships can be created and computers, software, and related technological equipment can be brought to our schools.

Encouraging private investment and involvement, the New Millennium Classrooms Act achieves this important goal without unduly increasing Federal Government expenditures, creating yet another federal program or department and will keep control where it belongs—with the teachers, the parents, and the students.

Providing today's children with high technological equipment and software will provide them with the necessary and invaluable computer skills needed to ensure their future success and our nation's status as the technological and economic leader in the New Economy.

I ask that the letter from the Silicon Valley firms be printed in the RECORD. The letter follows:

APRIL 15, 1999.

Hon. SPENCER ABRAHAM,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR ABRAHAM: As senior executives of the nation's leading technology companies and venture capital firms, we write to commend you for your continued support of policies that will help to ensure our nation's technological and economic leadership. Specifically, we thank you for introducing the New Millennium Classrooms Act (S. 542), an important step toward making computers, software and the Internet available to American schoolchildren.

By relying on market-based incentives, your legislation will increase the supply of computer technology available to children in grades K-12. We are particularly supportive of enhanced provisions to encourage the donation of computers and equipment to schools that serve underprivileged students, allowing all American children the opportunity to prepare for the New Economy on equal footing. Your legislation will allow the potential of our nation's children to be fully realized in the 21st century, while maintaining fiscal responsibility.

Thank you for introducing this important legislation and for continuing your leadership on issues critical to the success of America's New Economy.

Sincerely,

Wilfred Corrigan, CEO, LSI Logic, Corp.;
Carl Feldbaum, President, Biotechnology Industry Organization; Dr. Dwight D. Decker, President, Conexant Systems; Michael Goldberg, CEO, OnCare; Floyd Kvamme, Partner, Keiner Perkins Caufield & Byers; Willem Roelandts, CEO, Xilinx; Scott Ryles, Managing Director, Merrill Lynch; Ted Smith, Chairman, FileNet; Burt McMurtry, Partner, Technology Venture Investors; Michael Rowan, CEO, Kestrel Solutions; Dr. Henry Samuelli, CTO & Co-Chairman, Broadcom. •

LETTER FROM A NURSING HOME

• Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise today to share a letter I received from my constituent, Ms. Shirley Roney of Bonnie, Illinois. Ms. Roney shared with me a letter she wrote to President Clinton on behalf of her grandmother, Vaneeta Allen. This "Letter from a Nursing Home" reminds us of some of the important issues many American families face every day.

Long-term care is a serious concern for many elderly and disabled Americans. Too many of our citizens face losing everything they have worked their whole lives for, just so they can pay for nursing home care. Medicare was not designed to provide coverage for long-term care, and long-term care insurance is often unavailable due to pre-existing medical conditions, or it is out of financial reach for seniors. We must continue to explore other options to assist those like Vaneeta Allen who must rely on nursing home care.

This letter does not have all of the answers, but we will never have the answers if we lose sight of the struggles and simple dignity of people like Mrs. Allen.

I ask the letter be printed in the RECORD.

The letter follows:

MARCH 30, 1999.

DEAR PRESIDENT CLINTON: for the past four months my grandmother has been in a nursing home. This has been a very "troubling time." I have spent the past four months learning about the way we have failed to adequately provide for those who built this country.

Actually this "Letter from a Nursing Home" came to me in the middle of a sleepless night when I was struggling to figure out some way to help my mom (grandmother) keep her home. It would have broken her heart to lose her home.

It came to me that the least I could do was express her feelings in words on paper. I was

also her Power of Attorney. I wrote the letter on the 14th and before I could mail it, we, the family were called to her bedside. She died on March 18.

So I changed it from "Letter from a Nursing Home" to "Letter from Heaven" and read it as a eulogy at her funeral.

I appreciate the way you have always during your presidency tried to guarantee the rights our fathers fought for to all Americans.

SHIRLEY RONEY.

LETTER FROM A NURSING HOME

MARCH 14, 1999.

President WILLIAM J. CLINTON,
The White House,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: My name is Vaneeta Allen. I will be 93 years of age on August 11, 1999, and for most of my adult life, I have lived independently in a house I have owned.

My dad was a sharecropper. When I was a child, we never owned our own home. It was my dream to own a home when I grew up. I was the second of nine surviving children, the first girl. I wanted to be a schoolteacher but had to quit school at 13 to go to work to help support myself and my brothers and sisters. The year was 1919.

When my children were little we lived through the Great Depression and we celebrated when Franklin D. Roosevelt raised the minimum wage so we could make as much as \$1 a day in the factory.

And finally, we bought for \$5 an acre a little farm southwest of Bonnie and moved ourselves and our two surviving children into a 2-room house. We built on two bedrooms and a bathroom and a kitchen. There, we, my husband and I, spent our working years. The year was 1941.

And we sent our son and son-in-law off to war. There in that home I stood with my ears to the radio listening to the troop movements as our sons marched across Europe, afraid we would lose our sons and maybe our country. Our sons saved our country. And my son came home, but our son-in-law was nearly killed in the Philippines and spent the rest of his short life as a totally disabled veteran in and out of veterans' hospitals. Our son was killed in a car crash on April 12, 1951, at 25 years of age.

Our family bought its citizenship with blood shed on two foreign soils. But it was the price of liberty. We taught our grandchildren, half of whom were fatherless and half of whom were the children of a totally disabled father that the great price they had paid was not in vain.

We taught them about the greatness of America and how all men and women could live free.

In the early 60s, we were forced to sell our farm to the government so they could build Rend Lake there. It was the end of our farming years anyway and we needed to move away from the farm. But our grandchildren cried because they didn't want to leave that farm.

We built and moved into a home in Bonnie, a mile and a half from our farm. And there we, my husband and I, lived together until his death in 1981, and I lived until late October 1998, when I was hospitalized after a fall and nearly died.

Now they tell me I cannot live independently. But I dream every day of going home just one more time. Now, not by choice, I am living in a nursing home. I have a nice room and I am surrounded by others who are just like me. But those of us who still are of sound mind want just to go home again.

When my husband and I retired, we thought we had adequate savings. But inflation and high medical costs have taken all of