

to inquire of the distinguished Senator from Alabama if he wishes some of my time.

Mr. SESSIONS. I thank the Senator from West Virginia. I do not. I expect to follow the Senator from New Hampshire. I do not seek the floor now.

Mr. BYRD. I thank the Senator.

Mr. SESSIONS. I do appreciate the leadership of the Senator from West Virginia on the steel question. It is important; a company in critical condition, with 1,800 employees in Alabama and a 30-year record of business success, which has, in just the last week, gone into bankruptcy.

And I do believe the loan guarantee could help save that historic company. I thank the Senator for his leadership.

Mr. BYRD. I thank the distinguished Senator. With my remaining time, I am very glad to yield to the Senator from Maine, Ms. SNOWE, if she wishes to have my remaining minutes.

Ms. SNOWE. I thank the Senator from West Virginia. I appreciate that. How much time remains?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Four minutes 4 seconds.

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that in addition to the 4 minutes she would be receiving from the Senator from West Virginia, the Senator from Maine receive 5 additional minutes in morning business.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I don't want to be obstreperous, but we have to get to the bill. That is why I urged the Senator from West Virginia to give his time to the Senator from Maine. I have no problem with that. But as far as extending time, it would have to come off the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is objection. Does the Senator from Maine desire to have the remaining time?

Ms. SNOWE. Yes, I do. I thank the Senator from West Virginia for yielding.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, my time is rapidly dwindling. I would like to know whether or not she wishes my remaining time.

Ms. SNOWE. Yes.

Mr. BYRD. I ask unanimous consent that my remaining time may be allotted to the Senator from Maine.

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

The Senator from Maine is recognized.

CONGRATULATING THE U.S. WOMEN'S SOCCER TEAM

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 141, a resolution submitted earlier by Senator SNOWE, Senator REID, and others.

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

The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 141) to congratulate the United States Women's Soccer Team on

winning the 1999 Women's World Cup Championship.

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

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce a resolution along with Senators REID, MURRAY, MIKULSKI, COLLINS, LANDRIEU, FEINSTEIN, BOXER, HUTCHISON, and LINCOLN honoring the U.S. Women's National Soccer Team for their outstanding performance and dramatic victory in winning the 1999 Women's World Cup. This is a resolution that I've worked on with Senator Reid, who spoke eloquently earlier in the week on the World Cup victory, and I want to thank him for his strong support for the team and its accomplishments.

The U.S. Women's National Soccer Team has got to be the single greatest sports story this year, and certainly of this decade. Capturing the hearts and the imagination of America with remarkable play and even higher levels of teamwork and good sportsmanship, the U.S. Women's Soccer Team has ushered in a new era in women's athletics.

We are not just talking about talented athletes here—we're talking about role models who are driven to play by the thrill of victory and the excitement of competition. And perhaps therein lies the true appeal of this team—in a time when money and commercialism often seem to overwhelm the true spirit of sport, along comes these extraordinary women who restore our faith in the virtues of athletic competition and truly give us something to cheer about.

Is it any wonder, then, that these women—as well as women from other nations who have come to the United States in search of World Cup glory—have been “packing them in” wherever they have played. Indeed, The Boston Globe reported that only the Pope has drawn more people to Giants Stadium in New Jersey, and all 65,080 seats at Soldier Field in Chicago were sold-out for the United States-Nigeria game—the largest crowd ever to see a soccer game at that venue.

For the final, over 90,000 fans were on hand to see the national team's dramatic victory over China—a record for an all-women sporting event. Not only has women's soccer arrived, it's taken the nation by storm.

From coast to coast, Americans tuned in to watch our team play world-class soccer—and they weren't disappointed. In fact, it's estimated that about 40 million viewers watched all or part of that nail-biting final match. That's nearly double the rating for the men's World Cup final last year between Brazil and Italy, and bests even the average national ratings for the recent NBA finals between the New York Knicks and the San Antonio Spurs.

Those of us who viewed the tournament were rewarded with victory after victory, as well as the joy of watching athletes who truly love to play. And if Saturday's real-life finale

had instead been the ending to a Hollywood movie, it would have been panned for being utterly unbelievable. Who would have thought that after 120 minutes of regulation play, the score would still be tied at zero-zero, with penalty kicks the only thing standing between defeat and victory?

Throughout all that time—with the nation watching, waiting, hoping, and anticipating, with 90,000 chanting fans hanging on every kick, every header, every pass, and every breakaway—our team never gave up or gave in. Goalkeeper Briana Scurry was nothing short of remarkable, robbing the Chinese team of a critical penalty kick. And at the end, when Brandi Chastain's shot came to rest at the back of the opposing team's net, it all paid off in one of those incredible sporting moments that will go down not only in the history of sports, but in the history of women's struggles for recognition and equality.

There is no question, Mr. President, that sports are just as important an activity for girls and women as they are for boys and men. Through sports, girls and women can experience a positive competitive spirit applicable to any aspect of life.

They can truly learn how to “take the ball and run with it”, not only on the playing fields, but in classrooms, boardrooms, and, yes, even the Committee rooms of Congress. Through athletics, girls and women can achieve a healthy body and a healthy mind. They gain the self-esteem to say “give me the ball” with the clock running out and the game on the line.

You know, when I was growing up, girls and women did not have much opportunity to participate in competitive athletics. But the enactment of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 changed all that for good. Finally, with the passage of this landmark legislation, women would be afforded equitable opportunities to participate in high school and college athletics.

And the results are indisputable. Since Title IX's enactment, women and girls across the nation have met the challenge of participating in competitive sports in record numbers. In the past 28 years, the number of college women participating in competitive athletics has gone from fewer than 32,000 to over 128,000 in 1997. Before Title IX, fewer than 300,000 high school girls played competitive sports. As of 2 years ago, that number had climbed to almost 2.6 million.

The U.S. Women's Soccer Team has not only underscored the achievements of Title IX, but has encouraged even more young women to get into the arena and onto the playing fields. You know, it used to be said that girls were made of “sugar and spice and everything nice.” Well, the U.S. Women's Soccer Team proved that there is room for being both “nice” and determined. There is room for being both a woman and a competitor.

Indeed, it astounds me when I think of how far we have come since I introduced the original joint resolution of Congress establishing the very first National Girls and Women in Sports Day back in 1986. Where dreams of athletic glory were once almost the exclusive domain of boys, today—thanks in large part to our Women's National Soccer Team—girls now have aspirations of their own.

Watching this team has inspired a whole generation of girls to believe that they can go as high and as far as their talent—and their drive—will take them. Indeed, I have no doubt that girls across America will be running around the soccer fields this summer pretending to be Briana Scurry, Michelle Akers, Mia Hamm, or whoever their particular heroine may be. Certainly, on this team, there are plenty from which to choose.

The U.S. Women's National Soccer Team is but one more example of how, when it comes to athletics, women are "coming off the bench," as it were, and taking their rightful place on the fields, on the courts, in the schoolyards and in our stadiums. They prove, once again, that women are just as sure-footed in cleats as they are in heels or whatever other shoes they decide to fill.

In addition to commending the team for all they've done, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the organizers and sponsors of the entire event for the extraordinary job they did in making this tournament a success beyond anyone's wildest dreams. I have no doubt these past few weeks will have an impact on sports in America that will resonate for years.

Again, let me just express my most sincere appreciation to each and every member of the U.S. Women's World Cup Team for making us so proud. They have honored their nation with their sportsmanship, and they have honored themselves with their commitment to each other and their dedication to excellence. Now it is our turn to honor them, and I am pleased to have my colleagues' support for this resolution.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the resolution is agreed to, and the preamble is agreed to.

The resolution (S. Res. 141) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 141

Whereas the Americans blanked Germany in the second half of the quarter finals, before winning 3 to 2, shut out Brazil in the semifinals, 2 to 0, and then stymied China for 120 minutes Saturday, July 10, 1999;

Whereas the Americans, after playing the final match through heat, exhaustion, and tension throughout regulation play and two sudden-death 15-minute overtime periods, out-shot China 5-4 on penalty kicks;

Whereas the Team has brought excitement and pride to the United States with its outstanding play and selfless teamwork throughout the entire World Cup tournament;

Whereas the Americans inspired young women throughout the country to participate in soccer and other competitive sports that can enhance self-esteem and physical fitness;

Whereas the Team has helped to highlight the importance and positive results of title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (20 U.S.C. 1681), a law enacted to eliminate sex discrimination in education in the United States and to expand sports participation by girls and women;

Whereas the Team became the first team representing a country hosting the Women's World Cup tournament to win the tournament;

Whereas the popularity of the Team is evidenced by the facts that more fans watched the United States defeat Denmark in the World Cup opener held at Giants Stadium in New Jersey on June 19, 1999, than have ever watched a Giants or Jets National Football League game at that stadium, and over 90,000 people attended the final match in Pasadena, California, the largest attendance ever for a sporting event in which the only competitors were women;

Whereas the United States becomes the first women's team to simultaneously reign as both Olympic and World Cup champions;

Whereas five Americans, forward Mia Hamm, midfielder Michelle Akers, goalkeeper Briana Scurry, and defenders Brandi Chastain and Carla Overbeck, were chosen for the elite 1999 Women's World Cup All-Star team;

Whereas all the members of the 1999 U.S. women's World Cup team—defenders Brandi Chastain, Christie Pearce, Lorrie Fair, Joy Fawcett, Carla Overbeck, and Kate Sobrero; forwards Danielle Fotopoulos, Mia Hamm, Shannon MacMillian, Cindy Parlow, Kristine Lilly, and Tiffeny Milbrett; goalkeepers Tracy Ducar, Briana Scurry, and Saskia Webber; and midfielders Michelle Akers, Julie Foudy, Tiffany Roberts, Tisha Venturini, and Sara Whalen; and coach Tony DiCicco—both on the playing field and on the practice field, demonstrated their devotion to the team and played an important part in the team's success;

Whereas the Americans will now set their sights in defending their Olympic title in Sydney 2000;

Resolved, That the Senate congratulates the United States Women's Soccer Team on winning the 1999 Women's World Cup Championship.

PATIENTS' BILL OF RIGHTS ACT
OF 1999—Resumed

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the pending bill.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1344) to amend the Public Health Service Act, the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to protect consumers in managed care plans and other health coverage.

Pending:

Daschle amendment No. 1232, in the nature of a substitute.

Collins amendment No. 1243 (to the language proposed to be stricken by amendment No. 1232), to expand deductibility of long-term care to individuals; expand direct access to obstetric and gynecological care; provide timely access to specialists; and expand patient access to emergency medical care.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senator from Oklahoma is recognized.

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I ask the Senator from New Hampshire to manage this portion of the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire, Mr. GREGG, is recognized.

AMENDMENT NO. 1250 TO AMENDMENT NO. 1243

(Purpose: To protect patients and accelerate their treatment and care)

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I send an amendment to the desk and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from New Hampshire [Mr. GREGG] proposes an amendment numbered 1250 to amendment No. 1243.

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

At the end of the amendment add the following:

SEC. . PROTECTING PATIENTS AND ACCELERATING THEIR TREATMENT AND CARE.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Senate makes the following findings with respect to the expansion of medical malpractice liability lawsuits in Senate bill 6 (106th Congress):

(1) The expansion of liability in S. 6 (106th Congress) would not benefit patients and will not improve health care quality.

(2) Expanding the scope of medical malpractice liability to health plans and employers will force higher costs on American families and their employers as a result of increased litigation, attorneys' fees, administrative costs, the costs of defensive coverage determinations, liability insurance premium increases, and unlimited jury verdicts.

(3) Legal liability for health plans and employers is the largest expansion of medical malpractice in history and the most expensive provision of S. 6 (106th Congress), and would increase costs "on average, about 1.4 percent of the premiums of all employer-sponsored plans," according to the Congressional Budget Office.

(4) The expansion of medical malpractice lawsuits would force employers to drop health coverage altogether, rather than take the risk of jeopardizing the solvency of their companies over lawsuits involving health claims.

(5) Seven out of 10 employers in the United States have less than 10 employees, and only 26 percent of employees in these small businesses have health insurance. Such businesses already struggle to provide this coverage, and would be devastated by one lawsuit, and thus, would be discouraged from offering health insurance altogether.

(6) According to a Chamber of Commerce survey in July of 1998, 57 percent of small employers would be likely to drop coverage if exposed to increased lawsuits. Other studies have indicated that for every 1 percent real increase in premiums, small business sponsorship of health insurance drops by 2.6 percent.

(7) There are currently 43,000,000 Americans who are uninsured, and the expansion of medical malpractice lawsuits for health plans and employers would result in millions of additional Americans losing their health insurance coverage and being unable to provide health insurance for their families.

(8) Exposing health plans and employers to greater liability would increase defensive