

Affairs medical center in Bronx, New York; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. DEWINE (for himself, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. LAUTENBERG, and Mr. TORRICELLI):

S. 2632. A bill to authorize the President to present gold medals on behalf of the Congress to astronauts Neil A. Armstrong, Edwin E. "Buzz" Aldrin, Jr., and Michael Collins, the crew of Apollo 11; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mrs. BOXER:

S. 2633. A bill to restore Federal recognition to the Indians of the Graton Rancheria of California; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. BOND:

S. 2634. A bill to amend the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 to provide liability relief to small businesses; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. FRIST (for himself, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. BINGAMAN, Ms. MIKULSKI, and Mr. REED):

S. 2635. A bill to reduce health care costs and promote improved health by providing supplemental grants for additional preventive health services for women; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. DEWINE:

S. 2636. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide pay parity for dentists with physicians employed by the Veterans Health Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. BAUCUS (for himself and Mr. BURNS):

S. 2637. A bill to require a land conveyance, Miles City Veterans Administration Medical Complex, Miles City, Montana; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. COCHRAN (for himself and Mr. LOTT):

S. 2638. A bill to adjust the boundaries of the Gulf Islands National Seashore to include Cat Island, Mississippi; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. DOMENICI (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mr. WELLSTONE):

S. 2639. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide programs for the treatment of mental illness; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. BOXER:

S. 2640. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to permit Department of Veterans Affairs pharmacies to dispense medications to veterans for prescriptions written by private practitioners, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. CLELAND (for himself and Mr. COVERDELL):

S. 2641. A bill to authorize the President to present a gold medal on behalf of Congress to former President Jimmy Carter and his wife Rosalynn Carter in recognition of their service to the Nation; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. HATCH:

S. 2642. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide major tax simplification; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. STEVENS (for himself and Mr. INOUE):

S. 2643. A bill to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to provide increased foreign assistance for tuberculosis prevention, treatment, and control; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. GORTON (for himself, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. SANTORUM, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. COCHRAN, and Mr. L. CHAFEE):

S. 2644. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to expand medicare coverage of certain self-injected biologicals; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. THOMPSON:

S. 2645. A bill to provide for the application of certain measures to the People's Republic of China in response to the illegal sale, transfer, or misuse of certain controlled goods, services, or technology, and for other purposes; read the first time.

By Mr. COVERDELL:

S. 2646. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on machines, and their parts, for use in the manufacture of digital versatile discs (DVDs); to the Committee on Finance.

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By Mr. COVERDELL:

S. 2648. A bill to amend the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States to provide duty-free treatment for, and clarify the classification of, machines and components used in the manufacture of digital versatile discs (DVDs); to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. COVERDELL:

S. 2649. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on machines, and their parts, for use in the manufacture of digital versatile discs (DVDs); to the Committee on Finance.

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S. 2650. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on machines, and their parts, for use in the manufacture of digital versatile discs (DVDs); to the Committee on Finance.

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S. 2651. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on machines, and their parts, for use in the manufacture of digital versatile discs (DVDs); to the Committee on Finance.

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S. 2652. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on machines, and their parts, for use in the manufacture of digital versatile discs (DVDs); to the Committee on Finance.

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S. 2656. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on machines, and their parts, for use in the manufacture of digital versatile discs (DVDs); to the Committee on Finance.

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S. 2657. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on machines, and their parts, for use in the manufacture of digital versatile discs (DVDs); to the Committee on Finance.

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S. 2658. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on machines, and their parts, for use in the manufacture of digital versatile discs (DVDs); to the Committee on Finance.

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S. 2659. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on machines, and their parts, for use in the manufacture of digital versatile discs (DVDs); to the Committee on Finance.

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S. 2660. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on machines, and their parts, for use in the manufacture of digital versatile discs (DVDs); to the Committee on Finance.

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S. 2661. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on machines, and their parts, for use in the manufacture of digital versatile discs (DVDs); to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. COVERDELL:

S. 2662. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on machines, and their parts, for use in the manufacture of digital versatile discs (DVDs); to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. COVERDELL:

S. 2663. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on machines, and their parts, for use in the manufacture of digital versatile discs (DVDs); to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. COVERDELL:

S. 2664. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on machines used in the manufacture of digital versatile discs; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KYL (for himself and Mr. DOMENICI):

S. 2665. A bill to establish a streamlined process to enable the Navajo Nation to lease trust lands without having to obtain the approval of the Secretary of the Interior of individual leases, except leases for exploration, development, or extraction of any mineral resources; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. REID:

S. 2666. A bill to secure the Federal voting rights of persons who have fully served their sentences, including parole and probation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WARNER (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. ROBB, and Mr. LEAHY):

S. 2667. A bill to designate the Washington Opera in Washington, D.C., as the National Opera; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. GRAHAM (for himself and Mr. SMITH of Oregon):

S. 2668. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to improve procedures for the adjustment of status of aliens, to reduce the backlog of family-sponsored aliens, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. MCCAIN:

S. Res. 314. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate concerning the violence, breakdown of rule of law, and troubled per election period in the Republic of Zimbabwe; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. HELMS (for himself, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. FRIST, and Mr. FEINGOLD):

S. Res. 315. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the crimes and abuses committed against the people of Sierra Leone by the Revolutionary United Front, and for other purposes; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. SESSIONS (for himself and Mr. SHELBY):

S. Res. 316. A resolution honoring Senior Judge Daniel H. Thomas of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Alabama; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. HELMS (for himself, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. ROTH, and Mr. BIDEN):

S. Con. Res. 118. A concurrent resolution commemorating the 60th anniversary of the execution of Polish captives by Soviet authorities in April and May 1940; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

STATEMENT ON INTRODUCED
BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. FEINGOLD (for himself
and Mr. JEFFORDS):

S. 2630. A bill to prohibit products that contain dry ultra-filtered milk products or casein from being labeled as domestic natural cheese, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

THE QUALITY CHEESE ACT OF 2000

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, along with Senator JEFFORDS, I am pleased to introduce the Quality Cheese Act of 2000. This legislation will protect the consumer, save taxpayer dollars and provide support to America's dairy farmers, who have taken a beating in the marketplace in recent years.

When Wisconsin consumers have the choice, they will choose natural Wisconsin cheese, but the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) may change current law, and consumers won't know whether cheese is really all natural or not.

If the federal government creates a loophole for imitation cheese ingredients to be used in U.S. cheese vats, cheese bearing the labels "domestic" and "natural" will no longer be truly accurate.

If USDA and FDA allow a change in federal rules, imitation milk proteins known as milk protein concentrate or casein, could be used to make cheese in place of the wholesome natural milk produced by cows in Wisconsin or other part of the U.S.

Mr. President, I am deeply concerned by recent efforts to change America's natural cheese standard. This effort to allow milk protein concentrate and casein into natural cheese products flies in the face of logic and could create a loophole for unlimited amounts of substandard imported milk proteins to enter U.S. cheese vats.

My legislation will close this loophole and ensure that consumers can be confident that they are buying natural cheese when they see the natural label.

Our dairy farmers have invested heavily in processes that make the best quality cheese ingredients, and I am concerned about recent efforts to change the law that would penalize them for those efforts by allowing lower quality ingredients to flood the U.S. market.

Over the past decade, cheese consumption has risen at a strong pace due to promotional and marketing efforts and investments by dairy farmers across the country. Year after year, per capita cheese consumption has risen at a steady rate.

Back in the 1980's, when I served in the Wisconsin State Senate, cheese consumption topped 20 pounds per person. During the 1990s consumption increased by over 25 percent, and passed 25 pounds per person. Last year we saw an even more dramatic increase when per capita cheese consumption rose an amazing 1.5 pounds to reach 29.8 pounds.

This one-year increase amounts to the largest expansion since 1982! I am proud to say that my home state of Wisconsin, America's dairyland, was one of the main engines behind this growth. After all, when consumers see the label "Wisconsin Cheese," they know that it is synonymous with quality.

Over the past two decades consumers have increased their cheese consumption due to their understanding, and taste for the quality natural cheese produced by America's dairy industry.

Recent proposals to change to our natural cheese standard could decrease consumption of natural cheese. These declines could result from concerns about the origin of casein and other forms of dry UF milk.

The vast majority of dry ultra filtered milk originates from countries with State Trading Enterprises. Many of these countries subsidize their dairy exports through these trading mechanisms, and have quality standards that are well below those of the United States.

While it is difficult to obtain specific numbers about the amount of dry UF milk produced in foreign countries, I have heard disturbing stories about the conditions under which the casein and milk proteins are sometimes produced.

For the most part, dry UF milk is not produced in the US. In fact, it is, for the most part, produced in countries where sanitary standards are well below those of the United States.

These products are sold on the international market, and under the proposed rule they could be labeled as natural cheese. This cheap, low quality dry UF milk tends to leave cheese greasy and increases separation problems.

The addition of this kind of milk will certainly leave the wholesome reputation of "natural cheese" significantly tarnished in the eyes of the consumer.

This change would seriously compromise decades of work by America's dairy farmers to build up domestic cheese consumption levels. It is simply not fair to America's farmers!

Mr. President, consumers have a right to know if the cheese they buy is unnatural. And by allowing unnatural dry UF milk into cheese, we are denying consumers the entire picture.

The Feingold-Jeffords legislation will paint the entire picture for the consumer, and allow them enough information to select cheese made from truly natural ingredients.

Allowing dry Ultra-Filtered milk into cheeses will have a significant adverse impact on dairy producers throughout the United States. Some estimate that the annual effect of the change on the dairy farm sector of the economy could be more than \$100 million.

The proposed change to our natural cheese standard would also harm the American taxpayer.

If we allow dry UF milk to be used in cheese we will effectively permit unre-

stricted importation of these ingredients into the United States. Because there are no tariffs and quotas on these ingredients, these heavily subsidized products will displace natural domestic dairy ingredients.

These unnatural domestic dairy products will enter our domestic cheese market and may further depress dairy prices paid to American dairy producers.

Low dairy prices result in increased costs to the dairy price support program. So, at the same time that U.S. dairy farmers are receiving lower prices, the U.S. taxpayer will be paying more for the dairy price support program.

Mr. President, this change does not benefit the dairy farmer, consumer or taxpayer. Who then is it good for?

The obvious answer is nobody.

America's farmers have invested a tremendous amount of time and effort create the best cheese industry in the world. They should not be penalized for their efforts.

This legislation takes a two pronged approach to address these concerns. First, it prohibits dry ultra-filtered milk from being included in America's natural cheese standard.

Second, it requires the Food and Drug Administration to conduct a study into the impact of allowing wet ultra-filtered milk into the natural cheese standard.

Let me be clear, currently, neither of these products are allowed in America's natural cheese standard. Under current regulations, wet ultra-filtered milk may only be used in natural cheese products if—and only if—both the wet UF milk and the cheese are produced at the same plant.

I have heard a number of concerns from dairy farmers, but the most immediate concern is the importation of milk protein concentrate and casein. This legislation is the first step in addressing their concerns, and ensuring that any future changes incorporate the concerns of America's dairy farmers.

Congress must shut the door on any backdoor efforts to stack the deck against America's dairy farmers. And we must pass my legislation that prevents a loophole that would allow changes that hurt the consumer, taxpayer and dairy farmer.

Thank you Mr. President. I yield the floor.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself
and Mr. MOYNIHAN):

S. 2631. A bill to authorize a project for the renovation of the Department of Veterans Affairs medical center in Bronx, New York; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

BRONX VA MEDICAL CENTER'S RESEARCH
FACILITY LEGISLATION

• Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I rise today with Senator DANIEL PATRICK MOYNIHAN to introduce legislation that would authorize renovations to the Bronx VA Medical Center's research facility.