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 unrestricted 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.

This facility, when renovations are completed, will serve as a center of excellence for VA research on neurodegenerative diseases that are more prevalent in our veterans population than in any other group of Americans. Specifically, the research would focus on Alzheimer's and Parkinson's Disease, Multiple Sclerosis, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) and brain and spinal cord injury.

Major neurodegenerative diseases like Alzheimer's and Parkinson's tend to occur later in life and are progressive lifelong afflictions. Some 20 million Americans have been diagnosed with one of these diseases and the costs of their treatment have reached over $100 billion annually. US Census Bureau statistics indicate that because of our aging population, the incidence of neurodegenerative diseases and the associated human and economic costs will increase four-fold by 2040. Veterans, an aging population are disproportionately affected. Traumatic brain and spinal cord injury are also highly represented in the veterans population. Over 200,000 individuals in the US are living with spinal cord injury today, and another 2 million suffer traumatic brain injury annually.

The bill I introduce today would authorize $12.3 million for renovations to an aging facility on the campus of the Bronx VAMC. Department of Veterans Affairs researchers there, are in desperate need of modern, state-of-the-art laboratories to continue efforts to understand, treat and develop new methods of care for all Americans afflicted with these horrible diseases. This legislation represents an important step in ensuring that the quality of care provided to veterans in New York and across the country reflects our highest esteem for those who answered their country's call. We owe our veterans no less than the best medical care anywhere—and the research and treatments that come from this renovated facility will help ensure that happens. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting and enacting this critical legislation.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2631

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. AUTHORIZATION OF MAJOR MEDICAL FACILITY PROJECT, DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may carry out a major medical facility project for the renovation of the Department of Veterans Affairs medical center in Bronx, New York, in an amount not to exceed $12,300,000.

SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2001 for the Construction, Major Projects, account $12,300,000 for the project authorized in section 1.

(b) LIMITATION.—The project authorized in section 1 may only be carried out using—

(1) funds appropriated for fiscal year 2001 pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in subsection (a);

(2) funds appropriated for the Construction, Major Projects, account for a fiscal year before fiscal year 2001 that remain available for obligation; and

(3) funds appropriated for the Construction, Major Projects, account for fiscal year 2001 for a category of activity not specific to a project.●

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.

CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDALS TO THE CREW OF THE APOLLO 11

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, today I am introducing legislation, along with my colleagues, Senators VOINOVICH, LAUTENBERG, and TORRICELLI, to authorize the President to present gold medals on behalf of Congress to astronauts Neil A. Armstrong, Edwin ''Buzz'' Aldrin, and Michael Collins—the heroic crew of the *Apollo 11*.

For thousands of years, man has gazed at the moon with awe, dreaming of the day when that celestial body would no longer be out of man's grasp. On July 20, 1969, thanks to the crew of the *Apollo 11*, the heavens became part of man's world.

The mission to the moon was a long and treacherous endeavor. It started with President Kennedy's vision to put a man on the moon before the end of the decade and concluded with a simple step and the immortal words: ''One small step for man and one giant leap for mankind.'' We owe a great deal of gratitude to the men and women of America's space program. And, I believe that presenting Congressional gold medals to the crew of *Apollo 11* is a fitting tribute to them and the mission.

The primary objective of *Apollo 11* was simple and straightforward: ''Perform a manned lunar landing and return.'' The mission, though, was anything but simple. The historic journey began with the *Eagle's* fiery lift-off at Cape Kennedy at 9:32 a.m. on July 19, 1969. The world watched as astronauts Armstrong, Aldrin, and Collins blasted toward outer space. While the millions who witnessed the event were excited and exhilarated, I do not think any of us truly appreciated the complexity and magnitude of the crew's responsibilities. One mistakenly pulled lever, one power failure could have rendered *Apollo 11* a disaster. When asked to recall his thoughts on the mission's outcome, Astronaut Michael Collins said: ''I am far from certain that we will be able to fly the mission as planned. I think we will escape with our skins, or at least I will escape with mine, but I wouldn't give better than even odds on a successful landing and return.''

On July 20, 1969, Armstrong and Aldrin began their descent to the lunar surface. The *Eagle* landed with less than 45 seconds worth of fuel and the buzz of several warning alarms. It was shortly after that landing when Neil Armstrong emerged from the craft and set foot on the moon's surface. Never before in the history of mankind had a human being set foot on another celestial body. The crew of *Apollo 11* embodied the spirit of discovery that is so prevalent in our space program. It is this same spirit that we need to communicate to our next generation.

Neil Armstrong, the commander of *Apollo 11*, was born on August 5, 1930, in my home state of Ohio. He developed an interest in flying at an early age. In fact, he obtained his student pilot's license before he got his driver's license. After high school, he received a scholarship from the U.S. Navy and studied aeronautical engineering. He later became an aviator in the Navy and was chosen for the space program with the second group of astronauts in 1962. He made seven flights in the X–15 program, reaching an altitude of 207,500 feet. He was the command pilot for *Gemini 8* and *Apollo 11*. After *Apollo 11*, he was Deputy Associate Administrator for Aeronautics at NASA from July 1970 until August 1971, when he left to become Professor of Aeronautical Engineering at the University of Cincinnati. He served on the National Commission on Space from 1985 to 1986 and on the Presidential Commission on the Space Shuttle Challenger Accident in 1986.

Edwin ''Buzz'' Aldrin was born in New Jersey on January 20, 1930. He attended the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, and later entered the U.S. Air Force, where he received pilot training. He was chosen with the third group of astronauts in 1963. He was a pilot on *Gemini 12*, where he was one of the key figures working to improve in-space docking and was the lunar module pilot for *Apollo 11*. After leaving NASA in 1971, he became Commandant of the Aerospace Research Pilot's School at Edwards Air Force Base in California. He retired from the Air Force in 1972 and became a consultant for the Comprehensive Care Corporation, Newport Beach, California. He has authored two books, ''Return to Earth'' and ''Men From Earth.''

Michael Collins was born on October 30, 1930, in Rome, Italy and later moved to Washington, DC. Upon finishing high school, he attended the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. Prior to joining NASA, he was a test pilot at the Air Force Flight Center, Edwards Air Force Base. He was chosen in the third group of astronauts in 1963. He served as a pilot for *Gemini 10*, where he set a world altitude record; became the nation's third spacewalker; and served as the command module pilot for *Apollo 11*. He left NASA in 1970 and was appointed Assistant Secretary of State

for Public Affairs. He became Director of the National Air and Space Museum at the Smithsonian Institution in April 1971 and was promoted to Under Secretary of the Smithsonian in April 1978. He retired from the Air Force with the rank of Major General. He has written numerous articles and two books, ''Carrying the Fire and Liftoff,'' as well as a children's book, ''Flying to the Moon and Other Strange Places.''

Mr. President, presenting Congressional Gold Medals to the crew of the *Apollo 11* is as much about the future as it is about the past. These medals will be a reminder of the great accomplishment of *Apollo 11* and her crew. Moreover, the presentation of the medals will help inspire future generations of Americans to continue striving to accomplish tasks that may seem out of reach, like putting a man on the moon. I am convinced that somewhere in our schools today are the next Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin, and Michael Collins. Before long, our children will be talking about where they were when the first man or woman set foot on Mars. Let's honor the immense achievement of the crew of *Apollo 11*. I urge my colleagues to support presenting Congressional Gold Medals to Neil Armstrong, Edwin E. ''Buzz'' Aldrin, Jr., and Michael Collins.

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.

GRATON RANCHERIA RESTORATION ACT

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President. I am delighted today to introduce legislation to restore federal recognition to the Graton Rancheria, which is composed of Coastal Miwok and Southern Pomo tribal members. This bill is identical to legislation that has been introduced in the House of Representatives by Congresswoman LYNN WOOLSEY. It is my great pleasure to carry this legislation in the Senate and to correct an injustice committed against these original inhabitants of the region some 34 years ago.

The Coastal Miwok and Southern Pomo Indians flourished in Marin and southern Sonoma counties for many hundreds of years. At the time of European settlement, there were as many as 5,000 of these tribal members. By the end of the 19th Century, however, disease and enforced labor had killed off most of them. And the federal government formally terminated the tribe's identity in 1966 under the California Rancheria Act, after concluding, incorrectly, that virtually all of the members were deceased.

The descendants of 12 Graton Rancheria survivors now number over 300, and they refer to themselves as the ''Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria''—after the town in southern Sonoma County where an acre-sized piece of their original reservation is still owned by a Miwok descendant.

This legislation not only restores dignity and a sense of identity to the Graton Rancheria, it will restore all federal rights and privileges to the tribal members including health, education, and housing services. It will also permit the Graton Rancheria to maintain an existing cemetery and place of worship. Finally, this bill is unique in that it contains a clause whereby the tribe permanently waives any right to casino-style gambling on their land.

Mr. President, the tribes of the Graton Rancheria are an integral and important part of the Bay Area's cultural heritage and history. It was wrong to terminate their status in 1966, and it is only right to restore their formal recognition now.

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 Environmental and Public Works.

SMALL BUSINESS RELIEF ACT OF 2000

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, it is a pleasure for me to introduce the Small Business Relief Act of 2000. This bill will provide a lifeline for the thousands of small business owners threatened by lawsuits and litigation under the broken Superfund liability system.

This bill is simple. All this bill does is relieve innocent small business owners from superfund liability unless it is demonstrated that the small business is guilty of gross negligence or did contribute significantly to the toxic waste at the superfund site.

My bill will not let polluters off the hook. This common-sense proposal will make the Superfund program a little more reasonable and workable. With this legislation, we can begin to provide some relief to small business owners who are held hostage by potential Superfund liability.

For years now, members from both sides of the aisle have said that the Superfund program is broken, it doesn't work, it must be reformed. Unfortunately we haven't gotten past the rhetoric to fix the problem. Instead of making changes that will produce results that are better for the taxpayers, better for the environment, and more efficient for everyone involved—government agencies, federal bureaucrats, and Congress has protected this troubled and inefficient program from meaningful reform.

As Washington has played politics with the Superfund program, innocent Main Street small business owners across the nation, the engine of our economy, continue to be unfairly pulled into Superfund's legal quagmire. Even the EPA has stated its support for protecting restaurant owners, mom-and-pop convenience store operators, and other small business owners who have legally disposed of their trash and cannot afford the tab that comes with Superfund legal bills.

Let's put a human face on this: last year, just across the Missouri border—in Quincy, Illinois—160 small business owners were asked to pay the EPA more than $3 million for garbage legally hauled to a dump more than 20 years ago. The situation in Quincy is just one example of the very real, ongoing Superfund legal threat to small business owners across the nation.

Mr. President, we all know that Superfund was created to clean up the nation's most-hazardous waste sites. Superfund was not created to have small business owners sued for simply throwing out their trash! These small business owners are faced with so many challenges already, that the thousands of dollars in penalties and lawsuits leave them with no choice but to mortgage their businesses, their employees and their future to pay for the bills of a broken government program.

How many times will we tell ourselves that this unacceptable situation must be fixed before we act? Small business owners literally cannot afford to wait around while we delay action on the common-sense fixes required to protect them and our environment.

In recognition of our small businesses around the country and Small Business Week, I introduce this bill and look forward to leading the fight to ensure timely adoption of this long-overdue legislation.

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.

THE WISEWOMAN EXPANSION ACT OF 2000

• Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, many of us associate cardiovascular disease with men, but the American Heart Association estimates that nearly one in two women will die of heart disease or stroke. Unfortunately, most women do not realize that they are at such high risk for cardiovascular disease because of its historically male stereotype. In fact, cardiovascular diseases kill nearly 50,000 more women each year than men. Even more alarming is a recent survey reported by the Society for Women's Health Research which revealed that not all physicians know that cardiovascular diseases are the leading cause of death among American women.

Each year nearly half a million women lose their lives as a result of heart disease and stroke. Since 1984, fortunately, men have experienced a decline in deaths due to cardiovascular diseases, while, unfortunately, women have not. Tragically, many of these deaths could have been prevented. Had these women known they were at risk

for cardiovascular disease, they could have taken preventive measures by not smoking, lowering their cholesterol or blood pressure, or by eating more nutritiously, and perhaps prevented becoming a victim of heart disease or stroke. For many women, prevention is truly the only cure, since it has been reported that as many as two-thirds of women who die from heart attacks have no warning symptoms of any kind.

Cardiovascular diseases kill more American females each year than the next 14 causes of death combined, including all forms of cancers. Over half of all cardiovascular deaths each year are women, and in 1997 alone heart diseases claimed the lives of 502,938 women. My home state of Tennessee has the second highest death rate from heart disease, stroke, and other cardiovascular diseases in the nation and the 13th highest ranking state in women's heart deaths. In 1997, 10,884 Tennessee women died from these two cardiovascular diseases alone. According to the CDC, women in the rural South are more likely to die of heart disease than those in other parts of the country. An even more disturbing disparity is that the age adjusted death from coronary heart disease for African-American women is nearly 72 percent higher than that of white women.

Fortunately, some preventive measures, such as physical activity and better nutrition, can be taken by women to reduce their risk for cardiovascular diseases, as well as other preventable diseases, such as osteoporosis. Osteoporosis, affecting one out of every two over 50, is also a preventable disease that American women are facing. Furthermore, osteoporosis is a health threat for roughly 28 million Americans, 80 percent of whom are women.

In an effort to continue to draw attention and greater awareness to health issues among American women, particularly cardiovascular diseases, I am very pleased to introduce today the ''WISEWOMAN Expansion Act of 2000,'' with Senator HARKIN. Our goal in expanding this program is to reduce the risk of cardiovascular diseases, and other preventable diseases, and to increase access to screening and other preventive measures for low-income and underinsured women. In addition to making cardiovascular diseases screening accessible to underserved women, this program will also educate them about their risk for cardiovascular diseases and how to make lifestyle changes thus giving them the power to prevent these diseases.

The National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program (NBCCEDP), run by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), is an example of a successful program that has provided critical services to help prevent major diseases affecting American women. The NBCCEDP has done an outstanding job of bringing in low-income underinsured women and providing them with preventive screenings for breast and cervical cancers. The women who benefit from this program are generally too young for Medicare, unable to qualify for Medicaid or other state programs, and would otherwise fall through the cracks in our health system.

Our bill provides for the expansion of the WISEWOMAN (Well-Integrated Screening and Evaluation for Women in Massachusetts, Arizona, and North Carolina) demonstration project, which is run by the CDC in conjunction with the NBCCEDP, to additional states. The WISEWOMAN program capitalizes on the highly successful infrastructure of the NBCCEDP to offer ''one-stop shopping'' screening and preventive services for uninsured and low-income women. In addition to these very important breast and cervical cancer screenings, WISEWOMAN screens for cardiovascular disease risk factors and provides health counseling and lifestyle interventions to help women reduce behavioral risk factors. The program addresses risk factors such as elevated cholesterol, high blood pressure, obesity and smoking and provides important additional intervention and educational services to women who would not otherwise have access to cardiovascular disease screening or prevention. This bill also adds flexibility to the program language that would allow screenings and other preventive measures for diseases in addition to cardiovascular diseases, such as osteoporosis, as more preventive technology is developed.

Mr. President, I would like to thank Judy Womack and Dr. Joy Cox of the Tennessee Department of Health for their counsel and assistance on this legislation and for their efforts in helping Tennesseans.

This bipartisan bill is supported by the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, the Society for Women's Health Research, the American Cancer Society, the National Osteoporosis Foundation, and the American Heart Association. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to place the following letters of support in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the letters were ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

SOCIETY FOR
WOMEN'S HEALTH RESEARCH,
Washington, DC, May 24, 2000.

Hon. BILL FRIST,
Chair, Subcommittee on Public Health, Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATORS FRIST AND HARKINS: On behalf of the Society for Women's Health Research, we express our appreciation for your leadership on the introduction of the ''WISEWOMAN Expansion Act of 2000.'' In addition to a strong national research program, disease prevention is vital to our nation's health. Chronic diseases, such as heart disease, cancer, diabetes, and ostoeoporosis are among the most prevalent, costly and preventable of all health problems.

As you know, women tend to live longer but not necessarily better than men. They have more chronic health conditions and are more economically insecure. Safety net programs often are the difference between life and death. The WISEWOMAN Expansion Act is building on a foundation that has provided positive feedback and will allow additional states to provide prevention services to those women in need. We applaud the flexibility of the legislation. With the passage of time, as new technologies develop, as disease burdens shift, and a lifestyle change, the program can address women's most critical health needs.

We thank you for your commitment to improving the nation's health through prevention. By focusing on the health of women, you ultimately will be improving the health of the nation's families.

Sincerely,

PHYLLIS GREENBERGER,
Executive Director.
ROBERTA BIEGEL,
Director of Government Relations.

THE SUSAN G. KOMEN
BREAST CANCER FOUNDATION,
Dallas, TX, May 19, 2000.

Hon. WILLIAM FRIST,
U.S. Senate, Russell Senate Building, Washington, DC.

Hon. TOM HARKIN,
U.S. Senate, Hart Senate Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATORS FRIST AND HARKIN: On behalf of the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, I would like to express our support for The WISEWOMAN Expansion Act of 2000. Your leadership has made the expansion effort a reality and we intend to activate our Komen affiliates grassroots to help gather more Senatorial support. We understand that the expansion would allow flexibility for the WISEWOMAN program to grow and adapt with the needs of the individual states and will ensure full collaboration of the WISEWOMAN program with the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program (NBCCEDP) on which it is piggybacked.

Further, our discussions with your staff have reiterated the importance of being certain that the programs are funded separately and that the WISEWOMAN expansion is accomplished as a complement to the existing NBCCEDP effort.

We applaud your efforts to provide greater screening coverage for women as a means of detecting problems sooner and strongly believe that this program will save many lives as it expands nationwide.

The mission of the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation is to eradicate breast cancer as a life-threatening disease by advancing research, education, screening and treatment. The Komen Foundation is comprised of 115 affiliates in 45 states and the District of Columbia, with over 40,000 volunteers and 4 international affiliates. Komen has raised well over $200 million in furtherance of its mission. But we cannot do it alone. It takes dedicated Members of Congress like you.

Again, thank you for your efforts to advance WISEWOMAN as a separate program and we look forward to working with you to make this legislation a reality for all.

With best regards,

DIANE L. BALMA,
Senior Counsel and Director of Public Policy.

NATIONAL OSTEOPOROSIS FOUNDATION,
Washington, DC, May 24, 2000.

Hon. TOM HARKIN,
Hon. BILL FRIST,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATORS HARKIN AND FRIST: On behalf of the National Osteoporosis Foundation

(NOF), I commend you on the introduction of the bipartisan WISEWOMEN Expansion Act of 2000 that supports your effort to provide additional preventive health services, including osteoporosis screening, to low-income and uninsured women.

As you know, osteoporosis is a major health threat for more than 28 million Americans, 80 percent of whom are women. In the United States today, 10 million individuals already have the disease and 18 million more have low bone mass, placing them at increased risk for osteoporosis. Also, one out of every two women over 50 will have an osteoporosis-related fracture in their lifetime. It is estimated that the direct hospital and nursing home costs of osteoporosis are over $13.8 billion annually, with much of that attributed to the more than 1.5 million osteoporosis-related fractures that occur annually.

The health care services included in the WISEWOMEN program have provided positive results for many women who have participated and ultimately cost-savings for the states that have participated. Expansion of teh WISEWOMEN model to additional states and for additional preventive services, such as screening for osteoporosis, should enhance positive results for both the women and states participating in the program.

The National Osteoporosis Foundation is most appreciative of your efforts to promote improved bone health and endorses the WISEWOMEN Expansion Act of 2000.

Sincerely,

SANDRA C. RAYMOND,
Executive Director.●

● Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I am pleased to join Senator FRIST today to introduce the ''WISEWOMAN Expansion Act.'' This bill will help thousands of women have access to basic preventive health care they may otherwise not receive. The legislation builds on a successful demonstration program and expands screening services and preventive care for uninsured and low-income women across the nation.

Beginning in 1990, I worked as Chairman of the Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations Subcommittee to provide the funding for the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program (NBCCEDP), run through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In Iowa alone, the program has successfully served 8694 women through 618 provider-based breast and cervical cancer screening sites.

Today, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention currently run the WISEWOMAN (Well-Integrated Screening and Evaluation for Women in Massachusetts, Arizona and North Carolina) program through the NBCCEDP as a demonstration project. The program has successfully built upon the framework of the NBCCEDP to target other chronic diseases among women, including heart disease, the leading cause of death among women, and osteoporosis. The programs address risk factors such as elevated cholesterol, high blood pressure, obesity and smoking and provide important additional intervention services.

This demonstration project has been successful. It is now time to expand the program to additional states, and eventually make it nationwide. As the brother of two sisters lost to breast cancer and the father of two daughters, I know first hand the importance of making women's health initiatives a top priority. The first step to fighting a chronic disease like cancer, heart disease or osteoporosis is early detection. All woman deserve to benefit from the early detection and prevention made possible by the latest advances in medicine. This bill ensures a place for lower-income woman at the health care table.

Mr. President, the majority of Americans associate cardiovascular disease with men, but the American Heart Association estimates that nearly one in two women will die of heart disease or stroke. In fact, cardiovascular diseases kills nearly 50,000 more women each year than men. In my own state of Iowa, cardiovascular disease accounts for 44 percent of all dealths in Iowa. Close to 7,000 women die annually in Iowa from cardiovascular disease. Each year, nearly half a million women lose their lives as a result of heart disease and stroke. Sadly, with appropriate screening and interventions, many of these deaths could have been prevented.

Osteoporosis is also a preventable disease and affects 1 out of every 2 women over the age of 50. Fortunately, some of the preventive measures women can take to reduce their risk for cardiovascular diseases, such as eating more nutritious foods and exercising, can also reduce their risk for osteoporosis.

Mr. President, our bill would do the following:

Expand the current WISEWOMAN demonstration project to additional states;

Add flexibility to program language that would allow screenings and other preventive measures for diseases in addition to cardiovascular diseases;

Allow flexibility for the WISEWOMAN program to grow and adapt with the changing needs of individual states and our better understanding of new preventive strategies; and

Ensures continued full collaboration of the WISEWOMAN program with the NBCCEDP;

Authorizes the CDC to make competitive grants to states to carry out additional preventive health services to the breast and cervical cancer screenings at NBCCEDP programs, such as: screenings for blood pressure, cholesterol, and osteoporosis; health education and counseling; lifestyle interventions to change behavioral risk factors such as smoking, lack of exercise, poor nutrition, and sedentary lifestyle; and appropriate referrals for medical treatment and follow-up services.

In order to be eligible for this program, states are required to already participate in the NBCCEDP and to agree to operate their WISEWOMAN program in collaboration with the NBCCEDP.

Mr. President, this bipartisan legislation has the support of the National Osteoporosis Foundation, the American Cancer Society and the Komen Foundation, among others. I urge my colleagues to join us in supporting this critical legislation.●

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.

THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS DENTISTS APPRECIATION ACT

● Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, as my colleagues know, there has been a great deal of attention given to the sizeable problems both in recruiting and in retaining the men and women in our military services. In response, Congress last year passed a 4.8 percent across the board pay raise, reformed the pay scales, and corrected a retirement system for our soliders, sailors, airmen, and marines in the service of our country. This year, Congress is considering ways to reform and improve the strength of our military health care system.

Mr. President, these measures are the least we can do to recognize the men and women of our military services for the important part they play in maintaining our nation's security and our influence around the globe.

But, Mr. President, there are other members of our civilian workforce that also face recruiting and retention problems, and deserve congressional attention. Last year, Congressman STEVE LATOURETTE and I introduced the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Nurse Appreciation Act, which is designed to correct a provision in the law that has been used in recent years to deny VA nurses the annual cost of living pay adjustments given to federal employees. In some cases, the law was used to cut the pay of some VA nurses. The law needs to be changed.

Today, I am introducing legislation to address another field of critical importance to the VA—dental care, which is also facing serious personnel retention problems. Over the past five years, the Department of Veterans Affairs has experienced a decline from 830 full-time dentists to only 630, and the numbers are still declining. In addition, the turnover rate during the past 2 years have been more than 11 percent. An increasing number of young and mid-career dentists are leaving the VA. There are fewer highly qualified applicants applying to fill vacant positions, and most vacancies take several months to fill. An additional concern is the aging of the current VA dental workforce. Within 2 years, almost 50 percent of all VA dentist will be eligible for regular or early-out retirement.

The legislation I am introducing today would attempt to address these challenges and ensure the availability of quality dental health care for our veterans.

One of the major reasons for the decline in the numbers of VA dentists is the availability of higher paying jobs in the civilian sector. The type of work done at the VA is more challenging than that of the average hometown dentist. VA dentists frequently provide their services to homeless veterans whose dental needs are much more demanding.

An additional reason is that even with the ''special pay'' and the ''responsibility pay'' that is available under current law, VA dentists' salaries still are not competitive with fellow non-VA dentists. In addition, all full-tme VA physicians receive a ''special pay'' incentive of $9,000 annually, while VA dentists receive only $3,500. The ''responsibility pay'' depends on the additional responsibilities the physician or dentist is performing.

The reason for the difference is that when current law was passed nearly a decade ago, there was a shortfall of physicians, and a ready supply of dentists.

The legislation I am introducing today, would correct this disparity and bring ''special pay'' for dentists to $9,000 annually and would increase the ''responsibility pay'' for dentists in management positions, so that they would be in the same responsibility pay range as physicians. This bill is similar to legislation introduced by Congressman BOB FILNER of California

The National Association of VA Physicians and Dentists have offered their full support for this initiative and so has the American Dental Association. As a matter of fact, a very dear longtime friend of my family, Doctor Dwight Pemberton, a friend of my parents and gransparents, was the one who brought this issue to my attention and encouraged me to introduce this legislation. I thank him for his support and advocacy for this legislation, and look forward to working toward a positive solution to this problem.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill for the continued reliable dental coverage for our veterans.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the Department of Veterans Affairs Dentists Appreciation Act be printed in the RECORD.

S. 2636

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Department of Veterans Affairs Dentists Appreciation Act''.

SEC. 2. PAY PARITY FOR DENTISTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 7435(b) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking ''$3,500'' and inserting ''$9,000'';

(2) in paragraph (2)(A), by amending the table to read as follows:

''Length of Service	Rate	
	Minimum	Maximum
2 years but less than 4 years	$4,000	$6,000
4 years but less than 8 years	6,000	12,000
8 years but less than 12 years	12,000	18,000
12 years or more	12,000	25,000'';

(3) in paragraph (3)(A), by striking ''$20,000'' and inserting ''$40,000'';

(4) in paragraph (4)(A), by amending the table to read as follows:

''Position	Rate	
	Minimum	Maximum
Service Chief (or in a comparable position as determined by the Secretary)	$4,500	$15,000
Chief of Staff or in an Executive Grade	14,500	25,000
Director Grade	0	25,000'';

(5) in paragraph (4)(B), by amending the table to read as follows:

''Position	Rate
Deputy Service Director	$20,000
Service Director	25,000
Deputy Assistant Under Secretary for Health	27,500
Assistant Under Secretary for Health (or in a comparable position as determined by the Secretary)	30,000'';

(6) in paragraph (6), by striking ''$5,000'' and inserting ''$17,000''; and

(7) in paragraph (7)(A), by striking ''$5,000'' and inserting ''$15,000''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to any contract entered into under chapter 74 of title 38, United States Code, after the date of the enactment of this Act.●

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.

MILES CITY VETERANS ADMINISTRATION MEDICAL COMPLEX LAND CONVEYANCE LEGISLATION

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I rise to express my support for legislation introduced today by my colleague, Senator BAUCUS, that will transfer ownership of the Miles City, Montana Veterans Hospital from the Veterans Administration to Custer County, Montana. Indeed, I am co-sponsor of this bill for the reason that within the Veterans Administration there are unused properties that have become liabilities that detract from the mission of the VA, which is to take care of our veteran population. At the same time, these resources could be assets to the communities where they exist.

This is exactly the situation we have in Miles City, Montana. Maintaining a facility that is no longer needed costs the VA approximately $500,000 that would otherwise be dedicated to improving access and quality of care for Montana's veterans. At the same time, the community of Miles City has need of additional space for use by the community college and other entities designed to enhance the quality of life and economic development opportunities for all the people of southeast Montana.

This legislation represents a creative solution that serves the best interest of all involved. The situation is not unique to Montana but we are willing to address the issue and take the first step towards a more efficient Veterans Administration. We need to dedicate the limited resources of this agency to the essential task of maintaining our commitment to America's veterans with adequate health care rather than to excessive administration and maintenance costs.

At the same time, what is a liability for the VA will be an asset to a community that has an inadequate tax base to support the development of infrastructure that will have a significant and long-lasting impact on jobs creation, educational opportunity, and will ultimately enhance the tax base as well.

The concept that is inherent in this bill is a win-win situation for all the affected parties and I encourage positive consideration by my colleagues.

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.

THE MENTAL HEALTH EARLY INTERVENTION, TREATMENT, AND PREVENTION ACT OF 2000

● Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Mental Health Early Intervention, Treatment, and Prevention Act of 2000 with my friend Senator KENNEDY.

Today we do not even question whether mental illness is treatable. But, today we recoil in shock and disbelief at the consequences of individuals not being diagnosed or following their treatment plans. The results are tragedies we could have prevented.

Just look at the tragic incidents at the Baptist Church in Dallas/Fort Worth, the Jewish Day Care Center in Los Angeles, and the United States Capitol to see the common link: a severe mental illness. Or the fact that there are 30,000 suicides every year, including 2,000 children and adolescents.

It was not too long ago that our nation decided we did not want to keep people chained in institutions. Simply put, it was inhumane to simply lock these individuals up without even using science to consider other alternatives. In fact, one of the first awards I received as a Senator was a Freedom Bell made from these very chains.

Make no mistake, our nation still has these same individuals with mental illness, we just do not have a very good way to deal with these individuals. Many of these individuals formerly locked up are now our neighbors taking the proper medication to control their illness.

However, our nation simply does not have an understanding of what happens when individuals stop taking their medications.

I believe the American people are ready for a direct assault on their consciences about a comprehensive approach to prevent the tragic incidents

mentioned. Many people just do not take notice because America is known for her freedom, but sadly many of these highly publicized incidents of mass violence all too often involve an individual with a mental illness.

When these incidents occur, my wife and I watch with horror on television and we often turn to each other and say that person was a schizophrenic or that individual was a manic depressive.

Sadly, society often does not want to take the extra step to help these individuals because they are either scared or simply do not know how to help. Unfortunately, there is no place that a community can take these individuals for help. The police can do very little and likewise for hospitals.

I believe we must come together as a nation to find a community based solution so when someone sees an individual in obvious need of help they will know exactly what to do.

Some of you may have seen the recent 4 part series of articles in the New York Times reviewing the cases of 100 rampage killers. Most notably the review found that 48 killers had some kind of formal diagnosis for a mental illness, often schizophrenia.

Twenty-five of the killers had received a diagnosis of mental illness before committing their crimes. Fourteen of 24 individuals prescribed psychiatric drugs had stopped taking their medication prior to committing their crimes.

In particular I would point to a couple of passages from the series: ''They give lots of warning and even tell people explicitly what they plan to do.'' . . . ''a closer look shows that these cases may have more to do with society's lack of knowledge of mental health issues . . . In case after case, family members, teachers and mental health professionals missed or dismissed signs of deterioration.''

It is for these reasons that I am so pleased that Senator KENNEDY has joined me to introduce this comprehensive piece of legislation. The legislation attempts to prevent these incidents and the other tragic results of mental illness before they happen.

The bill we are introducing today will provide for: A mental Illness Anti-Stigma and Suicide Prevention Campaign; Emergency Mental Health Centers to serve as the central receiving point in communities for families, friends, emergency medical personnel, and law enforcement to take an individual in need of emergency mental health services; Mental Health Awareness Training for Teachers and Medical Personnel to identify and respond to individuals with a mental illness; Mental Health Courts that will maintain separate dockets and handle only cases involving individuals with a mental illness; A Blue Ribbon Panel to make recommendations on issues relating to mental illness with a focus on the diagnosis and treatment of mental illness; and Increased Funding for Innovative Treatment and Research.

I really believe we have a historic opportunity to become preventers of serious, serious acts of violence before they happen. Thank you very much and I look forward to working with Senator KENNEDY and my colleagues on this legislative initiative.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a copy of the bill and a summary of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2639

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Mental Health Early Intervention, Treatment, and Prevention Act of 2000''.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Almost 3 percent of the adult population or 5 million individuals in the United States suffer from a severe and persistent mental illness.

(2) Twenty-five to 40 percent of the individuals who suffer from a mental illness in the United States will come into contact with the criminal justice system each year.

(3) Sixteen percent of all individuals incarcerated in State and local jails suffer from a mental illness.

(4) Suicide is currently a national public health crisis, with approximately 30,000 Americans committing suicide every year, including 2,000 children and adolescents.

(5) The stigma associated with mental disorders often discourages individuals from seeking treatment, decreases such individuals' access to housing and employment, and interferes with such individuals' full participation in society.

(6) In industrialized countries, mental illness constitutes 4 of the 10 leading causes of disability for individuals who are 5 years of age or older. Such illnesses are, in the order of prevalence, depression, schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, and obsessive compulsive disorder.

(7) Presently, nearly 7,500,000 children and adolescents, or 12 percent of such population, suffer from 1 or more types of mental disorders.

(8) Of the almost 850,000 individuals who are homeless in the United States, approximately ⅓ or about 300,000 of such individuals suffer from a serious mental illness.

(9) The majority of individuals with a mental illness can now be successfully treated.

(10) The primary care setting provides an important opportunity for the recognition of mental disorders, especially in children, adolescents, and seniors.

(11) The first Surgeon General's Report on Mental Health, released in December 1999, describes a vision for the future that includes 8 areas, being—

(A) continuing to build the science base;

(B) overcoming stigma;

(C) improving public awareness of effective treatment;

(D) ensuring the supply of mental health services and providers;

(E) ensuring delivery of state-of-the-art treatments;

(F) tailoring treatment to age, gender, race, and culture;

(G) facilitating entry into treatment; and

(H) reducing financial barriers to treatment.

SEC. 3. AMENDMENT TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE ACT.

Title V of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 290aa et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''PART G—PROGRAMS FOR TREATMENT OF MENTAL ILLNESS

''SEC. 581. ANTI-STIGMA AND SUICIDE PREVENTION CAMPAIGN.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall carry out a national anti-stigma and suicide prevention campaign to reduce the stigma often associated with mental illness.

''(b) USE OF FUNDS.—The Secretary shall use funds authorized for the campaign described in subsection (a)—

''(1) to make public service announcements to reduce any stigma associated with mental illness;

''(2) to provide education regarding mental illness, including education regarding the biology of mental illness, the effectiveness of treatment, and the resources that are available for individuals afflicted with a mental illness and for families of such individuals;

''(3) to provide science-based education regarding suicide and suicide prevention, including education regarding recognition of the symptoms that indicate that thoughts of suicide are being considered;

''(4) to provide education for parents regarding youth suicide and prevention;

''(5) to purchase media time and space;

''(6) to pay for out-of-pocket advertising production costs;

''(7) to test and evaluate advertising and educational materials for effectiveness; and

''(8) to carry out other activities that the Secretary determines will reduce the stigma associated with mental illness.

''(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section—

''(1) $50,000,000 to carry out paragraphs (1), (2), (4), (5), (6), and (7) of subsection (b) for fiscal year 2001, and such sums as may be necessary for fiscal years 2002 through 2005; and

''(2) $25,000,000 to carry out paragraph (3) of subsection (b) for fiscal year 2001, and such sums as may be necessary for fiscal years 2002 through 2005.

''SEC. 582. MENTAL ILLNESS AWARENESS TRAINING GRANTS FOR TEACHERS AND EMERGENCY SERVICES PERSONNEL.

''(a) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary shall award grants to States, political subdivisions of States, Indian tribes, and tribal organizations to train teachers and other relevant school personnel to recognize symptoms of childhood and adolescent mental disorders, to refer family members to the appropriate mental health services if necessary, to train emergency services personnel to identify and appropriately respond to persons with a mental illness, and to provide education to such teachers and personnel regarding resources that are available in the community for individuals with a mental illness.

''(b) EMERGENCY SERVICES PERSONNEL.—In this section, the term 'emergency services personnel' includes paramedics, firefighters, and emergency medical technicians.

''(c) DISTRIBUTION OF AWARDS.—The Secretary shall ensure that such grants awarded under subsection (a) are equitably distributed among the geographical regions of the United States and between urban and rural populations.

''(d) APPLICATION.—A State, political subdivision of a State, Indian tribe, or tribal organization that desires a grant under this section shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require, including a plan for the

rigorous evaluation of activities that are carried out with funds received under a grant under this section.

''(e) USE OF FUNDS.—A State, political subdivision of a State, Indian tribe, or tribal organization receiving a grant under subsection (a) shall use funds from such grant to—

''(1) train teachers and other relevant school personnel to recognize symptoms of childhood and adolescent mental disorders and appropriately respond;

''(2) train emergency services personnel to identify and appropriately respond to persons with a mental illness; and

''(3) provide education to such teachers and personnel regarding resources that are available in the community for individuals with a mental illness.

''(f) EVALUATION.—A State, political subdivision of a State, Indian tribe, or tribal organization that receives a grant under this section shall prepare and submit an evaluation to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may reasonably require, including an evaluation of activities carried out with funds received under the grant under this section and a process and outcome evaluation.

''(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section, $50,000,000 for fiscal year 2001 and such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years 2002 through 2005.

''SEC. 583. GRANTS FOR EMERGENCY MENTAL HEALTH CENTERS.

''(a) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary shall award grants to States, political subdivisions of States, Indian tribes, and tribal organizations to support the designation of hospitals and health centers as Emergency Mental Health Centers.

''(b) HEALTH CENTER.—In this section, the term 'health center' has the meaning given such term in section 330, and includes community health centers and community mental health centers.

''(c) DISTRIBUTION OF AWARDS.—The Secretary shall ensure that such grants awarded under subsection (a) are equitably distributed among the geographical regions of the United States, between urban and rural populations, and between different settings of care including health centers, mental health centers, hospitals, and other psychiatric units or facilities.

''(d) APPLICATION.—A State, political subdivision of a State, Indian tribe, or tribal organization that desires a grant under subsection (a) shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require, including a plan for the rigorous evaluation of activities carried out with funds received under this section.

''(e) USE OF FUNDS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—A State, political subdivision of a State, Indian tribe, or tribal organization receiving a grant under subsection (a) shall use funds from such grant to establish or designate hospitals and health centers as Emergency Mental Health Centers.

''(2) EMERGENCY MENTAL HEALTH CENTERS.—Such Emergency Mental Health Centers described in paragraph (1)—

''(A) shall—

''(i) serve as a central receiving point in the community for individuals who may be in need of emergency mental health services;

''(ii) purchase, if needed, any equipment necessary to evaluate, diagnose and stabilize an individual with a mental illness;

''(iii) provide training, if needed, to the medical personnel staffing the Emergency Mental Health Center to evaluate, diagnose, stabilize, and treat an individual with a mental illness; and

''(iv) provide any treatment that is necessary for an individual with a mental illness or a referral for such individual to another facility where such treatment may be received; and

''(B) may establish and train a mobile crisis intervention team to respond to mental health emergencies within the community.

''(f) EVALUATION.—A State, political subdivision of a State, Indian tribe, or tribal organization that receives a grant under subsection (a) shall prepare and submit an evaluation to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may reasonably require, including an evaluation of activities carried out with funds received under this section and a process and outcomes evaluation.

''(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section, $50,000,000 for fiscal year 2001 and such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 2002 through 2005.

''SEC. 584. GRANTS FOR JAIL DIVERSION PROGRAMS.

''(a) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary shall make up to 125 grants to States, political subdivisions of States, Indian tribes, and tribal organizations, acting directly or through agreements with other public or nonprofit entities, to develop and implement programs to divert individuals with a mental illness from the criminal justice system to community-based services.

''(b) ADMINISTRATION.—

''(1) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary shall consult with the Attorney General and any other appropriate officials in carrying out this section.

''(2) REGULATORY AUTHORITY.—The Secretary shall issue regulations and guidelines necessary to carry out this section, including methodologies and outcome measures for evaluating programs carried out by States, political subdivisions of States, Indian tribes, and tribal organizations receiving grants under subsection (a).

''(c) APPLICATIONS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—To receive a grant under subsection (a), the chief executive of a State, chief executive of a subdivision of a State, Indian tribe or tribal organization shall prepare and submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary shall reasonably require.

''(2) CONTENT.—Such application shall—

''(A) contain an assurance that—

''(i) community-based mental health services will be available for the individuals who are diverted from the criminal justice system, and that such services are based on the best known practices, reflect current research findings, include case management, assertive community treatment, medication management and access, integrated mental health and co-occurring substance abuse treatment, and psychiatric rehabilitation, and will be coordinated with social services, including life skills training, housing placement, vocational training, education job placement, and health care;

''(ii) there has been relevant interagency collaboration between the appropriate criminal justice, mental health, and substance abuse systems; and

''(iii) the Federal support provided will be used to supplement, and not supplant, State, local, Indian tribe, or tribal organization sources of funding that would otherwise be available;

''(B) demonstrate that the diversion program will be integrated with an existing system of care for those with mental illness;

''(C) explain the applicant's inability to fund the program adequately without Federal assistance;

''(D) specify plans for obtaining necessary support and continuing the proposed program following the conclusion of Federal support; and

''(E) describe methodology and outcome measures that will be used in evaluating the program.

''(d) USE OF FUNDS.—A State, political subdivision of a State, Indian tribe, or tribal organization that receives a grant under subsection (a) may use funds received under such grant to—

''(1) integrate the diversion program into the existing system of care;

''(2) create or expand community-based mental health and co-occurring mental illness and substance abuse services to accommodate the diversion program;

''(3) train professionals involved in the system of care, and law enforcement officers, attorneys, and judges; and

''(4) provide community outreach and crisis intervention.

''(e) FEDERAL SHARE.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall pay to a State, political subdivision of a State, Indian tribe, or tribal organization receiving a grant under subsection (a) the Federal share of the cost of activities described in the application.

''(2) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of a grant made under this section shall not exceed 75 percent of the total cost of the program carried out by the State, political subdivision of a State, Indian tribe, or tribal organization. Such share shall be used for new expenses of the program carried out by such State, political subdivision of a State, Indian tribe, or tribal organization.

''(3) NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—The non-Federal share of payments made under this section may be made in cash or in kind fairly evaluated, including planned equipment or services. The Secretary may waive the requirement of matching contributions.

''(f) GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION.—The Secretary shall ensure that such grants awarded under subsection (a) are equitably distributed among the geographical regions of the United States and between urban and rural populations.

''(g) TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—Training and technical assistance may be provided by the Secretary to assist a State, political subdivision of a State, Indian tribe, or tribal organization receiving a grant under subsection (a) in establishing and operating a diversion program.

''(h) EVALUATIONS.—The programs described in subsection (a) shall be evaluated not less than 1 time in every 12-month period using the methodology and outcome measures identified in the grant application.

''(i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $10,000,000 for fiscal year 2001, and such sums as may be necessary for fiscal years 2002 through 2005.

''SEC. 585. SUICIDE PREVENTION ACROSS THE LIFE SPECTRUM.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award grants, cooperative agreements, or contracts to States, political subdivisions of States, Indian tribes, tribal organizations, and private nonprofit organizations to establish programs to reduce suicide deaths in the United States.

''(b) DURATION.—With respect to a grant, contract, or cooperative agreement awarded under subsection (a), the period during which payments under such award may be made to the recipient may not exceed 5 years.

''(c) SPECIAL POPULATIONS.—In awarding grants, contracts, and cooperative agreements under subsection (a), the Secretary shall ensure that a portion of such awards are made in a manner that will focus on the needs of populations who experience high or rapidly rising rates of suicide.

''(d) COLLABORATION.—In carrying out subsection (a), the Secretary shall ensure that

activities under this section are coordinated with activities carried out by the relevant institutes at the National Institutes of Health, the Health Resources and Services Administration, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Administration on Children and Families, and the Administration on Aging.

''(e) REQUIREMENTS.—A State, political subdivision of a State, Indian tribe, tribal organization, or private nonprofit organization desiring a grant, contract, or cooperative agreement under subsection (a) shall demonstrate that the program such entity proposes will—

''(1) provide for the timely assessment and treatment of individuals at risk for suicide;

''(2) use evidence-based strategies;

''(3) be based on best practices that are adapted to the local community;

''(4) integrate its program into the existing health care system in the community, including primary health care, mental health services, and substance abuse services;

''(5) be integrated into other systems in the community that address the needs of individuals, including the educational system, juvenile justice system, prisons, welfare and child protection systems, and community youth support organizations;

''(6) use primary prevention methods to educate and raise awareness in the local community by disseminating information about suicide prevention;

''(7) include services for the families and friends of individuals who completed suicide;

''(8) provide linguistically appropriate and culturally competent services;

''(9) provide a plan for the evaluation of outcomes and activities at the local level and agree to participate in a National evaluation;

''(10) provide or ensure adequate provision of mental health and substance abuse services, either through provision of direct services or referral; and

''(11) ensure that staff used in the program are trained in suicide prevention and that professionals involved in the system of care are given training in identifying persons at risk of suicide.

''(f) APPLICATION.—A State, political subdivision of a State, Indian tribe, tribal organization, or private nonprofit organization receiving a grant, cooperative agreement, or contract under subsection (a) shall prepare and submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may reasonably require. Such application shall include a plan for the rigorous evaluation of activities funded under the grant, cooperative agreement, or contract, including a process and outcomes evaluation.

''(g) DISTRIBUTION OF AWARDS.—In awarding grants, contracts, and cooperative agreements under subsection (a), the Secretary shall ensure that such awards are equitably distributed among the geographical regions of the United States and between urban and rural populations.

''(h) EVALUATION.—A State, political subdivision of a State, Indian tribe, tribal organization, or private nonprofit organization receiving a grant, cooperative agreement, or contract under subsection (a) shall prepare and submit to the Secretary at the end of the program period, an evaluation of all activities funded under this section.

''(i) DISSEMINATION AND EDUCATION.—The Secretary shall ensure that findings derived from activities carried out under this section are disseminated to State, county, and local governmental agencies and nonprofit organizations active in promoting suicide prevention and family support activities.

''(j) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATION.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $75,000,000 for fiscal year 2001, and such sums as may be necessary for fiscal years 2002 through 2005.

''SEC. 586. MENTAL ILLNESS OUTREACH SCREENING PROGRAMS.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award grants, cooperative agreements, or contracts to States, political subdivisions of States, Indian tribes, tribal organizations, and private nonprofit organizations to conduct outreach screening programs to identify children, adolescents, and adults with a mental illness or a mental illness and co-occurring substance abuse disorder and to provide referrals for such children, adolescents, and adults.

''(b) DURATION.—The Secretary shall award grants, cooperative agreements, or contracts under subsection (a) for a period of not more than 5 years.

''(c) APPLICATION.—A State, political subdivision of a State, Indian tribe, tribal organization, or private nonprofit organization desiring a grant, cooperative agreement, or contract under subsection (a) shall prepare and submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require, including—

''(1) a plan for the rigorous evaluation of activities funded under the grant, including a process and outcomes evaluation; and

''(2) provide or ensure adequate provision of mental health and substance abuse services, either through provision of direct services or referral.

''(d) USE OF FUNDS.—A State, political subdivision of a State, Indian tribe, tribal organization, or private nonprofit organization receiving a grant, cooperative agreement, or contract under subsection (a) shall use funds received under such grant—

''(1) to provide screening and referrals for children, adolescents, and adults with a mental illness, especially for underserved populations and groups historically less likely to seek mental health and substance abuse services;

''(2) to ensure that appropriate referrals are provided for children, adolescents, and adults in need of mental health services or in need of integrated services relating to a co-occurring mental illness and substance abuse disorder;

''(3) to utilize evidence-based and cost-effective screening tools; and

''(4) to utilize existing, or to develop if necessary, linguistically appropriate and culturally competent screening tools.

''(e) DISTRIBUTION OF AWARDS.—The Secretary shall ensure that such grants, cooperative agreements, and contracts awarded under subsection (a) are equitably distributed among the geographical regions of the United States and between urban and rural populations.

''(f) EVALUATION.—A State, political subdivision of a State, Indian tribe, tribal organization, or private nonprofit organization that receives a grant, cooperative agreement, or contract under subsection (a) shall prepare and submit to the Secretary an evaluation at the end of the program period regarding activities funded under the grant.

''(g) PUBLIC INFORMATION.—The Secretary shall ensure that the evaluations submitted under subsection (f) are available and disseminated to State, county and local governmental agencies, and to private providers of mental health and substance abuse services.

''(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATION.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section, $15,000,000 for fiscal year 2001, and such sums as may be necessary for fiscal years 2002 through 2005.

''SEC. 587. GRANTS FOR MENTAL ILLNESS TREATMENT SERVICES.

''(a) GRANTS FOR THE EXPANSION OF MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements to States, political subdivisions of States, Indian tribes, tribal organizations, and private nonprofit organizations for the purpose of expanding community-based mental health services to meet emerging or urgent mental health service needs in local communities.

''(2) PRIORITY.—The Secretary shall give priority in making awards under paragraph (1) to States, political subdivisions of States, Indian tribes, tribal organizations, and private nonprofit organizations that—

''(A) have an integrated system of care or are committed to developing such system of care;

''(B) have a significant need for mental health services as shown by a needs assessment and a lack of funds for providing the needed services; and

''(C) will work with—

''(i) adults who have a history of repeated psychiatric hospitalizations, have a history of interactions with law enforcement or the criminal justice system, or are homeless; or

''(ii) children or adolescents who are at risk for suicide, parental relinquishment of custody, encounters with the juvenile justice system, behavior dangerous to themselves or others, or being homeless.

''(3) USE OF FUNDS.—A State, political subdivision of a State, Indian tribe, tribal organization, or private nonprofit organization receiving a grant, contract, or cooperative agreement under paragraph (1) may use the funds received under such grant, contract, or cooperative agreement to—

''(A) develop an integrated system of care for the provision of services for children with a serious emotional disturbance or adults with a serious mental illness;

''(B) expand community-based mental health services, which may include assertive community treatment, intensive case management, psychiatric rehabilitation, peer support services, comprehensive wraparound services, and day treatment programs;

''(C) ensure continuity of care for children, adolescents, and adults discharged from the hospital and returning to the community; and

''(D) provide outreach to children, adolescents, and adults in the community in need of mental health services, including individuals who are homeless.

''(b) GRANTS FOR THE INTEGRATED TREATMENT OF SERIOUS MENTAL ILLNESS AND CO-OCCURRING SUBSTANCE ABUSE.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements to States, political subdivisions of States, Indian tribes, tribal organizations, and private nonprofit organizations for the development or expansion of programs to provide integrated treatment services for individuals with a serious mental illness and a co-occurring substance abuse disorder.

''(2) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants, contracts, and cooperative agreements under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall give priority to applicants that emphasize the provision of services for individuals with a serious mental illness and a co-occurring substance abuse disorder who—

''(A) have a history of interactions with law enforcement or the criminal justice system;

''(B) have recently been released from incarceration;

''(C) have a history of unsuccessful treatment in either an inpatient or outpatient setting;

''(D) have never followed through with outpatient services despite repeated referrals; or

''(E) are homeless.

''(3) USE OF FUNDS.—A State, political subdivision of a State, Indian tribe, tribal organization, or private nonprofit organization that receives a grant, contract, or cooperative agreement under paragraph (1) shall use funds received under such grant—

''(A) to provide fully integrated services rather than serial or parallel services;

''(B) to employ staff that are cross-trained in the diagnosis and treatment of both serious mental illness and substance abuse;

''(C) to provide integrated mental health and substance abuse services at the same location;

''(D) to provide services that are linguistically appropriate and culturally competent;

''(E) to provide at least 10 programs for integrated treatment of both mental illness and substance abuse at sites that previously provided only mental health services or only substance abuse services; and

''(F) to provide services in coordination with other existing public and private community programs.

''(4) CONDITION.—The Secretary shall ensure that a State, political subdivision of a State, Indian tribe, tribal organization, or private nonprofit organization that receives a grant, contract, or cooperative agreement under paragraph (1) maintains the level of effort necessary to sustain existing mental health and substance abuse programs for other populations served by mental health systems in the community.

''(5) DISTRIBUTION OF AWARDS.—The Secretary shall ensure that grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements awarded under paragraph (1) are equitably distributed among the geographical regions of the United States and between urban and rural populations.

''(c) DURATION.—The Secretary shall award grants, contract, or cooperative agreements under subsections (a) and (b) for a period of not more than 5 years.

''(d) APPLICATION.—A State, political subdivision of a State, Indian tribe, tribal organization, or private nonprofit organization that desires a grant, contract, or cooperative agreement under subsection (a) or (b) shall prepare and submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require. Such application shall include a plan for the rigorous evaluation of activities funded with an award under such subsections, including a process and outcomes evaluation.

''(e) EVALUATION.—A State, political subdivision of a State, Indian tribe, tribal organization, or private nonprofit organization that receives a grant, contract, or cooperative agreement under subsections (a)(1) and (b)(1) shall prepare and submit a plan for the rigorous evaluation of the program funded under such grant, contract, or agreement, including both process and outcomes evaluation, and the submission of an evaluation at the end of the project period.

''(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATION.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section—

''(1) $50,000,000 for subsection (a) for fiscal year 2001, and such sums as may be necessary for fiscal years 2002 through 2005; and

''(2) $50,000,000 for subsection (b) for fiscal year 2001, and such sums as may be necessary for fiscal years 2002 through 2005.

''SEC. 588. CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE FOR POST TRAUMATIC STRESS AND RELATED DISORDERS.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements to public and nonprofit private entities for the purpose of establishing national and regional centers of excellence on psychological trauma response and for developing knowledge with regard to evidence-based practices for treating psychiatric disorders resulting from witnessing or experiencing a traumatic event.

''(b) PRIORITIES.—In awarding grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements under subsection (a) related to the development of knowledge on evidence-based practices for treating disorders associated with psychological trauma, the Secretary shall give priority to entities proposing programs that work with children, adolescents, adults, and families who are survivors and witnesses of domestic, school, and community violence and terrorism.

''(c) GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION.—The Secretary shall ensure that grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements under subsection (a) with respect to centers of excellence are distributed equitably among the regions of the country and among urban and rural areas.

''(d) APPLICATION.—A public or nonprofit private entity desiring a grant, contract, or cooperative agreement under subsection (a) shall prepare and submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may reasonably require.

''(e) EVALUATION.—The Secretary, as part of the application process, shall require that each applicant for a grant, contract, or cooperative agreement under subsection (a) submit a plan for the rigorous evaluation of the activities funded under the grant, contract, or agreement, including both process and outcomes evaluation, and the submission of an evaluation at the end of the project period.

''(f) DURATION OF AWARDS.—With respect to a grant, contract or cooperative agreement awarded under subsection (a), the period during which payments under such an award will be made to the recipient may not exceed 5 years. Such grants, contracts, or agreements may be renewed.

''(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section, $50,000,000 for fiscal year 2001, and such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 2002 through 2005.

''SEC. 589. MENTAL ILLNESS TREATMENT COMPLIANCE INITIATIVE.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through the Director of the National Institute of Mental Health, shall establish a research program to determine factors contributing to noncompliance with outpatient treatment plans, and to design innovative, community-based programs that use non-coercive methods to enhance compliance.

''(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section such sums as may be necessary.

''SEC. 590. CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE FOR TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the National Institute of Mental Health shall establish Centers for Excellence in Translational Research to speed knowledge from basic scientific findings to clinical application.

''(b) PURPOSE.—Such centers shall—

''(1) engage in basic and clinical research and training of clinicians in the neuroscience of mental health; and

''(2) develop model curricula for the teaching of basic neuroscience to medical students, residents, and post doctoral fellows in clinical psychiatry and psychology.

''(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section such sums as may be necessary.

''SEC. 591. INCENTIVES TO INCREASE THE SUPPLY OF BASIC AND CLINICAL MENTAL HEALTH RESEARCHERS.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through the Director of National Institute of Mental Health, shall develop and implement a program to increase the supply of basic researchers and clinical researchers in the mental health field. Such program may include loan forgiveness, scholarships, and fellowships with both stipends and funds for laboratory investigation. Such program, in part, shall be designed to attract both female and under-represented minority psychiatrists and psychologists into laboratory research in the neuroscience of mental health and mental illness.

''(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section such sums as may be necessary.

''SEC. 592. IMPROVING OUTCOMES FOR CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS THROUGH SERVICES INTEGRATION BETWEEN CHILD WELFARE AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award grants, contracts or cooperative agreements to States, political subdivisions of States, Indian tribes, and tribal organizations to provide integrated child welfare and mental health services for children and adolescents under 19 years of age in the child welfare system or at risk for becoming part of the system, and parents or caregivers with a mental illness or a mental illness and a co-occurring substance abuse disorder.

''(b) DURATION.—With respect to a grant, contract or cooperative agreement awarded under this section, the period during which payments under such award are made to the recipient may not exceed 5 years.

''(c) APPLICATION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to receive an award under subsection (a), a State, political subdivision of a State, Indian tribe, or tribal organization shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and accompanied by such information as the Secretary may reasonably require.

''(2) CONTENT.—An application submitted under paragraph (1) shall—

''(A) describe the program to be funded under the grant, contract or cooperative agreement;

''(B) explain how such program reflects best practices in the provision of child welfare and mental health services; and

''(C) provide assurances that—

''(i) persons providing services under the grant, contract or cooperative agreement are adequately trained to provide such services; and

''(ii) the services will be provided in accordance with subsection (d).

''(d) USE OF FUNDS.—A State, political subdivision of a State, Indian tribe, or tribal organization that receives a grant, contract, or cooperative agreement under subsection (a) shall use amounts made available through such grant, contract or cooperative agreement to—

''(1) provide family-centered, comprehensive, and coordinated child welfare and mental health services, including prevention, early intervention and treatment services for children and adolescents, and for their parents or caregivers;

''(2) ensure a single point of access for such coordinated services;

''(3) provide integrated mental health and substance abuse treatment for children, adolescents, and parents or caregivers with a mental illness and a co-occurring substance abuse disorder;

''(4) provide training for the child welfare, mental health and substance abuse professionals who will participate in the program carried out under this section;

''(5) provide technical assistance to child welfare and mental health agencies;

''(6) develop cooperative efforts with other service entities in the community, including

education, social services, juvenile justice, and primary health care agencies;

''(7) coordinate services with services provided under the medicaid program and the State Children's Health Insurance Program under titles XIX and XXI of the Social Security Act;

''(8) provide linguistically appropriate and culturally competent services; and

''(9) evaluate the effectiveness and cost-efficiency of the integrated services that measure the level of coordination, outcome measures for parents or caregivers with a mental illness or a mental illness and a co-occurring substance abuse disorder, and outcome measures for children.

''(e) DISTRIBUTION OF AWARDS.—The Secretary shall ensure that grants, contracts, and cooperative agreements awarded under subsection (a) are equitably distributed among the geographical regions of the United States and between urban and rural populations.

''(f) EVALUATION.—The Secretary shall evaluate each program carried out by a State, political subdivision of a State, Indian tribe, or tribal organization under subsection (a) and shall disseminate the findings with respect to each such evaluation to appropriate public and private entities.

''(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section, $20,000,000 for fiscal year 2001, and such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years 2002 and 2005.''.

''SEC. 593. PRIMARY CARE RESIDENCY TRAINING GRANTS.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award grants to institutions with accredited residency training programs that provide residency training in primary care to provide training to identify individuals with a mental illness and to refer such individuals for treatment to mental health professionals when appropriate.

''(b) PRIMARY CARE.—In this section, the term 'primary care' includes family practice, internal medicine, pediatrics, obstetrics and gynecology, geriatrics, and emergency medicine.

''(c) DISTRIBUTION OF AWARDS.—The Secretary shall ensure that such grants awarded under subsection (a) are equitably distributed among the geographical regions of the United States and between urban and rural populations.

''(d) ELIGIBILITY.—In order to be eligible to receive a grant under this section, an institution with a residency training program shall require residents to demonstrate core competencies in the diagnosis, treatment options, and referral for treatment for individuals with a mental illness.

''(e) APPLICATION.—An institution with a residency training program desiring a grant under subsection (a) shall prepare and submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require.

''(f) USE OF FUNDS.—An institution with a residency training program that receives a grant under subsection (a) shall use funds received under such grant to—

''(1) provide training for the diagnosis and treatment of mental illness, and for appropriate referrals to mental health professionals; and

''(2) develop model curricula or expand existing model curricula to teach primary care residents the relationship between physical illness and the mind and to effectively diagnose and treat mental illnesses and make appropriate referrals to mental health professionals which shall include—

''(A) the development of core competencies in the diagnosis, treatment options, and referral of individuals with a mental illness;

''(B) a testing component to ensure that residents demonstrate a proficiency in such core competencies; and

''(C) model curricula regarding neuroscience and behavior to enhance the understanding of mental illness.

''(g) EVALUATION.—An institution with a residency training program that receives a grant under subsection (a) shall prepare and submit to the Secretary an evaluation of the activities carried out with funds received under this section, including a process and outcomes evaluation.

''(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section, $10,000,000 for fiscal year 2001 and such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years 2002 through 2005.

''SEC. 594. TRAINING AND CONTINUING EDUCATION GRANTS FOR PRIMARY HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award grants to academic health centers, community hospitals, and out-patient clinics, including community health centers and community mental health centers, for the continuing education of appropriate primary care providers in the diagnosis, treatment, and referrals of children, adolescents, and adults with a mental illness to mental health professionals, and for the education of primary care providers in the delivery of effective medical care to such children, adolescents, and adults.

''(b) DISTRIBUTION OF AWARDS.—The Secretary shall ensure that such grants awarded under subsection (a) are equitably distributed among the geographical regions of the United States and between urban and rural populations.

''(c) APPLICATION.—An academic health center, community hospital, or out-patient clinic, including a community health center and a community mental health center, desiring a grant under subsection (a) shall prepare and submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require, including a plan for the rigorous evaluation of activities carried out with funds received under this section, including a process and outcomes evaluation.

''(d) USE OF FUNDS.—An academic health center, community hospital, or out-patient clinic, including a community health center and a community mental health center, that receives a grant under this section shall use funds received under such grant for the continuing education of primary care providers in the diagnosis, treatment options, and appropriate referrals of children, adolescents, and adults with a mental illness to mental health professionals, and for the education of primary care providers in the delivery of effective medical care to such children, adolescents, and adults.

''(e) EVALUATION.—An academic health center, community hospital, or out-patient clinic, including a community health center and a community mental health center, that receives a grant under this section shall prepare and submit an evaluation to the Secretary that describes activities carried out with funds received under this section.

''(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) HEALTH CENTER.—The term 'health center' has the meaning given such term in section 330, and includes community mental health centers.

''(2) PRIMARY CARE.—The term 'primary care' includes family practice, internal medicine, pediatrics, obstetrics and gynecology, geriatrics, and emergency medicine.

''(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section, $20,000,000 for fiscal year 2001 and such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years 2002 through 2005.

''SEC. 595. COMMISSION.

''(a) COMMISSION.—There is established a Commission that shall study issues regarding the diagnosis, treatment, rehabilitation, and hospitalization of individuals with a mental illness, make recommendations regarding the findings of such research, and develop model State legislation based on the results of such research if appropriate.

''(b) DUTIES.—The Commission established under subsection (a) shall—

''(1) study issues regarding the screening, diagnosis, and treatment of individuals with a mental illness in both an outpatient and inpatient setting;

''(2) study the effectiveness and results of outpatient and inpatient involuntary treatment of individuals with a mental illness, review existing laws governing outpatient involuntary treatment of individuals with a mental illness, and if appropriate, propose model State legislation to regulate such involuntary treatment;

''(3) study the effectiveness and results of promoting the inclusion of individuals with a mental illness in their treatment decisions and the use of psychiatric advance directives, and if appropriate, propose model State legislation;

''(4) review the report 'Mental Health: A Report of the Surgeon General' and develop policy recommendations for Federal, State, and local governments to guide the development of public policy, implement the findings of the Surgeon General;

''(5) develop mental health proposals, based on the supplemental report of the Surgeon General on mental health and race, culture, and ethnicity, to improve the diagnosis, treatment, rehabilitation, and hospitalization of individuals with a mental illness, and the utilization of services for such individuals among diverse populations;

''(6) study the coordination of services between the health care system, social services system, and the criminal justice system for individuals with a mental illness;

''(7) study the adequacy of current treatment services for mental illness; and

''(8) study issues regarding the mental illness of incarcerated individuals in the criminal justice system and develop recommendations for programs to identify, diagnose, and treat such individuals.

''(c) MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission established under subsection (a) shall be composed of—

''(A) the Director of the National Institute of Mental Health;

''(B) the Director of the Center for Mental Health Services; and

''(C) a representative from a State or local mental health agency;

''(D) a judge;

''(E) a prosecutor;

''(F) a criminal defense attorney;

''(G) a constitutional law scholar;

''(H) a law enforcement official;

''(I) a county corrections official.

''(J) a board certified psychiatrist;

''(K) a psychologist;

''(L) a medical ethicist;

''(M) 2 mental health advocates, 1 of which shall be a consumer of mental health servvices; and

''(N) a family member of an individual with a mental illness.

''(2) SELECTION.—Members of the Commission established under subsection (a) shall be selected in the following manner:

''(A) The Majority Leader of the Senate, in consultation with the Minority Leader of the Senate, shall select 5 members of the Commission, with not more than 3 of such members being of the same political party.

''(B) The Speaker of the House of Representatives, in consultation with the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, shall select 5 members of the Commission, with not more than 3 of such members being of the same political party.

''(C) The President shall select 5 members of the Commission, 2 of which shall be the Director of the National Institute of Mental Health and the Director of the Center for Mental Health Services.

''(d) REPORT.—

''(1) INTERIM REPORT.—Not later than 10 months after the date of enactment of this section, the Commission shall prepare and submit to Congress a report that describes the progress of the Commission regarding issues described in paragraphs (2) and (3) of subsection (b) and recommends the value of developing model State legislation.

''(2) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this section, the Commission shall prepare and submit to the President and Congress a report that describes the findings of the Commission, and the recommendations and model legislation created by such Commission.

''(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section, $1,500,000.''.

SEC. 4. LAW ENFORCEMENT MENTAL HEALTH GRANT PROGRAMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 is amended by inserting after part U (42 U.S.C. 3796hh et seq.) the following:

''PART V—MENTAL HEALTH GRANT PROGRAMS

''Subpart 1—Mental Health Court Grant Program

''SEC. 2201. GRANT AUTHORITY.

''(a) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—The Attorney General shall make grants to States, State courts, local courts, units of local government, and Indian tribal governments, acting directly or through agreements with other public or nonprofit entities, for up to 125 Mental Health Court grant programs.

''(b) PURPOSE.—Such Mental Health Court grant programs described in subsection (a) shall involve—

''(1) the specialized training of law enforcement and judicial personnel, including prosecutors and public defenders, to identify and address the unique needs of individuals with a mental illness who come in contact with the criminal justice system; and

''(2) the coordination of criminal adjudication, continuing judicial supervision, and the delivery of mental health treatment and related services for preliminarily qualified individuals, including—

''(A) voluntary outpatient or inpatient mental health treatment, in the least restrictive manner appropriate as determined by the court, that carries with it the possibility of dismissal of charges or reduced sentencing upon successful completion of treatment; and

''(B) centralized case management involving the consolidation of cases, including violations of probation, and the coordination of all mental health treatment plans and social services, including substance abuse treatment where co-occurring disorders are present, life skills training, housing placement, vocational training, education, job placement, health care, and relapse prevention for each participant who requires such services.

''(c) CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subpart shall preclude States from implementing a system to divert preliminarily qualified individuals in law enforcement custody for nonviolent or misdemeanor offenses out of the criminal justice system and into appropriate treatment programs.

''SEC. 2202. DEFINITION.

''In this subpart, subject to the requirements of section 2204(b)(8), the term, 'preliminarily qualified individual' means a person in law enforcement custody who—

''(1)(A) previously or currently has been diagnosed by a qualified mental health professional as having a mental illness, mental retardation, or a co-occurring mental illness and substance abuse disorder; or

''(B) manifests obvious signs of having a mental illness, mental retardation, or a co-occurring mental illness and substance abuse disorder during arrest or confinement or before any court; and

''(2) is deemed eligible by a designated judge.

''SEC. 2203. ADMINISTRATION.

''(a) CONSULTATION.—The Attorney General shall consult with the Secretary and any other appropriate officials in carrying out this subpart.

''(b) USE OF COMPONENTS.—The Attorney General may utilize any component or components of the Department of Justice in carrying out this subpart.

''(c) REGULATORY AUTHORITY.—The Attorney General shall issue regulations and guidelines necessary to carry out this subpart which shall include the methodologies and outcome measures proposed for evaluating each applicant program.

''SEC. 2204. APPLICATIONS.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—To request funds under this subpart, the chief executive of a State, a unit of local government, or an Indian tribal government shall submit an application to the Attorney General in such form and containing such information as the Attorney General may reasonably require.

''(b) CONTENTS.—In addition to any other requirement the Attorney General may specify under subsection (a), an application for a grant under this subpart shall—

''(1) identify related governmental or community initiatives which complement or will be coordinated with the proposal;

''(2) include a plan for the coordination of mental health treatment and social service programs for individuals needing such services, including life skills training, such as housing placement, vocational training, education, job placement, health care, relapse prevention, and substance abuse treatment where co-occurring disorders are present;

''(3) contain an assurance that—

''(A) there has been appropriate consultation with all affected mental health and social service agencies and programs in the development of the plan and that there will be sufficient ongoing coordination with the affected agencies and programs during implementation to ensure that they will have adequate capacity to provide the services;

''(B) the Mental Health Court program will provide continuing supervision of treatment plan compliance for a term not to exceed the maximum allowable sentence or probation for the charged or relevant offense and continuity of psychiatric care at the end of the supervised period;

''(C) individuals referred to a Mental Health Court will receive a full mental health evaluation by a qualified professional;

''(D) the Federal support provided will be used to supplement, and not supplant, State, Indian tribal, and local sources of funding that would otherwise be available; and

''(E) the program will be evaluated no less than once every 12 months using the methodology and outcome measures identified in the grant application;

''(4) include a long-term strategy and detailed implementation plan;

''(5) explain the applicant's inability to fund the program adequately without Federal assistance;

''(6) specify plans for obtaining necessary support and continuing the proposed program following the conclusion of Federal support;

''(7) describe the methodology and outcome measures that will be used in evaluating the program; and

''(8) identify plans to ensure that individuals charged with serious violent felonies, including murder, rape, crimes involving the use of a firearm or explosive device, and any other crimes identified by the applicant, will not be referred to the Mental Health Court.

''SEC. 2205. FEDERAL SHARE.

''The Federal share of a grant made under this subpart may not exceed 75 percent of the total costs of the program described in the application submitted under section 2204 for the fiscal year for which the program receives assistance under this subpart, unless the Attorney General waives, wholly or in part, the requirement of a matching contribution under this section. The use of the Federal share of a grant made under this subpart shall be limited to new expenses necessitated by the proposed program, including the development of treatment services and the hiring and training of personnel. In-kind contributions may constitute a portion of the non-Federal share of a grant.

''SEC. 2206. GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION.

''The Attorney General shall ensure that, to the extent practicable, an equitable geographic distribution of grant awards is made that considers the special needs of rural communities, Indian tribes, and Alaska Natives.

''SEC. 2207. REPORT.

''A State, State court, local court, unit of local government, or Indian tribal government that receives funds under this subpart during a fiscal year shall submit to the Attorney General a report in March of the following year regarding the effectiveness of this subpart.

''Subpart 2—Mental Health Screening and Treatment Grant Program in Jails and Prisons

''SEC. 2221. GRANT AUTHORITY.

''The Attorney General shall carry out a pilot program under which the Attorney General shall make a grant to 10 States selected by the Attorney General for use in accordance with this subpart.

''SEC. 2222. USE OF GRANT AMOUNTS.

''Amounts made available under a grant awarded under this subpart—

''(1) shall be used for mental health screening, evaluation, and treatment of individuals detained or incarcerated in State and local correctional institutions; and

''(2) may be used to incorporate mental health screening and treatment into the State and local probation and parole systems.

''SEC. 2223. MINIMUM GRANT AMOUNT.

''The amount of a grant awarded to a State under this subpart for any fiscal year shall not be less than 2.5 percent of the total amount made available to carry out this subpart for that fiscal year.

''SEC. 2224. STATE AND LOCAL ALLOCATION.

''Of the amount made available under a grant awarded to a State under this subpart—

''(1) 25 percent shall be used by the State in accordance with section 2222; and

''(2) 75 percent shall be distributed to units of local government within the State for use in accordance with section 2222.

''SEC. 2225. REPORT.

''A State that receives funds under this subpart during a fiscal year shall submit to the Attorney General a report in March of the following year regarding the effectiveness of this subpart.

Subpart 3—Law Enforcement Mental Health Training Grant Program

"SEC. 2231. GRANT AUTHORITY.

''The Attorney General shall make grants to States, which shall be used to train State and local law enforcement officers—

''(1) to identify and respond effectively to individuals with a mental illness who come into contact with the criminal justice system; and

''(2) regarding the mental health treatment resources available in the community for individuals with a mental illness who come into contact with the criminal justice system.''.

(b) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3711 et seq.), is amended by inserting after the item relating to part U the following:

''PART V—MENTAL HEALTH COURTS

''SUBPART 1—MENTAL HEALTH COURT GRANT PROGRAM

''Sec. 2201. Grant authority.
''Sec. 2202. Definition.
''Sec. 2203. Administration.
''Sec. 2204. Applications.

''SUBPART 2—MENTAL HEALTH SCREENING AND TREATMENT GRANT PROGRAM IN JAILS AND PRISONS

''Sec. 2221. Grant authority.
''Sec. 2222. Use of grant amounts.
''Sec. 2223. Minimum grant amount.
''Sec. 2224. State and local allocation.

''SUBPART 3—LAW ENFORCEMENT MENTAL HEALTH TRAINING GRANT PROGRAM

''Sec. 2231. Grant authority.''.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 1001(a) of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3793(a)) is amended by inserting after paragraph (19) the following:

''(20) There are authorized to be appropriated—

''(A) to carry out subpart 1 of part V, $10,000,000 for fiscal year 2001 and such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years 2002 through 2005;

''(B) to carry out subpart 2 of part V, $50,000,000 for fiscal year 2001 and such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years 2002 through 2005; and

''(C) to carry out subpart 3 of part V, $50,000,000 for fiscal year 2001 and such sums as may be necessary for each fiscal years 2002 through 2005.''.

THE MENTAL HEALTH EARLY INTERVENTION, TREATMENT, AND PREVENTION ACT OF 2000—SUMMARY

Twenty-five to forty percent of individuals in the United States with a mental illness come into contact with the criminal justice system each year. Sixteen percent of individuals incarcerated in state and local jails suffer from a mental illness. About 30,000 Americans, including 2,000 children and adolescents, commit suicide each year.

The bill seeks to prevent the often tragic results of mental illness, such as acts of violence and suicide, before they occur. It provides a series of programs to raise awareness about mental illness; to increase resources for the screening, diagnosis, and treatment of mental illness; and to increase resources to enable the criminal justice system to respond more effectively to persons with mental illness.

ANTI-STIGMA CAMPAIGN AND SUICIDE PREVENTION CAMPAIGN

The bill proposes an anti-stigma campaign using media and public education, aimed at reducing the stigma often associated with mental illness.

TRAINING FOR TEACHERS, EMERGENCY SERVICES PERSONNEL, AND PRIMARY CARE PROFESSIONALS

The bill proposes a program to provide training to teachers and emergency services personnel to identify and respond to individuals with mental illness, and to raise awareness about available mental health resources. A separate program will provide continuing education of primary care professionals in the delivery of mental health care.

EMERGENCY MENTAL HEALTH CENTERS

The Centers will serve as a specific site in communities for individuals in need of emergency mental health services, and will also provide mobile crisis intervention teams.

JAIL DIVERSION DEMONSTRATION

A demonstration initiative will create 125 programs to divert individuals with mental illness from the criminal justice system to community-based services.

SUICIDE PREVENTION ACROSS THE LIFE SPECTRUM

A program to provide timely assessment and referral for treatment for children, adolescents, and adults at risk for suicide, with priority given to groups experiencing high or increasing rates of suicide.

MENTAL ILLNESS TREATMENT GRANTS

A grant program will be available to develop or expand treatment services for mental illness in communities with urgent or emerging need for such services. Grants will also be available to provide integrated treatment for individuals with a serious mental illness and a co-occurring substance abuse disorder; the emphasis will be on individuals with a history of involvement with law enforcement or a history of unsuccessful treatment.

MENTAL ILLNESS OUTREACH SCREENING

A grant program will be established to conduct outreach screening to identify individuals with a mental illness or with a mental illness and a co-occurring substance abuse disorder, and provide appropriate referrals for treatment.

CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE FOR POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS AND RELATED DISORDERS

A grant program will be established to support national and regional centers of excellence to respond to psychological trauma, and to psychiatric disorders resulting from witnessing or experiencing a traumatic event.

EXPANDED ROLE OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF MENTAL HEALTH

The National Institute of Mental Health will study the factors that contribute to noncompliance with outpatient treatment plans. It will also establish centers of excellence for research, and increase the number of basic and clinical researchers.

INCREASED COORDINATION OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

A program will be established to improve outcomes among at-risk children by integrating child welfare and mental health services.

BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION

The Commission will make recommendations on issues relating to mental illness. It will focus on diagnosis and treatment, and the interaction between mental illness and the criminal justice system.

MENTAL HEALTH COURTS

This demonstration program will create 125 Mental Health Courts with separate dockets to handle cases involving individuals with a mental illness. These individuals will be voluntarily assigned to out-patient or in-patient mental health treatment as an alternative sentence.

MENTAL HEALTH SCREENING AND TREATMENT IN JAILS AND PRISONS

A pilot program will be created to provide states and local governments with funds to screen, evaluate, and treat individuals with mental illness in local jails or state prisons.

LAWS ENFORCEMENT MENTAL HEALTH TRAINING

This program will train law enforcement officers to identify and effectively respond to individuals with a mental illness and to educate police officers about available mental health resources.●

● Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I welcome this opportunity to work with Senator DOMENICI on this important issue of mental health care, and I commend him for his leadership. In American medicine today, patients with biochemical problems in their liver are treated with compassion, but those with biochemical problems in their brain are treated harshly. That discrepancy is unacceptable. The stigma against the mentally ill is a blatant form of discrimination. The legislation that Senator DOMENICI and I are introducing is intended to correct this inequity and to assure that those with mental illness will get the treatment they need.

The first-ever Surgeon General's Report on Mental Health was released last December. It provides a solid foundation on which to build. It is a powerful statement that treating the problems of mental illness more effectively must be one of our Nation's highest priorities. The Surgeon General's Report makes two basic points. Mental illness is a national crisis—and our treatment of the mentally ill is a national disgrace.

One in five Americans will experience some form of mental illness this year. Mental illnesses are our second leading cause of disability. Yet success rates for treating mental illnesses are as high as 80 percent. Effective drugs with limited side effects have become available in recent years. Note that the success rates for treatment of other chronic diseases, such as hypertension and diabetes, are not quite as high. But people with high blood pressure or diabetes still seek treatment. Unfortunately, fear, stigma and lack of available treatment combine to prevent individuals with mental illness from seeking treatment.

There are several reasons for this. First is stigma. People are afraid to admit mental illness to their doctors, or even to themselves. In fact, two-thirds of those with diagnosable mental illnesses do not seek treatment. Second, there is a very low public understanding of mental disorders and of the fact that they are treatable. Third, individuals with mental illness may not be correctly diagnosed or appropriately referred for treatment. Fourth, people who do seek treatment for mental illness find that it is not available or that their insurance plans will not cover it.

One result of the lack of treatment is suicide. Fifty percent more Americans die by their own hand each year than

are killed by other; 29,264 suicides occurred in 1998 compared with 17,350 homicides. Suicide is the third leading killer of the Nation's youth.

What is happening to many of those who suffer from mental illness? Jails and prisons represent the largest residential center for those suffering from mental illnesses, but few prisoners receive treatment there.

The bill that Senator DOMENICI and I are introducing today, ''The Mental Health Early Intervention, Treatment, and Prevention Act of 2000,'' is a giant step toward giving mental health the priority it deserves. But we cannot promote mental health without eradicating the stigma surrounding mental illness. Since fear and ignorance compound the problem, a campaign to improve public understanding about mental illness will combat the ignorance and decrease the fear.

Increased public understanding is not sufficient, however. Successful treatment of those suffering from mental illness requires effective care by skilled professionals. Many individuals with mental illness do not realize the nature of scope of their problem, and those whom they might encounter in daily life are unable to assist them. Our bill will enable us to reach out to find persons with mental illness. It will train teachers, police and others to provide front-line help.

Our legislation provides for the establishment of suicide prevention programs. It will also develop screening programs to identify and reach out to those with mental illnesses so that they seek effective treatment. We will also establish response teams and designate centers to provide patients with such treatment.

Patients suffering from mental illness are more likely to experience a greater number of physical ailments as well. Their primary care physicians are often not equipped to recognize mental illness or to make the appropriate referral to a mental health professional. Our bill will develop programs to train primary care health providers to treat the physical symptoms of those who suffer from mental illness, while making sure that they obtain care for their mental well-being too.

In addition, ignorance of the biology of the brain and the mind has often prevented the development of cures for many forms of mental illness. Our bill will develop educational programs to increase the numbers of researchers investigating the science of mental illness. Special emphasis will be given to training psychiatrists and psychologists in effective ways to bring the discoveries of the laboratory more quickly to the bedside of the patient.

Our bill will develop new strategies to assist individuals with mental illness in the criminal justice system and to strengthen the understanding of mental illness by law enforcement officials. It is likely, as a result, that many who suffer from mental illness will receive treatment rather than punishment, so that they contribute to society instead of being incarcerated by society.

Mental illness is a serious national problem that all of us must deal with more effectively. Our goal in this legislation is to give mental health the high priority it deserves. The enactment of this bill will help those millions of our fellow citizens who, at this moment, are suffering in silence.●

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.

VETERANS PRESCRIPTIONS LEGISLATION

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, as the country enters this Memorial Day weekend to pay tribute to those who gave their lives to protect and defend the United States, I come before the Senate to introduce legislation aimed at making it easier for veterans to receive medications through the VA health care system.

Right now, VA pharmacies are prohibited from dispensing medications that are prescribed by non-VA practitioners. This means that veterans can not have their prescriptions filled at a VA facility if it is written by their private doctor. Under current law, veterans only have to pay $2 for each 30-day supply of medication supplied by the VA. Therefore, if a veteran needs to have a prescription filled by a non-VA practitioner, it can mean great out-of-pocket expenses. My legislation would change the current system to allow the VA to fill prescriptions that are written by non-VA practitioners.

This bill has been endorsed by The American Legion, the National Association of Uniformed Services and the Non-Commissioned Officers Association. I believe it is a common sense approach, and I think we owe it to veterans to make health care as affordable and accessible as possible.

Earlier today, I had the pleasure of speaking at the Veterans Washington Rally which was sponsored by the Vietnam Veterans of America, Rolling Thunder, the Jewish War Veterans and other veteran supporters. These veterans were asking for full funding for the VA health care system as spelled out in the Independent Budget, a comprehensive analysis of the VA budget which is prepared each year with the support of several veteran organizations.

Veterans are rightly concerned that current budget plans are barely enough to keep up with health care inflation and is nowhere near enough to provide quality emergency and long-term care or begin a serious fight against hepatitis C. I was proud to see these veterans fighting for the benefits and services that are rightly theirs, and I hope we can address their concerns when the Senate considers the VA–HUD appropriations bill later this year.

Thank you, Mr. President. And, may God bless all of America's veterans this Memorial Day.

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.

TO AUTHORIZE THE PRESIDENT TO PRESENT THE GOLD MEDAL ON BEHALF OF CONGRESS TO FORMER PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER AND FORMER FIRST LADY ROSALYNN CARTER

Mr. CLELAND. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce a bill that would authorize the President to present a Gold Medal on behalf of Congress to former President Jimmy Carter and former First Lady Rosalynn Carter in recognition of their service to the Nation. I would like to thank Senator COVERDELL for co-sponsoring this bill and extend an invitation to all our other colleagues to join us in supporting this legislation to award these two great Americans with Congress' highest honor.

It is widely agreed that President Jimmy Carter and his wife Rosalynn Carter have distinguished records of public service to the American people and the international community. Internationally, the Carters have been involved in a number of public service initiatives ranging from combating famine in Sub-Sahara Africa and encouraging better health care in Third World nations to serving as mediators in an effort to end civil wars in half a dozen countries. President Carter has monitored numerous foreign elections in an effort to spread democracy throughout the world.

A Congressional Gold Medal awarded by Congress will show the appreciation of the American public for the many contributions that President and Mrs. Carter have made, including service in public office from the state legislature to the White House. Jimmy and Rosalynn continue to promote human rights worldwide due to their active involvement in the nonprofit Carter Center in Atlanta that has initiated projects in more than 65 countries to resolve conflicts, promote human rights, build democracy, improve health care worldwide, and revitalize urban areas. In addition, the Carters serve as volunteers for Habitat for Humanity, which helps low income families build their own homes.

I hope that other members of Congress will join me and Senator COVERDELL in recognizing President and Mrs. Carter for their distinguished records of public service by awarding them the Congressional Gold Medal.

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.

THE TAX EASE AND MODERNIZATION ACT—PART I

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce legislation intended to start us on the path to a simpler, more rational, and fairer federal tax system. The bill I am introducing in the Senate today, the Tax Ease and Modernization Act—Part I (TEAM–I), is designed to be the first of several installments to incrementally transform the Internal Revenue Code into a revenue collection device that is more efficient, more responsive to the needs of taxpayers, more able to help this nation compete in a global marketplace, and most importantly, much easier to understand, comply with, and administer.

I realize that this is a tall order. I also believe that such a transformation cannot occur overnight. This is why my plan calls for incremental action through a multi-year plan—a plan that we can start implementing this year rather than waiting for consensus to develop around a fundamental tax reform approach that centers on a flat tax, a national consumption tax, or some hybrid system.

As I said on this floor on April 4, 2000, when I announced this plan, I recognize the need for a new paradigm in taxation for this country. I believe our Internal Revenue Code is fundamentally flawed and needs to be replaced with a new system. But such a new tax code will require years of presidential leadership, public education, and an intelligent transition from the current system.

In the meantime, we should not wait for an elusive tax Utopia to come along and remove the immediate need for improvements to the Internal Revenue Code. We should begin to act now, and do what we can to make our current system better in the short run. This is what my plan is all about.

Mr. President, the bill I introduce today begins this transformation process by repealing or repairing some of the most complex and unfair provisions in the Internal Revenue Code. Moreover, it does so in a balanced way, with relief from complexity for every classification of taxpayer—low-income and high income individuals, school teachers and chief executive officers, members of neighborhood investment clubs and high rollers, small businesses and sprawling multinationals, people with IRS problems and families with foster children. The goals are to simplify the tax code and make it more fair for everyone.

Because the Internal Revenue Code is so riddled with complexity at every level, attempting to eliminate it all at once would be difficult at best. Therefore, this bill focuses on solving several of the largest problems affecting millions of taxpayers, then supplements these features with a number of smaller provisions that may appear relatively minor, but as a whole add a tremendous amount of complexity, unfairness, or hassle for many taxpayers, as well as for the Internal Revenue Service.

ALTERNATIVE MINIMUM TAX REPEAL

Mr. President, the Tax Ease and Modernization Act—Part I starts with repealing what is likely to be the largest source of tax compliance headaches for middle- and upper-income families over the next decade—the alternative minimum tax. The alternative minimum tax, or AMT for short, remains unknown to many Americans, and is not well understood even by those nearly 1 million taxpayers it already affects.

The AMT was originally designed to ensure that taxpayers with economic income who take advantage of the tax code's many incentive deductions and credits still pay some tax. However, because of basic design flaws, the AMT's reach now goes far beyond what was intended in 1969 when it was conceived or even in 1986 when it was expanded. In fact, the Treasury Department estimates that at least 17 million taxpayers will be subject to the nightmare-like complexity of the alternative minimum tax by 2010. Even the Clinton administration, traditionally a strong supporter of the AMT, now admits it has grown out of control and advocates changes to tame it.

This bill goes one better and repeals the alternative minimum tax altogether, Mr. President. It is time to rid the code of the kind of super-complexity brought by the AMT, which, in my view, has failed to achieve its objectives of bringing greater fairness to our tax system.

CAPITAL GAINS TAX SIMPLIFICATION

A second major provision of this bill would greatly simplify the taxation of capital gains. Many of my constituents were pleased in 1997 when Congress lowered the capital gains tax rates from 28 percent to 20 percent. However, many were not as excited when they found out what the new law meant come tax return filing time—a 54-line Schedule D accompanied by two worksheets and seven pages of instructions. This is compared to a 39-line form and just two pages of instructions prior to the change.

TEAM–I would simplify capital gains by repealing the current maximum rate approach and instituting a 50 percent exclusion, as was the case before the 1986 Tax Reform Act repealed the capital gains preference. In other words, taxpayers would be allowed to exclude 50 percent of the long-term capital gain from gross income. The remaining 50 percent would be taxed at ordinary income rates. This would do away with the need for a special computation on the tax forms. It would also result in a lower capital gains rate for every tax bracket, with those in the lowest tax brackets getting the largest rate decreases. This bill thus both simplifies capital gains and cuts the effective capital gains tax rate for all individuals.

We should not underestimate the importance of this change. Mr. President. Over the past few years the number of Americans who are invested in capital assets has skyrocketed. The Joint Economic Committee reported last month that the percentage of American families directly and indirectly holding stocks climbed from 31.6 percent in 1989 to 48.8 percent in 1998. Moreover, a recent Federal Reserve study shows that stockholdings made up a record 31.7 percent of household wealth in 1999. And this does not include other capital assets, such as bonds, real estate, and partnership interests. No longer can even the most hardened opponent of capital gains rate reductions argue that it is a tax break only for the wealthy.

In addition, there is abounding evidence that lowering the capital gains tax rate has had a very salutary effect on the economy over the years, particularly since the 1997 change. A 1999 study by Standard and Poor's DRI concluded that the 1997 capital gains tax reduction from a top rate of 28 percent to 20 percent was responsible for about 25 percent of he increase in stock prices from 1997 to 1999. Also, the cost of capital for new investment fell by about 3 percent as a result of the 1997 change. Clearly, when it comes to capital gains, simplicity is needed as well as lower rates. TEAM–I delivers both.

The bill I am introducing today also features a smaller but important provision relating to capital gains from the sale of a principal residence. In 1997, Congress passed a provision that allows homeowners to exclude up to $250,000 of capital gains from the sale of their principal residence. The number is $500,000 for married couples filing a joint return. This has been or will be a tremendous benefit for millions of American families. The provision was flawed in one respect, however, in that it was not indexed for inflation. My bill would index the exclusion for future inflation, in increments of $1,000.

EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT SIMPLIFICATION

Mr. President, millions of lower-income taxpayers face one of the most complex tax provisions in the entire Internal Revenue Code—the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). Taxpayers trying to figure out if they can claim this credit and how to compute it face a daunting challenge—instructions and tables in the Form 1040 instructions that take up ten full pages, including a nine-step flowchart and two worksheets. Even all of this is not enough to provide all the needed information in every case.

Taxpayers, many if not most of whom are surely aggravated and confused by these rules, are referred to IRS Publication 596, a 54-page booklet, to even more detailed information.

Practically every professional tax group that has studied tax complexity recommends major simplification to the EITC. TEAM–I would provide major simplicity, while expanding the credit.

The bill would simplify the EITC rules in two ways, Mr. President. First it modifies the definition of earned income to include only taxable employee

compensation and business income readily available on Form 1040. Current law requires the consideration of nontaxable compensation, such as meals and lodging provided for the convenience of the employer and employer-provided educational assistance benefits. Many times these amounts are not readily available to the employee, who is likely to be uncertain whether such nontaxable compensation is provided or not.

Second, TEAM–I simplifies the definition of a dependent child. The source of one of the greatest complexities in the EITC is the definition of a qualifying child. Current law is confusing in part because the definition of a qualifying child is very similar, but not identical, to the definition of a dependent child for purposes of the dependency exemption. In some cases, a child can qualify a taxpayer for the EITC but not for the dependency exemption. The bill simplifies both the dependency exemption and the EITC by moving the definition of a dependent child closer to that of a qualifying child for purposes of the EITC. Thus, with this new definition, taxpayers who are able to claim a dependent child for the exemption should be able to also claim the child for purposes of the earned income tax credit. This solution is based on a concept proposed by the Clinton Administration in the budget for fiscal year 2001.

Mr. President, the bill also expands in three ways the earned income tax credit, which is a program that has proven vital in assisting millions of families at the margin of poverty. The first expansion provides a new category for taxpayers with three or more qualifying children, which offers a higher percentage credit. Current law provides different levels of the credit for taxpayers with no children, taxpayers with one qualifying child, and those with two or more. Secondly, the bill provides a larger maximum credit for all qualifying taxpayer with children by increasing the phaseout amount, which is the level of the taxpayer's earnings at which the credit begins to be phased out, from the current law level of $12,690 to $15,000.

Perhaps even more significantly, the bill takes a major step toward relieving the onerous marriage penalty inherent in the current Earned Income Tax Credit. This is accomplished by increasing the amount at which the credit begins to be phased out by an extra $5,000 for taxpayers who are married filing a joint return. While this will not eliminate the marriage penalty problem of the EITC, which is among the largest marriage penalties in the tax code, it does take an important step toward reducing it.

REPEAL OF LIMITATIONS ON ITEMIZED DEDUCTIONS AND PERSONAL EXEMPTIONS

Mr. President, two of the most unfair and complex provisions of the current tax law are aimed squarely at upper-middle and higher-income taxpayers. After the 1986 Tax Reform Act lowered the top tax rate to 28 percent, the Democratically led Congress decided that this was too low a tax rate for successful Americans who were considered wealthy. Rather than a straightforward increase in the top tax bracket, however, Congress decided to be sneaky about it and raised the marginal tax rates on certain taxpayers by limiting their itemized deductions and personal exemptions. The effects of these provisions are twofold. First, they obscure the true rate of tax being levied on taxpayers subject to these provisions. Second, and probably most damaging, they add a great deal of unwarranted complexity. My bill solves both problems by simply repealing these provisions.

BUSINESS TAX SIMPLIFICATION

While the Tax Ease and Modernization Act—Part I focuses mostly on the complexity problems of individual taxpayers, it does not ignore businesses, who often face complexity in the extreme. The second and third installments of this effort will feature many more simplification provisions to help ensure that American businesses stay competitive in the global marketplace and are not forced to waste resources on unnecessary tax compliance costs.

Part I features three relatively small but important provisions that will simplify taxes for practically all business taxpayers in America. The first provision would change the law to provide that corporate taxpayers no longer have to pay a higher rate of interest to the Internal Revenue Service on underpayments of tax than the rate the government pays to them for overpayments. Currently, individual taxpayers enjoy an equal interest rate for overpayments and underpayments. Corporations, however, must pay as much as a 4.5 percentage points more in interest on underpayments than they receive on overpayments. The bill would equalize these amounts at a rate of the short-term Applicable Federal Rate plus three percentage points.

The second business provision would clean up a complex inequity that was only partially addressed by the Internal Revenue Service Restructuring and Reform Act of 1998. That Act established a net interest rate of zero where interest is payable and allowable on equivalent amounts of overpayment and underpayment that exist for any tax period. However, that provision fell short of providing the simplicity and fairness needed by taxpayers. Therefore, my bill would extend the concept of global interest netting to all periods and would make the change retroactive as if enacted in the 1998 Act.

The final business provision included in TEAM–I would simplify the accounting for purchases of software by business taxpayers by allowing them to immediately expense the first $20,000 per year instead of capitalizing the cost and depreciating it over three years, as under current law. Having to depreciate relatively small software programs, which are often obsolete well before three years, is costly and complex.

MISCELLANEOUS SIMPLIFICATION PROVISIONS

Mr. President, the bill I introduce today includes a number of smaller but very important simplification provisions designed to ease the tax lives of all taxpayers. Many of these are similar or identical to provisions recently passed by the House in the Taxpayer Bill of Rights 2000 legislation. Other provisions are based on concepts recently suggested to Congress by Mr. Val Oveson, the National Taxpayer Advocate. One of the National Taxpayer Advocate's duties is to recommend to Congress what legislative changes are needed to improve the tax code and make it simpler and easier to administer. Last year, Mr. Oveson presented 53 separate recommendations for legislative improvement in the tax area. My bill incorporates more than a dozen of the most critical of these recommendations.

Also included in the bill are several other tax simplification measures, suggested by a variety of sources. One of these is S. 1952, a bill introduced last year by Senator ABRAHAM that would simplify the taxation of investors who participate in small investment clubs. Also included is the text of S. 670, a bill introduced last year by Senators JEFFORDS and DODD that would simplify the tax rules for foster care payments. This provision was also included in last year's large tax bill that was vetoed by President Clinton.

Another provision in the bill would help taxpayers who are former foster parents by providing that if those parent provide over one-half of the support of a foster child beyond the age where the state pays the expenses, they can claim the former foster child as a dependent, just as they could for their own child.

Mr. President, I have also included in TEAM–I another simplification provision, suggested by the Clinton Administration in its fiscal year 2001 budget, which would both simplify the law and remove a disincentive to young people working and saving for their future. Under current law, young people who can be claimed as dependents on their parents tax returns must file a return and pay income tax if they have over $250 of income from savings if their earnings from working plus that income from savings exceeds $700. My bill would increase the allowed amount of earnings from savings from $250 to $1,000 before a return or tax is required.

The bill I am introducing today also includes a provision added as a floor amendment to S. 1134, The Affordable Education Act, by Senator COLLINS, myself, and several others. This provision would allow elementary and secondary school teachers to deduct the cost of their professional development expenses without regard to the current-law 2-percent of adjusted gross income floor. This adds a small measure of both simplicity and fairness to the tax code.

Mr. President, the bill I am introducing is far from perfect. It represents

only a relatively small down payment on tax simplification in just a few areas of the Internal Revenue Code. However, I hope that its introduction will lay down a marker for tax simplification that will evoke further discussion and suggestions from interested groups and action toward simplification by my colleagues on the Finance Committee. I welcome comments on how this bill can be improved and what other tax simplification items should be considered in the future of this effort.

One thing I have learned in my study about the problems of our current tax system and ways to improve it is that simplification is far from simple. Some of the most complex portions of the Internal Revenue Code can be easily and reasonably be simplified by their repeal. Others parts, such as the Earned Income Tax Credit, should not be repealed but improved. Doing so, however, can be most difficult.

Moreover, Mr. President, simplification often comes at a cost of lost revenue. While I have not yet received an estimate of the revenue effect of this bill from the Joint Committee on Taxation, it seems clear that the numbers will be high. However, I have concluded that one of the best ways we can spend the projected surplus is on tax simplification. I like to think of it as tax relief for all taxpayers through simplification. Additionally, I believe that simplification should not create winners and losers. To the extent possible in my bill, I have tried to leave all taxpayers at least as well off as under current law. This, however, is also costly in terms of lost revenue.

While it is unclear whether Congress can pass, or whether the President will sign, major tax simplification legislation in this election year, I believe these issues are of such importance that we should not wait to embark on a major debate about them. I hope my colleagues in the Senate and House will join in the discussion, as well as taxpayer advocacy groups, businesses, and other stakeholders throughout the nation.

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

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.

STOP TB NOW ACT OF 2000

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, today my friend the senior Senator from Hawaii, Senator INOUYE, and I are introducing the Stop TB Now Act.

This bill would amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to authorize one hundred million dollars in each of fiscal years 2001 and 2002 to fight tuberculosis. Each year, eight million people develop active tuberculosis. One and one-half million of those that develop active tuberculosis will die from that disease alone. One person can infect 10 to 15 people in a year.

The global economy and its mobile work force makes the world a smaller place. No country is immune from the reach of this highly contagious disease. In 1999, the United States had almost 18,000 active TB cases. That comes to 6.4 per 100,000 people. According to the Centers for Disease Control, Alaska was ranked fourth in per capita cases of active tuberculosis in 1999. Hawaii has been number one since at least 1997.

This bill has two components. A treatment strategy and the goal of arresting the rise of more dangerous strains of tuberculosis. The World Health Organization has developed directly observed treatment, short-course, referred to by its acronym DOTS. DOTS is a community-based treatment strategy. It uses standardized short course chemotherapy for 6 to 8 months, with direct observation of TB patients. Strict adherence to a drug regime is really the only way to successfully treat TB. Participation at the local level can perpetuate a culture of vigilance against this and other public health threats. Ineffective treatment strategies in the past have led to the emergency of multi-drug resistant tuberculosis, known as MDR–TB.

MDR–TB are strains that are resistant to one or both of the two most effective existing TB drugs. Drugs to treat MDR–TB are at least 100 times more expensive than traditional TB drugs.

This is a staggering cost. Even in our country where the medical community can readily identify and treat MDR–TB, half the patients still die. These are patients using MDR–TB drugs. According to the World Health Organization, in another 3 to 5 years, without a comprehensive prevention and treatment strategy, drug resistant strains of TB will be the dominant form of the disease. Time is of the essence.

In my own State of Alaska, we are concerned about the dramatic increase in MDR–TB in the Russian Far East. That region has enormous trade potential for the State. Our native peoples also travel there on cultural exchanges. Tuberculosis has been called the poor man's disease. Perhaps from our perspective it was once considered a poor country's disease. This is not the case and we cannot ignore the global reach of this disease and its new variants.

I know many of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle are concerned about tuberculosis, as well as its association with the AIDS epidemic. I urge my colleagues to join Senator INOUYE and myself in sponsoring this legislation. It is my hope Congress will act to address this threat this year.

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.

THE ACCESS TO INNOVATION FOR MEDICARE PATIENTS ACT OF 2000

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, we know the Medicare program has not kept pace with advances in medical care and changing technology, whether through access to new medical devices or to prescription drugs. Sometimes seniors do not have access to the most advanced care. That needs to change. Some issues, like adding a prescription drug benefit, required broad reform of the program and an influx of new money to pay for the changes. But there are some common sense changes that can be made today could enhance access to life-saving therapies for seniors, particularly those living in rural areas, and potentially save Medicare dollars.

Medicare covers drugs that are administered in the hospital or in a physician's office but will not cover self-injectable drugs or biologics to treat the same disease, notwithstanding the fact that the latter may be superior in terms of efficacy and safety and less expensive. This outdated policy creates a perverse incentive for drug companies to develop drugs that can only be administered by I.V. in a hospital or other acute setting. Those companies that ignore Medicare's coverage policy and develop their products so that they are patient-friendly are penalized, as are the patients who need these products. The end result is often higher costs to the Medicare program, lack of beneficiary access to the best therapies, and treatment delivery problems for beneficiaries in rural areas who may not be in a position to travel to a hospital to receive regular treatments.

Patients suffering from rheumatoid arthritis (RA) are particularly victimized by this coverage policy. RA is a devastating chronic disease. As the disease progresses, sufferers move from self-sufficiency to total disability. The pain in most cases is excruciating. Like all patients with a chronic disease, RA patients face extraordinary out of pocket costs. However, Medicare beneficiaries with RA face a unique set of costs.

One of the most promising breakthroughs for the treatment of RA is a self-injected biologic developed through recombinant DNA technology. It already has been proven to prevent and reverse disability caused by RA, as well as dramatically reduce pain and avoid costly surgery. For many RA sufferers with private insurance or on Medicaid, it has meant the difference between being confined to a wheelchair and walking—and even returning to the workforce!

Since it is self-injected, it is not covered by Medicare. Yet, Medicare will cover another therapy which happens to be delivered intravenously, simply because it is administered (via I.V.) in a hospital. In doing so, Medicare ends

up spending more money when one factors in the costs of services and ancillary drugs associated with administration of this covered therapy. Just as important, the current policy denies beneficiaries access to a therapy that has been proven to be more effective, less toxic, and much easier to administer. This anomaly in Medicare's existing drug coverage policy is rooted in 1960's medicine, before the advent of biotechnology and the development of patient-friendly therapies.

Fortunately, there is a simple, budget-neutral way to help seniors who are dependent on Medicare. The Access to Innovation for Medicare Patients Act of 2000, which I will introduce today, along with Senators MURRAY, MIKULSKI, SANTORUM, CHAFEE, and COCHRAN would change Medicare's current drug coverage policy to allow coverage for self-injected biologics that are prescribed in lieu of an intravenous or physician-administered therapy. It would provide individuals suffering from rheumatoid arthritis, multiple sclerosis, hepatitis C, and deep vein thrombosis access to the latest, most promising biotechnology therapies.

This is a modest, common sense change that can and should be accomplished this year regardless of what may happen on comprehensive Medicare reform. If we do enact a Medicare drug benefit this year, this bill should be a part of that. Failure to do so would institutionalize a coverage gap that denies seniors access to breakthrough technology and the best care our medical system provides to everyone else with private health coverage.

According to a budget impact analysis by the Lewin Group, this legislation would not cost the Medicare program money and actually could save approximately $2 million per year. This is a compassionate, common-sense improvement we can make this year to improve the Medicare program for seniors. I hope my colleagues will join me in cosponsoring this bill.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I rise today in support of the Access to Innovation for Medicare Patients Act of 2000 and to thank my fellow colleague from Washington state, Senator GORTON, for his work on this important legislation. The Access to Innovation for Medicare Patients Act is critical for Medicare beneficiaries who suffer from chronic and debilitating diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis and multiple sclerosis.

As many of you know, rheumatoid arthritis and multiple sclerosis most often affect women. Until recently, few treatments existed. But advances in biotechnology products have given hope to thousands of individuals. Self-injectable biologic therapies have proven highly effective in reducing the daily, chronic pain that accompanies these devastating diseases. Patients have reported amazing results from self-injectable biologic therapies such as Enbrel in clinical trials.

However, before the Access to Innovation for Medicare Patients Act, no legislation existed that addressed adequate Medicare coverage of these therapies. Currently, Medicare only covers physician-administered therapies and most Medicare prescription drug coverage proposals do not address this issue at all or they place restrictive coverage caps on the use of self-injectable biologic therapies. Beneficiaries should not be denied access to the most effective and convenient therapies for their condition. Ultimately, coverage of self-injectable biologic therapies could save Medicare money in reducing costly, prolonged hospital stays and reducing the number of care provider visits. Most importantly, this legislation will improve the lives of Medicare beneficiaries who suffer from these diseases. Congress must ensure that seniors and the disabled receive the best possible medical treatment and therapies through the Medicare program.

Finally, on a more personal note, my family has had first-hand experience with the constant pain and frustration caused by multiple sclerosis. My father suffered from this devastating disease, and I witnessed his daily fight to overcome the pain that accompanied it. I know that self-injectable biologic therapy may have made his fight much easier. We cannot allow Medicare beneficiaries to suffer from preventable, overwhelming pain.

In the past, we worked to eliminate barriers to care and research. Today, we seek to tear down Medicare's barriers to self-injectable biologic therapies. Seniors and the disabled should not be denied these life-saving, treatments simply because they are self-injected.

Therefore, I rise today to join my colleagues, Senators GORTON, MIKULSKI, COCHRAN, STEVENS, and CHAFEE in introducing the Access to Innovation for Medicare Patients Act. This legislation would: provide access to innovative therapies that are now on the market and making enormous improvements in the life and care of Medicare beneficiaries; allow physicians to prescribe the most appropriate therapy for their patients; make a common-sense, responsible change in Medicare; and eliminate the current bias against biotechnology therapies inherent in the Medicare program and many of the prescription drug proposals.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

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.

NAVAJO NATION TRUST LAND LEASING ACT OF 2000

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I rise today with my colleague, Senator DOMENICI, to introduce the Navajo Nation Trust Land Leasing Act of 2000, a bill to establish a streamlined process for the Navajo Nation to lease trust lands without having to obtain the approval of the Secretary of the Interior. This new authority would apply to individual leases, except leases for exploration, development, or extraction of any mineral resources.

Mr. President, the current leasing process simply does not work very well. It can be cumbersome, and, because of the need to obtain approval from both the Nation and the Interior Department, the process can be lengthy. That can discourage many businesses from even considering locating the Navajo Reservation.

The fact is, there is no longer a need for the Secretary to be involved in routine leasing decisions that can and should be made by the Nation itself.

The changes proposed in this bill are intended to speed up the process for issuing leases by at least 50 percent, create predictable procedures for leasing trust land, and create incentives for businesses to open and operate in the Navajo Nation. It would help improve the management of tribal property, and promote economic development within the 100 Chapters of the Navajo Nation.

The need to create jobs and diversify the Reservation economy are clear. A December 1998 report by the Navajo Nation Division of Economic Development reported that the unemployment rate for the Nation was 43.3 percent, up 15.5 percent from 1990. An estimated 56 percent of Navajo families live below the poverty level, with a per capita annual income of just $5,759.

The lack of employment opportunities, low industrialization, slow development, insufficient infrastructure, weak economy, and difficulty in obtaining homesites and housing are causing many Navajo people to relocate to urban areas.

The Navajo Nation is looking for ways to reform its regulations to make it easier to attract and retain new businesses, and to create jobs that will improve the standard of living of Navajo people. The reforms in the Navajo National Trust Land Leasing Act will give the Nation some of the tools it needs to succeed in that regard.

Mr. President, the bill incorporates suggestions made by both the Navajo Nation and the Department of the Interior. There is one provision, though, that I will ask the Nation and the Department to review and provide further input. That is paragraph three of the proposed new Section 415(e) of title 25 of the U.S. Code.

As introduced, the bill gives the Secretary of the Interior the authority to approve or disapprove the Navajo Nation regulations under which the tribe will subsequently consider and approve leases of trust land. The Nation understandably wants to ensure that the Secretary acts promptly on the regulations once they are submitted. We do

not intend that the Secretary should be able to veto the regulations through inaction.

One way to address that concern is through the imposition of some time limit for Secretarial review—maybe 30 days. Another way might be to establish criteria in the law for the Secretary to use in reviewing the Nation's regulations. That approach would give the Secretary some guidance as to how the regulations should be assessed. It would also give the Navajo Nation some assurance that objective criteria will guide the Secretary's action. If the regulations meet the criteria, the Secretary's ability to disapprove them would be limited.

As I said, I will be asking both the Interior Department and the Nation for their further recommendations about these various approaches. The bill language on Secretarial approval or disapproval should, therefore, be considered open to change.

I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD at the conclusion of my remarks, and I look forward to early action on the legislation:

There being no objection, the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2665

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Navajo Nation Trust Land Leasing Act of 2000''.

SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL FINDINGS AND DECLARATION OF PURPOSES.

(a) FINDINGS.—Recognizing the special relationship between the United States and the Navajo nation and its members, and the Federal responsibility to the Navajo people, Congress finds that—

(1) the third clause of section 8, Article I of the United States Constitution provides that ''The Congress shall have Power...to regulate Commerce...with Indian tribes'', and, through this and other constitutional authority, Congress has plenary power over Indian affairs;

(2) Congress, through statutes, treaties, and the general course of dealing with Indian tribes, has assumed the responsibility for the protection and preservation of Indian tribes and their resources;

(3) the United States has a trust obligation to guard and preserve the sovereignty of Indian tribes in order to foster strong tribal governments, Indian self-determination, and economic self-sufficiency;

(4) pursuant to the first section of the Act of August 9, 1955 (25 U.S.C. 415), Congress conferred upon the Secretary of the Interior the power to promulgate regulations governing tribal leases and to approve tribal leases for tribes according to regulations promulgated by the Secretary;

(5) the Secretary of the Interior has promulgated the regulations described in paragraph (4) at part 162 of title 25, Code of Federal Regulations;

(6) the requirement that the Secretary approve leases for the development of Navajo trust lands has added a level of review and regulation that does not apply to the development of non-Indian land; and

(7) in the global economy of the 21st Century, it is crucial that individual leases of Navajo trust lands not be subject to Secretarial approval and that the Navajo Nation be able to make immediate decisions over the use of Navajo trust lands.

(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are as follows:

(1) To establish a streamlined process for 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.

(2) To authorize the Navajo nation, pursuant to tribal regulations, which must be approved by the Secretary, to lease Navajo trust lands without the approval of the Secretary of the Interior of the individual leases, except leases for exploration, development, or extraction of any mineral resources.

(3) To revitalize the distressed Navajo Reservation by promoting political self-determination, and encouraging economic self-sufficiency, including economic development that increases productivity and the standard of living for members of the Navajo Nation.

(4) To maintain, strengthen, and protect the Navajo Nation's leasing power over Navajo trust lands.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term ''Indian tribe'' has the meaning given such term in section 4(e) of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450b(e)).

(2) NAVAJO NATION.—The term ''Navajo Nation'' means the Navajo Nation government that is in existence on the date of enactment of this Act.

(3) TRIBAL REGULATIONS.—The term ''tribal regulations'' means the Navajo Nation regulations as enacted by the Navajo Nation Council or its standing committees and approved by the Secretary.

SEC. 3. LEASE OF RESTRICTED LANDS FOR THE NAVAJO NATION.

The first section of the Act of August 9, 1955 (25 U.S.C. 415) is amended—

(1) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking the period and inserting a semicolon; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(3) the term 'individually owned Navajo Indian allotted lands' means Navajo Indian allotted land that is owned by 1 or more individuals located within the Navajo Nation;

''(4) the term 'Navajo Nation' means the Navajo Nation government that is in existence on the date of enactment of this Act;

''(5) the term 'Secretary' means the Secretary of the Interior; and

''(6) the term 'tribal regulations' means the Navajo Nation regulations as enacted by the Navajo Nation Council or its standing committees and approved by the Secretary.''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(e)(1) Any leases by the Navajo Nation for purposes authorized under subsection (a), except a lease for the exploration, development, or extraction of any mineral resources, shall not require the approval of the Secretary if the term of the lease does not exceed 75 years (including options to renew), and the lease is executed under tribal regulations that are approved by the Secretary under this subsection.

''(2) Paragraph (1) shall not apply to individually owned Navajo Indian allotted land located within the Navajo Nation.

''(3) The Secretary shall have the authority to approve or disapprove tribal regulations required under paragraph (1). The Secretary shall not have approval authority over individual leases of Navajo trust lands, except for the exploration, development, or extraction of any mineral resources. The Secretary shall perform the duties of the Secretary under this subsection in the best interest of the Navajo Nation.

''(4) If the Navajo Nation has executed a lease pursuant to tribal regulations required under paragraph (1), the United states shall not be liable for losses sustained by any party to such lease, including the Navajo Nation, except that—

''(A) the Secretary shall continue to have a trust obligation to ensure that the rights of the Navajo Nation are protected in the event of a violation of the terms of any lease by any other party to such lease, including the right to cancel the lease if requested by the Navajo Nation; and

''(B) nothing in this subsection shall be construed to absolve the United States from any responsibility to the Navajo Nation, including responsibilities that derive from the trust relationship and from any treaties, Executive Orders, or agreements between the United States and the Navajo Nation, except as otherwise specifically provided in this subsection.''.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I am pleased to join Senator KYL today in introducing a bill to remove a major impediment to business development on the Navajo Nation. Our bill will accelerate the long and arduous process now in place for obtaining a business site lease on the Navajo Nation. For years I have heard case after case of large and small businesses waiting from two years to four years, and longer, for such a lease. Delays occur in both the tribal and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) lease approval processes.

This dual process exists as a direct result of the U.S. Government's trust responsibility for Indian reservation lands. In study after study for the past three decades, the tediously slow and cumbersome land leasing process on the Navajo Nation has been identified as a major obstacle to attracting new private business ventures.

In our search for ways to encourage more private enterprise for Navajos, I encouraged and sponsored the Navajo Economic Summit in Tohatchi, New Mexico in 1987. Again, many of our key speakers from the business world reminded us that the Navajo Nation itself, and its protective federal agency, the BIA, needed to find a better way to make land available for private enterprises.

Along another avenue of encouraging businesses to go to, or expand on the Navajo Nation, I cosponsored legislation by Senators INOUYE and MCCAIN that was incorporated into the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993. In Sections 13321 and 13322 of that Act, we were able to enact generous wage tax credits and accelerated depreciation for businesses that chose to locate or expand on America's Indian reservations. Despite the availability of a wage tax credit for every eligible Indian hired, many businesses still viewed the complexity of Indian courts and land allocation methods as comparable third world nations.

Business has not flocked to the Navajo Nation, although many tribes around the country have taken advantage of this wage tax credit. Our incentives allow a direct credit off-taxes

owed at the rate of 20 percent of the first $20,000 paid in wages and health insurance for every Indian hired. In addition, all investments from infrastructure to computers were given accelerated depreciation rates, about one-third faster than non-reservation investments.

The Navajo Nation is our Nation's largest Indian reservation in both area and population. About 200,000 Navajos live on a reservation that straddles four States and is slightly larger than the entire state of West Virginia. Unfortunately, the poverty rate is high, unemployment hovers around 40 percent year after year, and private sector jobs are all too rare. Sadly, the time lag for obtaining a new land lease also remains painstakingly slow.

I commend Navajo President Kelsey Begaye for his interest in encouraging a better system for making land available for businesses and other purposes. Although other incentives like access to State and Federal courts will still be needed, a faster land lease will go a long way to encourage more business activity.

Our bill will establish a streamlined process for the Navajo Nation to lease trust lands without having to obtain the approval of the Interior for individual leases. The exception is exploration, development, or extraction of any mineral resources. These types of leases will still require Secretarial approval.

The Secretary of Interior would be required to approve the regulations adopted by the Navajo Nation to implement this new leasing authority. Once approved, the Navajo Nation would have regulatory authority to finalize land leases that do not exceed 75 years. They will be able to do this without having to be second guessed by the BIA in a follow-up process that always adds months, and sometimes years, to the process.

The trust obligation of the Secretary of Interior would remain in place. The Navajo Nation, would, in effect, be acting as an agent of the Secretary. By eliminating the need for Secretarial (BIA) review of its land leasing decisions, however, our legislation will allow a more efficient land leasing system to be put in place.

I am confident that President Begaye's Administration will work hard to reduce the time the Navajo Nation itself now takes to issue a lease. Without the follow-up review by the BIA, the potential business applicant will be able to open up months sooner.

Rather than getting caught in a blame game, a new lease applicant will be able to focus on a single process for obtaining a land lease, and the Navajo Nation will be the responsible party for delays. Again, I admire the courage of President Begaye's Administration for its willingness to accept this responsibility and to encourage more private sector business activity on the largest Indian reservation in our country.

I believe this initiative will encourage the Navajo Nation to be more business friendly. I urge my colleagues to join us in allowing the Navajo Nation to fully accept the responsibility for creating a single track land leasing system in place of the dual system now required.

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.

CIVIC PARTICIPATION ACT OF 2000

Mr. REID. Mr. President. I rise today to introduce the Civic Participation Act of 2000. This legislation would guarantee that individuals who have fully served their sentences have the right to vote in Federal elections.

The right to vote in a democracy is the most basic act of citizenship. It is a right that may not be abridged or denied by the United States, or any State, on account of race, color, gender or previous condition of servitude. This fundamental right is truly the most glaring example of a free society.

I can't help but think of Nelson Mandela's perspective on the right to vote. One would think that the most significant day in Mr. Mandela's life would have been the day he walked out of a South African prison after more than 27 years behind bars. Or perhaps, it might be the day he assumed the Presidency of post-apartheid South Africa. In fact, Mr. Mandela has said that the most important day in his life was the day he voted for the first time.

Mr. President, I am troubled that many people in this country are denied the right to vote, even when any sentence of imprisonment, parole or probation has been fully completed. Additionally, many individuals who have fully served their sentences and wish to regain their right to vote, must petition a pardon board, their State Governors, or even, in some States, must obtain a Presidential pardon. Few people have the financial or political resources needed to succeed in such efforts.

Furthermore, the denial of suffrage disproportionately affects ethnic minorities. Recent studies have indicated that an estimated thirteen percent of adult African-American males are unable to vote as a result of varying state disenfranchisement laws. This is even more troubling when we consider that voter turnout, especially among America's youth, is at a record low. As elected officials who have been given the privilege to serve by our fellow Americans, we need to recognize that the strength of a democracy depends upon the voluntary participation of its citizens.

Mr. President, let me be clear. Criminal activity must be punished. Stiff and appropriate sentences should be imposed upon those who violate our laws. However, we should not be disenfranchising those citizens who have fully completed their prescribed sentences, especially when those citizens should be reintegrated into society and our citizen-dependent democracy.

I want to make it perfectly clear that this legislation, in no way, extends voting rights to prisoners. In fact, my colleagues in the Senate know that I have led the fight in this body against frivolous lawsuits filed by prisoners. Furthermore, this legislation does not extend voting rights to persons on parole or probation. This legislation simply states that anyone who has successfully, and completely, served their entire sentence, including any parole and probation, may not be denied the right to vote.

Finally, this legislation would apply only to Federal elections, thereby protecting the rights of individual States to establish voting procedures for State elections.

In conclusion, Mr. President, I want to reiterate that this legislation is narrowly drafted to guarantee one of the most fundamental rights of citizens of our democracy, and I urge my colleagues to support this worthy endeavor.

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.

DESIGNATING THE WASHINGTON OPERA IN WASHINGTON, D.C., AS THE NATIONAL OPERA

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I am pleased to introduce legislation today with Senator KENNEDY, Senator SARBANES, Senator JEFFORDS, and Senator ROBB to designate the Washington Opera as the National Opera.

The Washington Opera has been an innovative leader in bringing to the metropolitan Washington area exceptional performances since 1956. The company has enjoyed tremendous success in the community over the years. Since 1980, the company has grown from 16 performances of four operas to 80 performances of eight operas for the 2000 season.

Mr. President, the purpose of this legislation is to recognize in our nation's capital an opera of national significance. Let me be clear to my colleagues that this legislation does not extend any Federal responsibilities or obligation for funding to the Washington Opera. It would not become part of any Federal activity. Today, the Washington Opera enjoys a contractual relationship with the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts for use of its facilities. It is not affiliated with the Kennedy Center in any way other than being named as the resident opera company. This is an honorary designation, but there is no financial support for the opera from the Kennedy Center.

The legislation is only intended as a means of recognition of opera in our Nation's capital and its mission to bring to the nation a forum to highlight our musical heritage. Under its

new name, the National Opera will bring contained performances of American opera to the stage.

The history of the Washington Opera and its commitment to bringing opera as an art form to the Washington area community is to be commended. The Washington Opera's Education and Community Programs are dedicated to educating future audiences and making the experience of opera more available to residents of the region. Since 1992, over 150,000 students have participated in these programs. Today, there are over 22 programs that provide performance experiences, curriculum activities, in-school artist visits, professional development opportunities for teachers and young artists, and other activities that bring opera into our schools and communities.

Mr. President, with this national recognition comes the obligation for the Washington Opera to undertake additional programs to serve a larger national audience, expand community outreach for underprivileged youth, and other missions that embody a larger national presence. I am confident that the opera will enthusiastically accept this challenge.

I ask unanimous consent that the text of my legislation appear in the RECORD following my statement.

There being no objection, the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2667

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION.

The Washington Opera, organized under the laws of the District of Columbia, is designated as the ''National Opera''.

SEC. 2. REFERENCES.

Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the Washington Opera referred to in section 1 shall be deemed to be a reference to the ''National Opera''.

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.

FAMILY, WORK AND IMMIGRANT INTEGRATION AMENDMENTS OF 2000

● Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce bipartisan immigration legislation that will have a tremendous impact on thousands of families in the United States.

I am very pleased to be working with my colleague, GORDON SMITH of Oregon, on this effort.

There are several reasons for the introduction of this legislation.

1. It corrects past injustices.

Many of the immigrants helped by this legislation have been active, productive, hard-working members of our community for many years.

For example, the majority of Central Americans helped by this legislation have been in the United States since the early 1980s, when they fled tyranny and turmoil in their home countries.

The were welcomed into our nation by President Ronald Reagan.

These Central American nationals were made retroactively deportable by the 1996 immigration bill.

This legislation provides a state option to help legal immigrant children get needed health care.

The 1996 welfare bill deprived vulnerable, legal children from benefits.

This change is good public policy, from a health care perspective, an immigration perspective and a humanitarian perspective.

2. It is pro-family.

This legislation will speed the process that reunites family members.

It has been over ten years since the limits on family immigration were adjusted. This has resulted in waiting periods that could last years to bring immediate family members together.

Spouses and children would have an easier time in obtaining visas to visit their loved ones through this legislation.

In current practice, it is often very difficult to travel to visit legal residents in the United States while their immigration documents are pending—our legislation would ease the bureaucracy to allow families to be together for the events that shape their lives.

3. It is pro-business.

Congress has focused this session on increasing the number of high-tech workers for U.S. companies. I have long been supportive of that proposal.

Protections are in place for U.S. workers, and American business has the resources needed to keep our economy booming.

This legislation is pro-business in two ways.

It builds the pool of legal workers available by swifter family reunification.

And it offers an avenue for those workers who are already here and working to remain here.

They can stay here, and increase the productivity of our nation's businesses, or they can leave and work for foreign competitors.

I want them to stay.

Alan Greenspan agrees.

He has said during a House Banking and Financial Services Committee meeting in July of last year:

Aggregated demand is putting very significant pressures on an ever-decreasing supply of unemployed labor. The one obvious means that we can use to offset that is expanding the number of people we allow in. . . . I think in reviewing our immigration laws in the context of the type of economy which we will be enjoying in the decade ahead is clearly on the table. . . .

4. Its omnibus nature allows groups to work together toward a common goal

All sides win in this equation.

Families. Children. Business. Our economy

By combining forces, groups that care about these issues can work together toward a comprehensive, prudent, rational immigration policy.

These coalitions are already being built.

I would like to submit a letter from May 16, 2000 from Jack Kemp, Henry Cisneros, and a wide range of business, religious, labor and immigrant advocacy groups endorsing components of this legislation.

This is a wonderful example of groups at the national and local level coalescing together around pro-family, pro-business, pro-justice ideals.

Our current immigration debates have had the negative effect of pitting one segment of our society against another, and pitting one nationality against another.

In the past . . . the debate has been if businesses get more workers, family reunification will suffer.

Nicaraguans and Cubans receive a swifter and more generous immigration status than similarly situated Central American and Caribbean nationals.

No one wins if these divides remain.

All of us win if we can work together and strengthen our nation by correcting past injustices, reuniting families and providing American businesses with the workers they desperately need.

I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

Since the bill covers many issues, I would like to submit a summary of the legislation for the RECORD along with the test and a supporting letter.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2668

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Family, Work and Immigrant Integration Amendments of 2000''.

TITLE I—CENTRAL AMERICAN AND HAITIAN PARITY

SEC. 101. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Central American and Haitian Parity Act of 2000''.

SEC. 102. ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS FOR CERTAIN NATIONALS FROM EL SALVADOR, GUATEMALA, HONDURAS, AND HAITI.

Section 202 of the Nicaraguan Adjustment and Central American Relief Act is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by striking ''NICARAGUANS AND CUBANS'' and inserting ''NICARAGUANS, CUBANS, SALVADORANS, GUATEMALANS, HONDURANS, AND HAITIANS'';

(2) in subsection (a)(1)(A), by striking ''2000'' and inserting ''2003'';

(3) in subsection (b)(1), by striking ''Nicaragua or Cuba'' and inserting ''Nicaragua, Cuba, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, or Haiti''; and

(4) in subsection (d)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''Nicaragua or Cuba'' and inserting ''Nicaragua, Cuba, El Salvador, Guatamala, Honduras, or Haiti; and

(B) in subparagraph (E), by striking ''2000'' and inserting ''2003''.

SEC. 103. APPLICATIONS PENDING UNDER AMENDMENTS MADE BY SECTION 203 OF THE NICARAGUAN ADJUSTMENT AND CENTRAL AMERICAN RELIEF ACT.

An application for relief properly filed by a national of Guatemala or El Salvador under

the amendments made by section 203 of the Nicaraguan Adjustment and Central American Relief Act which was filed on or before the date of enactment of this Act, and on which a final administrative determination has not been made, shall, at the election of the applicant, be considered to be an application for adjustment of status under the provisions of section 202 of the Nicaraguan Adjustment and Central American Relief Act, as amended by section 402 of this Act, upon the payment of any fees, and in accordance with procedures, that the Attorney General shall prescribe by regulation. The Attorney General may not refund any fees paid in connection with an application filed by a national of Guatemala or El Salvador under the amendments made by section 203 of that Act.

SEC. 104. APPLICATIONS PENDING UNDER THE HAITIAN REFUGEE IMMIGRATION FAIRNESS ACT OF 1998.

An application for adjustment of status properly filed by a national of Haiti under the Haitian Refugee Immigration Fairness Act of 1998 which was filed on or before the date of enactment of this Act, and on which a final administrative determination has not been made, may be considered by the Attorney General, in the unreviewable discretion of the Attorney General, to also constitute an application for adjustment of status under the provisions of section 202 of the Nicaraguan Adjustment and Central American Relief Act, as amended by section 402 of this Act.

SEC. 105. TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS TO THE NICARAGUAN ADJUSTMENT AND CENTRAL AMERICAN RELIEF ACT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 202 of the Nicaraguan Adjustment and Central American Relief Act is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by inserting before the period at the end of paragraph (1)(B) the following: '', and the Attorney General may, in the unreviewable discretion of the Attorney General, waive the grounds of inadmissibility specified in section 212(a)(1) (A)(i) and (6)(C) of such Act for humanitarian purposes, to assure family unity, or when it is otherwise in the public interest'';

(B) by redesignating paragraph (2) as paragraph (3);

(C) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

''(2) INAPPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS.—In determining the eligibility of an alien described in subsection (b) or (d) for either adjustment of status under this section or other relief necessary to establish eligibility for such adjustment, the provisions of section 241(a)(5) of the Immigration and Nationality Act shall not apply. In addition, an alien who would otherwise be inadmissible pursuant to section 212(a)(9) (A) or (C) of such Act may apply for the Attorney General's consent to reapply for admission without regard to the requirement that the consent be granted prior to the date of the alien's reembarkation at a place outside the United States or attempt to be admitted from foreign contiguous territory, in order to qualify for the exception to those grounds of inadmissibility set forth in section 212(a)(9) (A)(iii) and (C)(ii) of such Act.''; and

(D) by amending paragraph (3) (as redesignated by subparagraph (B)) to read as follows:

''(3) RELATIONSHIP OF APPLICATION TO CERTAIN ORDERS.—An alien present in the United States who has been ordered excluded, deported, or removed, or ordered to depart voluntarily from the United States under any provision of the Immigration and Nationality Act may, notwithstanding such order, apply for adjustment of status under paragraph (1). Such an alien may not be required, as a condition of submitting or granting such application, to file a separate motion to reopen, reconsider, or vacate such order. Such an alien may be required to seek a stay of such an order in accordance with subsection (c) to prevent the execution of that order pending the adjudication of the application for adjustment of status. If the Attorney General denies a stay of a final order of exclusion, deportation, or removal, or if the Attorney General renders a final administrative determination to deny the application for adjustment of status, the order shall be effective and enforceable to the same extent as if the application had not been made. If the Attorney General grants the application for adjustment of status, the Attorney General shall cancel the order.'';

(2) in subsection (b)(1), by adding at the end the following: ''Subsection (a) shall not apply to an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence, unless the alien is applying for relief under that subsection in deportation or removal proceedings.'';

(3) in subsection (c)(1), by adding at the end the following: ''Nothing in this Act requires the Attorney General to stay the removal of an alien who is ineligible for adjustment of status under this Act.'';

(4) in subsection (d)—

(A) by amending the subsection heading to read as follows: ''SPOUSES, CHILDREN, AND UNMARRIED SONS AND DAUGHTERS.—'';

(B) by amending the heading of paragraph (1) to read as follows: ''ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS.—'';

(C) by amending paragraph (1)(A) to read as follows:

''(A) the alien entered the United States on or before the date of enactment of the Central American and Haitian Parity Act of 1999;'';

(D) in paragraph (1)(B), by striking ''except that in the case of'' and inserting the following: ''except that—

''(i) in the case of such a spouse, stepchild, or unmarried stepson or stepdaughter, the qualifying marriage was entered into before the date of enactment of the Central American and Haitian Parity Act of 1999; and

''(ii) in the case of''; and

(E) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(3) ELIGIBILITY OF CERTAIN SPOUSES AND CHILDREN FOR ISSUANCE OF IMMIGRANT VISAS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—In accordance with regulations to be promulgated by the Attorney General and the Secretary of State, upon approval of an application for adjustment of status to that of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence under subsection (a), an alien who is the spouse or child of the alien being granted such status may be issued a visa for admission to the United States as an immigrant following to join the principal applicant, if the spouse or child—

''(i) meets the requirements in paragraphs (1) (B) and (1) (D); and

''(ii) applies for such a visa within a time period to be established by such regulations.

''(B) RETENTION OF FEES FOR PROCESSING APPLICATIONS.—The Secretary of State may retain fees to recover the cost of immigrant visa application processing and issuance for certain spouses and children of aliens whose applications for adjustment of status under subsection (a) have been approved. Such fees—

''(i) shall be deposited as an offsetting collection to any Department of State appropriation to recover the cost of such processing and issuance; and

''(ii) shall be available until expended for the same purposes of such appropriation to support consular activities.'';

(5) in subsection (g), by inserting '', or an immigrant classification,'' after ''for permanent residence''; and

(6) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(i) STATUTORY CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section authorizes any alien to apply for admission to, be admitted to, be paroled into, or otherwise lawfully return to the United States, to apply for, or to pursue an application for adjustment of status under this section without the express authorization of the Attorney General.''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by paragraphs (1)(D), (2), and (6) shall be effective as if included in the enactment of the Nicaraguan and Central American Relief Act. The amendments made by paragraphs (1) (A)–(C), (3), (4), and (5) shall take effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 106. TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS TO THE HAITIAN REFUGEE IMMIGRATION FAIRNESS ACT OF 1998.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 902 of the Haitian Refugee Immigration Fairness Act of 1998 is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by inserting before the period at the end of paragraph (1)(B) the following: '', and the Attorney General may waive the grounds of inadmissibility specified in section 212(a)(1)(A)(i) and (6)(C) of such Act for humanitarian purposes, to assure family unity, or when it is otherwise in the public interest'';

(B) by redesignating paragraph (2) as paragraph (3);

(C) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

''(2) INAPPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS.—In determining the eligibility of an alien described in subsection (b) or (d) for either adjustment of status under this section or other relief necessary to establish eligibility for such adjustment, or for permission to reapply for admission to the United States for the purpose of adjustment of status under this section, the provisions of section 241(a)(5) of the Immigration and Nationality Act shall not apply. In addition, an alien who would otherwise be inadmissible pursuant to section 212(a)(9) (A) or (C) of such Act may apply for the Attorney General's consent to reapply for admission without regard to the requirement that the consent be granted prior to the date of the alien's reembarkation at a place outside the United States or attempt to be admitted from foreign contiguous territory, in order to qualify for the exception to those grounds of inadmissibility set forth in section 212(a)(9) (A)(iii) and (C)(ii) of such Act.''; and

(D) by amending paragraph (3) (as redesignated by subparagraph (B)) to read as follows:

''(3) RELATIONSHIP OF APPLICATION TO CERTAIN ORDERS.—An alien present in the United States who has been ordered excluded, deported, removed, or ordered to depart voluntarily from the United States under any provision of the Immigration and Nationality Act may, notwithstanding such order, apply for adjustment of status under paragraph (1). Such an alien may not be required, as a condition of submitting or granting such application, to file a separate motion to reopen, reconsider, or vacate such order. Such an alien may be required to seek a stay of such an order in accordance with subsection (c) to prevent the execution of that order pending the adjudication of the application for adjustment of status. If the Attorney General denies a stay of a final order of exclusion, deportation, or removal, or if the Attorney General renders a final administrative determination to deny the application for adjustment of status, the order shall be effective and enforceable to the same extent as if the

application had not been made. If the Attorney General grants the application for adjustment of status, the Attorney General shall cancel the order.'';

(2) in subsection (b)(1), by adding at the end the following: ''Subsection (a) shall not apply to an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence, unless the alien is applying for such relief under that subsection in deportation or removal proceedings.'';

(3) in subsection (c)(1), by adding at the end the following: ''Nothing in this Act shall require the Attorney General to stay the removal of an alien who is ineligible for adjustment of status under this Act.'';

(4) in subsection (d)—

(A) by amending the subsection heading to read as follows: ''SPOUSES, CHILDREN, AND UNMARRIED SONS AND DAUGHTERS.—'';

(B) by amending the heading of paragraph (1) to read as follows: ''ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS.—'';

(C) by amending paragraph (1)(A), to read as follows:

''(A) the alien entered the United States on or before the date of enactment of the Central American and Haitian Parity Act of 1999;'';

(D) in paragraph (1)(B), by striking ''except that in the case of'' and inserting the following: ''except that—

''(i) in the case of such a spouse, stepchild, or unmarried stepson or stepdaughter, the qualifying marriage was entered into before the date of enactment of the Central American and Haitian Parity Act of 1999; and

''(ii) in the case of'';

(E) by adding at the end of paragraph (1) the following new subparagraph:

''(E) the alien applies for such adjustment before April 3, 2003.''; and

(F) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(3) ELIGIBILITY OF CERTAIN SPOUSES AND CHILDREN FOR ISSUANCE OF IMMIGRANT VISAS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—In accordance with regulations to be promulgated by the Attorney General and the Secretary of State, upon approval of an application for adjustment of status to that of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence under subsection (a), an alien who is the spouse or child of the alien being granted such status may be issued a visa for admission to the United States as an immigrant following to join the principal applicant, if the spouse or child—

''(i) meets the requirements in paragraphs (1)(B) and (1)(D); and

''(ii) applies for such a visa within a time period to be established by such regulations.

''(B) RETENTION OF FEES FOR PROCESSING APPLICATIONS.—The Secretary of State may retain fees to recover the cost of immigrant visa application processing and issuance for certain spouses and children of aliens whose applications for adjustment of status under subsection (a) have been approved. Such fees—

''(i) shall be deposited as an offsetting collection to any Department of State appropriation to recover the cost of such processing and issuance; and

''(ii) shall be available until expended for the same purposes of such appropriation to support consular activities.'';

(5) in subsection (g), by inserting '', or an immigrant classification,'' after ''for permanent residence'';

(6) by redesignating subsections (i), (j), and (k) as subsections (j), (k), and (l), respectively; and

(7) by inserting after subsection (h) the following new subsection:

''(i) STATUTORY CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section authorizes any alien to apply for admission to, be admitted to, be paroled into, or otherwise lawfully return to the United States, to apply for, or to pursue an application for adjustment of status under this section without the express authorization of the Attorney General.''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by paragraphs (1)(D), (2), and (6) shall be effective as if included in the enactment of the Haitian Refugee Immigration Fairness Act of 1998. The amendments made by paragraphs (1) (A)–(C), (3), (4), and (5) shall take effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 107. MOTIONS TO REOPEN.

(a) NATIONALS OF HAITI.—Notwithstanding any time and number limitations imposed by law on motions to reopen, a national of Haiti who, on the date of enactment of this Act, has a final administrative denial of an application for adjustment of status under the Haitian Refugee Immigration Fairness Act of 1998, and is made eligible for adjustment of status under that Act by the amendments made by this title, may file one motion to reopen an exclusion, deportation, or removal proceeding to have the application reconsidered. Any such motion shall be filed within 180 days of the date of enactment of this Act. The scope of any proceeding reopened on this basis shall be limited to a determination of the alien's eligibility for adjustment of status under the Haitian Refugee Immigration Fairness Act of 1998.

(b) NATIONALS OF CUBA.—Notwithstanding any time and number limitations imposed by law on motions to reopen, a national of Cuba or Nicaragua who, on the date of enactment of the Act, has a final administrative denial of an application for adjustment of status under the Nicaraguan Adjustment and Central American Relief Act, and who is made eligible for adjustment of status under that Act by the amendments made by this title, may file one motion to reopen an exclusion, deportation, or removal proceeding to have the application reconsidered. Any such motion shall be filed within 180 days of the date of enactment of this Act. The scope of any proceeding reopened on this basis shall be limited to a determination of the alien's eligibility for adjustment of status under the Nicaraguan Adjustment and Central American Relief Act.

TITLE II—FILING DEADLINES FOR ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS OF CERTAIN CUBAN, NICARAGUAN, AND HAITIAN NATIONALS

SEC. 201. EXTENSION OF FILING DEADLINES FOR APPLICATIONS FOR ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS OF CERTAIN CUBAN, NICARAGUAN, AND HAITIAN NATIONALS.

(a) NICARAGUAN ADJUSTMENT AND CENTRAL AMERICAN RELIEF ACT.—Notwithstanding the expiration of the application filing deadline in section 202(a)(1) of the Nicaraguan Adjustment and Central American Relief Act (as contained in Public Law 105–100; 8 U.S.C. 1255 note), a Cuban or Nicaraguan national who is otherwise eligible for adjustment of status under that section may apply for that status through the date that is one year after the date of promulgation by the Attorney General of final regulations for the implementation of that section.

(b) HAITIAN REFUGEE IMMIGRATION FAIRNESS ACT.—Notwithstanding the expiration of the application filing deadline in section 902(a) of the Haitian Refugee Immigration Fairness Act of 1998 (as added by section 101(h) of division A of Public Law 105–277), a Haitian national who is otherwise eligible for adjustment of status under that section may apply for that status through the date that is one year after the date of promulgation by the Attorney General of final regulations for the implementation of that section.

TITLE III—LIBERIAN REFUGEE IMMIGRATION FAIRNESS

SEC. 301. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be referred to as the ''Liberian Refugee Immigration Fairness Act of 2000''.

SEC. 302. ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS.

(a) ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—

(A) ELIGIBILITY.—The Attorney General shall adjust the status of an alien described in subsection (b) to that of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence, if the alien—

(i) applies for adjustment before April 1, 2004; and

(ii) is otherwise eligible to receive an immigrant visa and is otherwise admissible to the United States for permanent residence, except that, in determining such admissibility, the grounds for inadmissibility specified in paragraphs (4), (5), (6)(A), and (7)(A) of section 212(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act shall not apply.

(B) INELIGIBLE ALIENS.—An alien shall not be eligible for adjustment of status under this section if the Attorney General finds that the alien has been convicted of—

(i) any aggravated felony (as defined in section 101(a)(43) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(43)); or

(ii) two or more crimes involving moral turpitude.

(2) RELATIONSHIP OF APPLICATION TO CERTAIN ORDERS.—An alien present in the United States who has been ordered excluded, deported, removed, or ordered to depart voluntarily from the United States under any provision of the Immigration and Nationality Act may, notwithstanding such order, apply for adjustment of status under paragraph (1), if otherwise qualified under that paragraph. Such an alien may not be required, as a condition on submitting or granting such application, to file a separate motion to reopen, reconsider, or vacate such order. If the Attorney General grants the application, the Attorney General shall cancel the order. If the Attorney General makes a final decision to deny the application, the order shall be effective and enforceable to the same extent as if the application had not been made.

(b) ALIENS ELIGIBLE FOR ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The benefits provided by subsection (a) shall apply to any alien—

(A) who is—

(i) a national of Liberia; and

(ii) has been continuously present in the United States from January 1, 1999, through the date of application under subsection (a); or

(B) who is the spouse, child, or unmarried son or daughter of an alien described in subparagraph (A).

(2) DETERMINATION OF CONTINUOUS PHYSICAL PRESENCE.—For purposes of establishing the period of continuous physical presence referred to in paragraph (1), an alien shall not be considered to have failed to maintain continuous physical presence by reasons of an absence, or absences, from the United States for any period or periods amounting in the aggregate to not more than 180 days.

(c) STAY OF REMOVAL.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General shall provide by regulation for an alien who is subject to a final order of deportation or removal or exclusion to seek a stay of such order based on the filing of an application under subsection (a).

(2) DURING CERTAIN PROCEEDINGS.—Notwithstanding any provision of the Immigration and Nationality Act, the Attorney General shall not order an alien to be removed from the United States if the alien is in exclusion, deportation, or removal proceedings

under any provision of such Act and has applied for adjustment of status under subsection (a), except where the Attorney General has made a final determination to deny the application.

(3) WORK AUTHORIZATION.—The Attorney General may authorize an alien who has applied for adjustment of status under subsection (a) to engage in employment in the United States during the pendency of such application and may provide the alien with an ''employment authorized'' endorsement or other appropriate document signifying authorization of employment, except that, if such application is pending for a period exceeding 180 days and has not been denied, the Attorney General shall authorize such employment.

(d) RECORD OF PERMANENT RESIDENCE.—Upon approval of an alien's application for adjustment of status under subsection (a), the Attorney General shall establish a record of the alien's admission for permanent record as of the date of the alien's arrival in the United States.

(e) AVAILABILITY OF ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW.—The Attorney General shall provide to applicants for adjustment of status under subsection (a) the same right to, and procedures for, administrative review as are provided to—

(1) applicants for adjustment of status under section 245 of the Immigration and Nationality Act; or

(2) aliens subject to removal proceedings under section 240 of such Act.

(f) LIMITATION ON JUDICIAL REVIEW.—A determination by the Attorney General as to whether the status of any alien should be adjusted under this section is final and shall not be subject to review by any court.

(g) NO OFFSET IN NUMBER OF VISAS AVAILABLE.—Whenever an alien is granted the status of having been lawfully admitted for permanent residence pursuant to this section, the Secretary of State shall not be required to reduce the number of immigrant visas authorized to be issued under any provision of the Immigration and Nationality Act.

(h) APPLICATION OF IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY ACT PROVISIONS.—Except as otherwise specifically provided in this title, the definitions contained in the Immigration and Nationality Act shall apply in the administration of this section. Nothing contained in this title shall be held to repeal, amend, alter, modify, effect, or restrict the powers, duties, function, or authority of the Attorney General in the administration and enforcement of such Act or any other law relating to immigration, nationality, or naturalization. The fact that an alien may be eligible to be granted the status of having been lawfully admitted for permanent residence under this section shall not preclude the alien from seeking such status under any other provision of law for which the alien may be eligible.

TITLE IV—INCREASED FLEXIBILITY IN EMPLOYMENT-BASED IMMIGRATION

SEC. ___401. LIMITATION ON PER COUNTRY CEILING WITH RESPECT TO EMPLOYMENT-BASED IMMIGRANTS.

(a) SPECIAL RULES.—Section 202(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1152(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(5) RULES FOR EMPLOYMENT-BASED IMMIGRANTS.—

''(A) EMPLOYMENT-BASED IMMIGRANTS NOT SUBJECT TO PER COUNTRY LIMITATION IF ADDITIONAL VISAS AVAILABLE.—If the total number of visas available under paragraph (1), (2), (3), (4), or (5) of section 203(b) for a calendar quarter exceeds the number of qualified immigrants who may otherwise be issued such visas, the visas made available under that paragraph shall be issued without regard to the numerical limitation under paragraph (2) of this subsection during the remainder of the calendar quarter.

''(B) LIMITING FALL ACROSS FOR CERTAIN COUNTRIES SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (E).—In the case of a foreign state or dependent area to which subsection (e) applies, if the total number of visas issued under section 203(b) exceeds the maximum number of visas that may be made available to immigrants of the state or area under section 203(b) consistent with subsection (e) (determined without regard to this paragraph), in applying subsection (e) all visas shall be deemed to have been required for the classes of aliens specified in section 203(b).''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Section 202(a)(2) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1152(a)(2)) is amended by striking ''paragraphs (3) and (4)'' and inserting ''paragraphs (3), (4), and (5)''.

(2) Section 202(e)(3) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1152(e)(3)) is amended by striking ''the proportion of the visa numbers'' and inserting ''except as provided in subsection (a)(5), the proportion of the visa numbers''.

(c) ONE-TIME PROTECTION UNDER PER COUNTRY CEILING.—Notwithstanding section 214(g)(4) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, any alien who—

(1) is the beneficiary of a petition filed under section 204(a) for a preference status under paragraph (1), (2), or (3) of section 203(b); and

(2) is eligible to be granted that status but for application of the per country limitations applicable to immigrants under those paragraphs,

may apply for, and the Attorney General may grant, an extension of such nonimmigrant status until the alien's application for adjustment of status has been processed and a decision made thereon.

SEC. ___402. INCREASED PORTABILITY OF H–1B STATUS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 214 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1184) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(m)(1) A nonimmigrant alien described in paragraph (2) who was previously issued a visa or otherwise provided nonimmigrant status under section 101(a)(15)(H)(i)(b) is authorized to accept new employment upon the filing by the prospective employer of a new petition on behalf of such nonimmigrant as provided under subsection (a). Employment authorization shall continue for such alien until the new petition is adjudicated. If the new petition is denied, such authorization shall cease.

''(2) A nonimmigrant alien described in this paragraph is a nonimmigrant alien—

''(A) who has been lawfully admitted into the United States;

''(B) on whose behalf an employer has filed a nonfrivolous petition for new employment before the date of expiration of the period of stay authorized by the Attorney General; and

''(C) who, subsequent to such lawful admission, has not been employed without authorization in the United States before the filing of such petition.''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply to petitions filed before, on, or after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. ___403. SPECIAL PROVISIONS IN CASES OF LENGTHY ADJUDICATIONS.

(a) EXEMPTION FROM LIMITATION.—The limitation contained in section 214(g)(4) of the Immigration and Nationality Act with respect to the duration of authorized stay shall not apply to any nonimmigrant alien previously issued a visa or otherwise provided nonimmigrant status under section 101(a)(15)(H)(i)(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act on whose behalf a petition under section 204(b) to accord the alien immigrant status under section 203(b), or an application for adjustment of status under section 245 to accord the alien status under section 203(b), has been filed, if 365 days or more have elapsed since—

(1) the filing of a labor certification application on the alien's behalf (if such certification is required for the alien to obtain status under section 203(b)); or

(2) the filing of the petition under section 204(b).

(b) EXTENSION OF H1–B WORKER STATUS.—The Attorney General shall extend the stay of an alien who qualifies for an exemption under subsection (a) in one-year increments until such time as a final decision is made on the alien's lawful permanent residence.

(c) INCREASED JOB FLEXIBILITY FOR LONG DELAYED APPLICANTS FOR ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS.—

(1) Section 204 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1154) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(j) JOB FLEXIBILITY FOR LONG DELAYED APPLICANTS FOR ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS TO PERMANENT RESIDENCE.—A petition under subsection (a)(1)(D) for an individual whose application for adjustment of status pursuant to section 245 has been filed and remained unadjudicated for 180 days or more shall remain valid with respect to a new job if the individual changes jobs or employers if the new job is in the same or a similar occupational classification as the job for which the petition was filed.''.

(2) Section 212(a)(5)(A) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)(5)(A)) is amended by adding at the end the following new clause:

''(iv) LONG DELAYED ADJUSTMENT APPLICANTS.—A certification made under clause (i) with respect to an individual whose petition is covered by section 204(j) shall remain valid with respect to a new job accepted by the individual after the individual changes jobs or employers if the new job is in the same or a similar occupational classification as the job for which the certification was issued.''.

(d) RECAPTURE OF UNUSED EMPLOYMENT-BASED IMMIGRANT VISAS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the number of employment-based visas (as defined in paragraph (3)) made available for a fiscal year (beginning with fiscal year 2001) shall be increased by the number described in paragraph (2). Visas made available under this subsection shall only be available in a fiscal year to employment-based immigrants under paragraph (1), (2), or (3) of section 203(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act.

(2) NUMBER AVAILABLE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), the number described in this paragraph is the difference between the number of employment-based visas that were made available in fiscal year 1999 and 2000 and the number of such visas that were actually used in such fiscal years.

(B) REDUCTION.—The number described in subparagraph (A) shall be reduced, for each fiscal year after fiscal year 2001, by the cumulative number of immigrant visas made available under paragraph (1) for previous fiscal years.

(C) CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed as affecting the application of section 201(c)(3)(C) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1151(c)(3)(C)).

(3) EMPLOYMENT-BASED VISAS DEFINED.—For purposes of this subsection, the term ''employment-based visa'' means an immigrant

visa which is issued pursuant to the numerical limitation under section 203(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1153(b)).

TITLE V—RESTORATION OF SECTION 245(i)

SEC. 501. REMOVAL OF CERTAIN LIMITATIONS ON ELIGIBILITY FOR ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS UNDER SECTION 245(i).

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 245(i)(1) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1255(i)(1)) is amended by striking ''(i)(1)'' through ''The Attorney General'' and inserting the following:

''(i)(1) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (a) and (c) of this section, an alien physically present in the United States who—

''(A) entered the United States without inspection; or

''(B) is within one of the classes enumerated in subsection (c) of this section;

may apply to the Attorney General for the adjustment of his or her status to that of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence. The Attorney General''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall be effective as if included in the enactment of the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1998 (Public Law 105–119; 111 Stat. 2440).

TITLE VI—REGISTRY DATES

SEC. 601. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Date of Registry Act of 2000''.

SEC. 602. RECORD OF ADMISSION FOR PERMANENT RESIDENCE IN THE CASE OF CERTAIN ALIENS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 249 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1259) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking ''January 1, 1972'' and inserting ''January 1, 1986''; and

(2) by striking ''JANUARY 1, 1972'' in the heading and inserting ''JANUARY 1, 1986''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATES.—

(1) GENERAL RULE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall take effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

(2) EXTENSION OF DATE OF REGISTRY.—

(A) PERIOD BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2002.—Beginning on January 1, 2002, section 249 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1259) is amended by striking ''January 1, 1986'' each place it appears and inserting ''January 1, 1987''.

(B) PERIOD BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2003.—Beginning on January 1, 2003, section 249 of such Act is amended by striking ''January 1, 1987'' each place it appears and inserting ''January 1, 1988''.

(C) PERIOD BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2004.—Beginning on January 1, 2004, section 249 of such Act is amended by striking ''January 1, 1988'' each place it appears and inserting ''January 1, 1989''.

(D) PERIOD BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2005.—Beginning on January 1, 2005, section 249 of such Act is amended by striking ''January 1, 1989'' each place it appears and inserting ''January 1, 1990''.

(E) PERIOD BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2006.—Beginning on January 1, 2006, section 249 of such Act is amended by striking ''January 1, 1990'' each place it appears and inserting ''January 1, 1991''.

TITLE VII—BACKLOG REDUCTION FOR FAMILY-SPONSORED IMMIGRANTS

SEC. 701. FAMILY BACKLOG REDUCTION.

(a) WORLDWIDE LEVEL OF FAMILY-SPONSORED IMMIGRANTS.—Notwithstanding section 201(a)(1) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, the number of aliens who may be issued immigrant visas or who may otherwise acquire the status of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence as a family-sponsored immigrant described in section 203(a) of such Act (or who are admitted under section 211(a) of such Act on the basis of a prior issuance of a visa to their accompanying parent under such section 203(a)) in any fiscal year is limited to—

(1) the number provided for in section 201(a)(1) of such Act, plus

(2) 200,000 for fiscal year 2001 and each fiscal year thereafter.

(b) PER COUNTRY LEVELS FOR FAMILY-SPONSORED IMMIGRANTS.—(1) Notwithstanding section 202(a)(2) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, the total number of immigrant visas made available to natives of any single foreign state or dependent area under subsections (a) and (b) of section 203 of that Act in any fiscal year may not exceed the sum of—

(A) the number specified in section 202(a)(2) of that Act, plus

(B) the number computed under paragraph (2).

(2) The number computed under this paragraph is—

(A) 33 percent of the number computed under section 202(a)(2) of that Act for each of fiscal years 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, and 2005, or

(B) 25 percent of the number computed under section 202(a)(2) for each fiscal year thereafter.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—(1) There are authorized to be appropriated to the Department of Justice and the Department of State such sums as may be necessary to provide for the additional visa issuances and admissions authorized under subsection (a).

(2) There are authorized to be appropriated to the Department of Justice such sums as may be necessary to process backlog adjudications of the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

TITLE VIII—ALIEN CHILDREN PROTECTION

SEC. 801. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Alien Children Protection Act of 2000''.

SEC. 802. USE OF APPROPRIATE FACILITIES FOR THE DETENTION OF ALIEN CHILDREN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (b), in the case of any alien under 18 years of age who is awaiting final adjudication of the alien's immigration status and who does not have a parent, guardian, or relative in the United States into whose custody the alien may be released, the Attorney General shall place such alien in a facility appropriate for children not later than 72 hours after the Attorney General has taken custody of the alien.

(b) EXCEPTION.—The provisions of subsection (a) do not apply to any alien under 18 years of age who the Attorney General finds has engaged in delinquent behavior, is an escape risk, or has a security need greater than that provided in a facility appropriate for children.

(c) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ''facility appropriate for children'' means a facility, such as foster care or group homes, operated by a private nonprofit organization, or by a local governmental entity, with experience and expertise in providing for the legal, psychological, educational, physical, social, nutritional, and health requirements of children. The term ''facility appropriate for children'' does not include any facility used primarily to house adults or delinquent minors.

SEC. 803. ADJUSTMENT TO PERMANENT RESIDENT STATUS.

Section 245 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1255) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(1)(1) The Attorney General may, in the Attorney General's discretion, adjust the status of an alien under 18 years of age who has no lawful immigration status in the United States to that of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence if—

''(A)(i) the alien (or a parent or legal guardian acting on the alien's behalf) has applied for the status; and

''(ii) the alien has resided in the United States for a period of 5 consecutive years; or

''(B)(i) no parent or legal guardian requests the alien's return to the country of the parent's or guardian's domicile, or with respect to whom the Attorney General finds that returning the child to his or her country of origin would subject the child to mental or physical abuse; and

''(ii) the Attorney General determines that it is in the best interests of the alien to remain in the United States notwithstanding the fact that the alien is not eligible for asylum protection under section 208 or protection under section 101(a)(27)(J).

''(2) The Attorney General shall make a determination under paragraph (1)(B)(ii) based on input from a person or entity that is not employed by or a part of the Service and that is qualified to evaluate children and opine as to what is in their best interest in a given situation.

''(3) Upon the approval of adjustment of status of an alien under paragraph (1), the Attorney General shall record the alien's lawful admission for permanent residence as of the date of such approval, and the Secretary of State shall reduce by one the number of visas authorized to be issued under sections 201(d) and 203(b)(4) for the fiscal year then current.

''(4) Not more than 500 aliens may be granted permanent resident status under this subsection in any fiscal year.''.

SEC. 804. ASSIGNMENT OF GUARDIANS AD LITEM TO ALIEN CHILDREN.

(a) ASSIGNMENT.—Whenever a covered alien is a party to an immigration proceeding, the Attorney General shall assign such covered alien a child welfare professional or other individual who has received training in child welfare matters and who is recognized by the Attorney General as being qualified to serve as a guardian ad litem (in this section referred to as the ''guardian''). The guardian shall not be an employee of the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

(b) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The guardian shall ensure that—

(1) the covered alien's best interests are promoted while the covered alien participates in, or is subject to, the immigration proceeding; and

(2) the covered alien understands the proceeding.

(c) REQUIREMENTS ON THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.—The Attorney General shall serve notice of all matters affecting a covered alien's immigration status (including all papers filed in an immigration proceeding) on the covered alien's guardian.

(d) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ''covered alien'' means an alien—

(1) who is under 18 years of age;

(2) who has no lawful immigration status in the United States and is not within the physical custody of a parent or legal guardian; and

(3) whom no parent or legal guardian requests the person's return to the country of the parent's or guardian's domicile or with respect to whom the Attorney General finds that returning the child to his or her country of origin would subject the child to physical or mental abuse.

SEC. 805. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

Congress commends the Immigration and Naturalization Service for its issuance of its

''Guidelines for Children's Asylum Claims'', dated December 1998, and encourages and supports the Service's implementation of such guidelines in an effort to facilitate the handling of children's asylum claims.

SEC. 806. GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE REPORT.

The Comptroller General of the United States shall prepare a report to Congress regarding whether and to what extent United States Embassy and consular officials are fulfilling their obligation to reunify, on a priority basis, children in foreign countries whose parent or parents are legally present in the United States.

TITLE IX—BENEFITS RESTORATION

SEC. 901. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Immigrant Children's Health Improvement Act of 2000''.

SEC. 902. OPTIONAL ELIGIBILITY OF CERTAIN ALIEN PREGNANT WOMEN AND CHILDREN FOR MEDICAID.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle A of title IV of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1611–1614) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 405. OPTIONAL ELIGIBILITY OF CERTAIN ALIENS FOR MEDICAID.

''(a) OPTIONAL MEDICAID ELIGIBILITY FOR CERTAIN ALIENS.—A State may elect to waive (through an amendment to its State plan under title XIX of the Social Security Act) the application of sections 401(a), 402(b), 403, and 421 with respect to eligibility for medical assistance under the program defined in section 402(b)(3)(C) (relating to the medicaid program) of aliens who are lawfully residing in the United States (including battered aliens described in section 431(c)), within any or all (or any combination) of the following categories of individuals:

''(1) PREGNANT WOMEN.—Women during pregnancy (and during the 60-day period beginning on the last day of the pregnancy).

''(2) CHILDREN.—Children (as defined under such plan), including optional targeted low-income children described in section 1905(u)(2)(B).''.

(b) APPLICABILITY OF AFFIDAVITS OF SUPPORT.—Section 213A(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1183a(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(4) INAPPLICABILITY TO BENEFITS PROVIDED UNDER A STATE WAIVER.—For purposes of this section, the term 'means-tested public benefits' does not include benefits provided pursuant to a State election and waiver described in section 405 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996.''.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Section 401(a) of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1611(a)) is amended by inserting ''and section 405'' after ''subsection (b)''.

(2) Section 402(b)(1) of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1612(b)(1)) is amended by inserting '', section 405,'' after ''403''.

(3) Section 403(a) of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1613(a)) is amended by inserting ''section 405 and'' after ''provided in''.

(4) Section 421(a) of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1631(a)) is amended by inserting ''except as provided in section 405,'' after ''Notwithstanding any other provision of law,''.

(5) Section 1903(v)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396b(v)(1)) is amended by inserting ''and except as permitted under a waiver described in section 405(a) of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996,'' after ''paragraph (2),''.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section take effect on October 1, 1999.

SEC. 903. OPTIONAL ELIGIBILITY OF IMMIGRANT CHILDREN FOR SCHIP.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 405 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, as added by section 102(a), is further amended—

(1) in the heading, by inserting ''**AND SCHIP**'' before the period; and

Under that section may apply for that status through the date that is one year after the date of promulgation by the Attorney General of final regulations for the implementation of that section.

TITLE X—ADMISSION OF SPOUSES AND CHILDREN OF CERTAIN NONIMMIGRANTS

SEC. 1001. ADMISSION OF CERTAIN "B" AND "F" VISA NONIMMIGRANTS WHO ARE SPOUSES OR CHILDREN OF UNITED STATES PERMANENT RESIDENT ALIENS.

Section 212 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182) is amended by adding at the end thereof the following new subsection:

''(r)(1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no alien—

''(A) who is—

''(i) the spouse or child of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence to the United States; and

''(ii) not eligible to enter the United States as an immigrant except by reason of being such a spouse or child; and

''(B) who seeks admission to the United States for purposes of visiting the permanent resident spouse or parent or for studying in the United States; and

''(C) who is otherwise qualified;

may be denied issuance of a visa, or may be denied admission to the United States, as a nonimmigrant alien described in section 101(a)(15)(B) who is coming to the United States temporarily for pleasure or as a nonimmigrant alien described in section 101(a)(15)(F).

''(2) Whenever an alien described in paragraph (1) seeks admission to the United States as a nonimmigrant alien described in section 101(a)(15)(B) who is coming temporarily for pleasure or as a nonimmigrant alien described in section 101(a)(15)(F), the fact that a petition has been filed on the alien's behalf for classification of the alien as an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence shall not constitute evidence of the alien's intention to abandon his or her foreign residence.''.

THE FAMILY, WORK AND IMMIGRANT INTEGRATION AMENDMENTS OF 2000—SUMMARY

1. Central American and Haitian Parity: provides for adjustment of status for Salvadorans, Guatemalans, Hondurans and Haitians on the same terms as that extended to Cubans and Nicaraguans in 1997 under NACARA.

2. Extension of filing deadlines for applications for adjustment of status of certain Cuban, Nicaraguan, and Haitian nationals: extends the deadline to apply for adjustment of status by one year after the date of issuance of final NACARA regulations.

3. Liberian Refugee Immigration Fairness: allows Liberian refugees who have been continuously present in the US to apply for adjustment of status.

4. Increased Flexibility in Employment-Based Immigration: eliminates per country limitation if additional visas are available, increases portability of H–1B visas, encourages swifter adjudication of petitions, and allows unused visas from one year to be used the following year.

5. Restoration of Section 245(i): restores the provision permitting those who are out of status but otherwise eligible for permanent residence to adjust their status in the United States by paying a fine.

6. 1986 Registry Date: updates the current registry date from 1972 to 1986 that allows adjustment of status to all persons of good character who have resided in the United States prior to 1986. The registry date would be moved up one year each for the next five years to 1991 in FY 2006.

7. Backlog reduction for family-sponsored immigrants: would provide additional visas for family members of citizens and permanent residents to reduce backlogs in the family-based immigration categories: 250,000 additional visas for three years, 200,000 for two years and 150,000 permanently; per country ceilings are raised proportionately.

8. Alien Child Protection Act: provides unaccompanied or orphaned children in the jurisdiction of the INS with several protections. Among other things, it states that if a child is detained, it must be in a child-appropriate facility. They can have access to a guardian ad litem or similar advocate to navigate through the immigration process.

9. Benefits Restoration: restores modest benefits for legal immigrants, including optional eligibility of certain immigrants for Medicaid and optional eligibility of immigrant children for SCHIP programs (state child health plans). States would be given the option to provide Medicaid to all children and pregnant women who are lawfully residing in the US, regardless of when they arrived. Pregnant women would remain eligible during the first 60 days after their pregnancy. If a state elects the Medicaid option, it may also provide all lawfully present children access to this CHIP (state child health plan) program. Immigrant sponsors would not be required to pay back assistance provided to children or pregnant women.

10. Admission of spouses and children of certain nonimmigrants: would allow spouses and children of permanent residents who have green card applications pending to enter the US with nonimmigrant student and/or visitor visas. Hundreds of thousands can't get nonimmigrant student and/or visitor visas now because of State Department interpretations that if you have a green card application pending you are presumed likely to overstay a temporary visa to visit the US on a limited basis.

MAY 16, 2000.

DEAR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS. Today, as throughout American history, immigrants have proven essential to the economic, political and social development of our nation. Immigrants make important contributions consistent with America's fundamental values of family, work, justice and community.

It is important that our immigration policies reflect these values and ensure that all persons enjoy equal protection and due process under the Constitution and laws of the land. Our immigration policies should also be responsive to economic needs and ensure appropriate protections and opportunities for citizens and immigrants.

Immigration reforms consistent with American values and economic needs should be a high priority on the national agenda this year.

Currently, there is wide support in Congress for immigration reforms to address the need to better educate and train citizens and lawful immigrants now here, and to increase the number of H–B visas to admit more highly-skilled immigrants so as to meet the economic needs of certain industries experiencing shortages of workers with these skills. While we may differ on specific provisions of proposed bills, we agree that appropriate skilled immigrant admissions contribute to economic growth and job creation.

The undersigned further believe that, in addition to proposals on high skilled visas, the following issues regarding persons already in the United States or awaiting family reunification also warrant congressional

action as early as possible: 1) allow Salvadorans, Guatemalans, Hondurans and Haitians to apply for adjustment of status on the same terms as already provided to Cubans and Nicaraguans in 1997; 2) allow adjustment of status to all persons of good character who have resided in the United States and established ties to American communities; 3) restore the provision permitting those who are out of status but otherwise eligible for permanent residence to adjust their status in the United States; 4) reunite families by establishing a program to provide additional visas for family members of citizens and permanent residents so as to reduce unacceptable backlogs and help stabilize the workforce.

Other immigration reforms also deserve congressional action, which will be addressed in further correspondence. We believe that there is a broad consensus now that Congress should enact the proposals noted above on a priority basis in the national interest.

Sincerely,

INDIVIDUALS

HENRY CISNEROS.
RICHARD GILDER.
BILL ONG HING.
JACK KEMP.
RICK SWARTZ.

NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Americans for Tax Reform, Grover Norquist, President

Center for Equal Opportunity, Linda Chavez, President

Club for Growth, Steve Moore, President

Empower America, J.T. Taylor, President

Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees Union, John Wilhelm, President

Service Employees International Union, Andrew Stern, President

United Farm Workers of America, AFL–CIO, Arturo Rodriguez, President

Union of Needletrades and Industrial Textile Employees (UNITE), Jay Mazur, President

American Immigration Lawyers Association, Jeanne Butterfield, Executive Director

Arab American Institute, James Zogby, President

Dominican American National Roundtable, Victor Capellan, President

Haitian American Foundation, Inc., Leonie Hermantin, Executive Director

Immigrant Support Network, Shailesh Gala, President

Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services, Ralston Deffenbaugh, President

U.S. Catholic Conference/Migration and Refugee Services, Most Reverend Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio, Chairman, National Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Migration

National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium, Karen Narasaki, Executive Director

National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials, Arturo Vargas, Executive Director

National Coalition for Haitian Rights, Jocelyn McCalla, Executive Director

National Council of La Raza, Raul Yzaguirre, President

National Farm Worker Ministry, Virginia Nesmith, Executive Director

National Immigration Forum, Frank Sharry, Executive Director

National Immigration Law Center, Susan Drake, Executive Director

National Puerto Rican Coalition, Manuel Mirabal, President/CEO

New America Alliance, Tom Castro, President

Polish American Congress, Edward Moskal, President

Salvadoran American National Network, Oscar Chacon, President

Southeast Asian Resource Action Center, Ka Ying Yang, Executive Director

William C. Velasquez Institute, Antonio Gonzalez, President

LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

Centro Presente, M. Elena Letona, Executive Director

Centro Romero, Daisy Funes, Executive Director

Haitian American Grassroots Coalition, Jean-Robert Lafortune, Chairman

Heartland Alliance for Human Needs & Human Rights, Sid Mohn, President

Immigrant Legal Resource Center, Mark Silverman

Jewish Community Federation of San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin and Sonoma Counties, Wayne Feinstein, Executive Vice President

Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, Miguel Contreras, Executive Secretary Treasurer

New York Association for New Americans, Mark Handelman, Executive Vice President

New York Immigration Coalition, Margie McHugh, Executive Director●

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 662

At the request of Mr. L. CHAFEE, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. LUGAR) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. SMITH) were added as cosponsors of S. 662, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide medical assistance for certain women screened and found to have breast or cervical cancer under a federally funded screening program.

S. 763

At the request of Mr. THURMOND, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUYE) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD) were added as cosponsors of S. 763, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to increase the minimum Survivor Benefit Plan basic annuity for surviving spouses age 62 and older, and for other purposes.

S. 1145

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BAYH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1145, a bill to provide for the appointment of additional Federal circuit and district judges, and for other purposes.

S. 1196

At the request of Mr. COVERDELL, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1196, a bill to improve the quality, timeliness, and credibility of forensic science services for criminal justice purposes.

S. 1364

At the request of Mr. BAYH, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. JEFFORDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1364, a bill to amend title IV of the Social Security Act to increase public awareness regarding the benefits of lasting and stable marriages and community involvement in the promotion of marriage and fatherhood issues, to provide greater flexibility in the Welfare-to-Work grant program for long-term welfare recipients and low income custodial and noncustodial parents, and for other purposes.

S. 1419

At the request of Mr. SANTORUM, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1419, a bill to amend title 36, United States Code, to designate May as ''National Military Appreciation Month''.

S. 1464

At the request of Mr. HAGEL, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. MACK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1464, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to establish certain requirements regarding the Food Quality Protection Act of 1996, and for other purposes.

S. 1562

At the request of Mr. NICKLES, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mr. GORTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1562, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to classify certain franchise operation property as 15-year depreciable property.

S. 1706

At the request of Mrs. HUTCHISON, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1706, a bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to exclude from stormwater regulation certain areas and activities, and to improve the regulation and limit the liability of local governments concerning co-permitting and the implementation of control measures.

S. 1851

At the request of Mr. CAMPBELL, the names of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUYE) were added as cosponsors of S. 1851, a bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to ensure that seniors are given an opportunity to serve as mentors, tutors, and volunteers for certain programs.

S. 1874

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. WELLSTONE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1874, a bill to improve academic and social outcomes for youth and reduce both juvenile crime and the risk that youth will become victims of crime by providing productive activities conducted by law enforcement personnel during non-school hours.

S. 1940

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1940, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to reaffirm the United States' historic commitment to protecting refugees who are fleeing persecution or torture.

S. 2005

At the request of Mr. BURNS, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2005, a bill to repeal the modification of the installment method.

S. 2007

At the request of Mr. CONRAD, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2007, a bill to amend title