

We must update the Medicare program to include a prescription drug benefit. This bipartisan, comprehensive bill will provide universal coverage to all 39 million Medicare beneficiaries in this country. As you know, Medicare was established in 1965 at a time when prescription drugs were not widely used. These days, drug therapies have replaced overnight stays in hospitals and long convalescence in nursing facilities. In light of this, we must update the Medicare program to keep pace with these scientific and medical advances.

This legislation does many things that other legislative proposals do not. First, it provides universal coverage on a voluntary basis to every Medicare-eligible individual. Second, it is based on a standard insurance model, with coinsurance, a deductible, and a defined stop-loss benefit. In other words, once a senior pays \$4,000 in annual drug costs, our plan covers the rest. Third, the amount of a senior's premium would be directly related to his/her income, on a sliding scale. In other words, the lowest-income senior will receive the greatest subsidy. Conversely, the highest-income senior will receive the lowest federal subsidy.

Finally, this legislation emulates market-based insurance coverage by allowing multiple "pharmacy benefit managers" (PBMs) to contract with Medicare to provide the pharmaceutical benefit to seniors. This would ensure competition in the delivery of this benefit, which means a better benefit and lower prices for consumers. This competition would also prevent the government from "setting" drug prices. In my view, price setting would weaken the ability of pharmaceutical companies to conduct valuable research and development into new drug therapies that one day may cure diseases such as cancer, Parkinson's Alzheimer's, diabetes, and HIV/AIDS.

In sum, I believe our proposal to be one of the most responsible and comprehensive drug bills in Congress. It achieves these twin goals while relieving seniors of the huge burden of high drug bills. Seniors should never have to choose between filling a prescription for needed medication or buying groceries. Sadly, this is often the case today.

This past April, I received a letter from an elderly couple in Rhode Island, with a list of their prescription drug expenses for 1999 enclosed. This couple spent almost \$7,000 in 1999 on these prescriptions. They are living on a fixed income, and told me that their savings are being wiped out by the high cost of prescription medications. In addition, the grandmother of one of my staffers cannot afford Prilosec, which she needs to prevent nausea. She cannot hold down food without this drug. This grandmother has to get her Prilosec prescription from her daughter, who has it prescribed and then ships it to her mother.

This should not be happening. Our bill will ensure that these seniors will

get the prescription medications they need without having to wipe out their personal savings or resort to getting the prescription through a relative.

I urge my colleagues to join us in supporting this important legislation and finally provide this necessary medical coverage to our nation's seniors.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS—JUNE 19, 2000

S. 486

At the request of Mr. ASHCROFT, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CONRAD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 486, a bill to provide for the punishment of methamphetamine laboratory operators, provide additional resources to combat methamphetamine production, trafficking, and abuse in the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 827

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. DEWINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 827, a bill to establish drawback for imports of N-cyclohexyl-2-benzothiazolesulfenamide based on exports of N-tert-Butyl-2-benzothiazolesulfenamide.

S. 1066

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1066, a bill to amend the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 to encourage the use of and research into agricultural best practices to improve the environment, and for other purposes.

S. 1128

At the request of Mr. KYL, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. THOMAS), the Senator from Montana (Mr. BURNS), and the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. GRAMS) were added as cosponsors of S. 1128, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the Federal estate and gift taxes and gift taxes and the tax on generation-skipping transfers, to provide for a carryover basis at death, and to establish a partial capital gains exclusion for inherited assets.

S. 1291

At the request of Mr. DEWINE, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1291, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow small business employers a credit against income tax for certain expenses for long-term training of employees in highly skilled small business trades.

S. 1855

At the request of Mr. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID) was withdrawn as a cosponsor of S. 1855, a bill to establish age limitations for airmen.

S. 2183

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. BURNS) was added as a cosponsor

of S. 2183, a bill to ensure the availability of spectrum to amateur radio operators.

S. 2274

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2274, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide families and disabled children with the opportunity coverage under the medicaid program for such children.

S. 2282

At the request of Mr. CAMPBELL, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. DASCHLE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2282, a bill to encourage the efficient use of existing resources and assets related to Indian agricultural research, development and exports within the United States Department of Agriculture, and for other purposes.

S. 2459

At the request of Mr. COVERDELL, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. GRAMM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2459, a bill to provide for the award of a gold medal on behalf of the Congress to former President Ronald Reagan and his wife Nancy Reagan in recognition of their service to the Nation.

S. 2528

At the request Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. ROBB) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2528, a bill to provide funds for the purchase of automatic external defibrillators and the training of individuals in advanced cardiac life support.

S. 2580

At the request Mr. JOHNSON, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2580, a bill to provide for the issuance of bonds to provide funding for the construction of schools of the Bureau of Indian Affairs of the Department of the Interior, and for other purposes.

S. 2619

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2619, a bill to provide for drug-free prisons.

S. 2639

At the request of Mr. DOMENICI, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2639, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide programs for the treatment of mental illness.

S. 2742

At the request of Mr. SMITH of Oregon, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2742, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase disclosure for certain political organizations exempt from tax under section 527 and section 501 (c), and for other purposes.

S. CON. RES. 122

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr.

GRASSLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 122, concurrent resolution recognizing the 60th anniversary of the United States nonrecognition policy of the Soviet takeover of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, and calling for positive steps to promote steps to promote a peaceful and democratic future for the Baltic region.

S. RES. 311

At the request of Mr. BOND, the name of the Arkansas (Mr. HUTCHINSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 311, a resolution to express the sense of the Senate regarding Federal procurement of opportunities for women-owned small businesses.

AMENDMENT NO. 3172

At the request of Mr. HELMS, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KYL) was added as a cosponsor of Amendment No. 3172 intended to be proposed to S. 2522, an original bill making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS—JUNE 20, 2000

S. 190

At the request of Mr. INOUE, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 190, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit former members of the Armed Forces who have a service-connected disability rated as total to travel on military aircraft in the same manner and to the same extent as retired members of the Armed Forces are entitled to travel on such aircraft.

S. 1036

At the request of Mr. KOHL, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. L. CHAFEE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1036, a bill to amend parts A and D of title IV of the Social Security Act to give States the option to pass through directly to a family receiving assistance under the temporary assistance to needy families program all child support collected by the State and the option to disregard any child support that the family receives in determining a family's eligibility for, or amount of, assistance under that program.

S. 1333

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. KOHL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1333, a bill to expand homeownership in the United States.

S. 1805

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. KERREY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1805, a bill to restore food stamp benefits for aliens, to provide States with flexibility in administering the food stamp vehicle allowance, to index the excess shelter expense deduction to inflation, to authorize additional appropriations to purchase and make available additional commodities

under the emergency food assistance program, and for other purposes.

S. 1941

At the request of Mr. DODD, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1941, a bill to amend the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 to authorize the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to provide assistance to fire departments and fire prevention organizations for the purpose of protecting the public and fire-fighting personnel against fire and fire-related hazards.

S. 2018

At the request of Mrs. HUTCHISON, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2018, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to revise the update factor used in making payments to PPS hospitals under the medicare program.

S. 2125

At the request of Mr. LAUTENBERG, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. WELLSTONE) and the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2125, a bill to provide for the disclosure of certain information relating to tobacco products and to prescribe labels for packages and advertising of tobacco products.

S. 2274

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2274, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide families and disabled children with the opportunity to purchase coverage under the medicaid program for such children.

S. 2358

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the names of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. NICKLES), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN), and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. HOLLINGS) were added as cosponsors of S. 2358, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to the operation by the National Institutes of Health of an experimental program to stimulate competitive research.

S. 2365

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2365, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to eliminate the 15 percent reduction in payment rates under the prospective payment system for home health services.

S. 2417

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the names of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. COVERDELL) were added as cosponsors of S. 2417, a bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to increase funding for State nonpoint source pollution control programs, and for other purposes.

S. 2516

At the request of Mr. THURMOND, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2516, a bill to fund task forces to locate and apprehend fugitives in Federal, State, and local felony criminal cases and give administrative subpoena authority to the United States Marshals Service.

S. 2585

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY), and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. CAMPBELL) were added as cosponsors of S. 2585, a bill to amend titles IV and XX of the Social Security Act to restore funding for the Social Services Block Grant, to restore the ability of the States to transfer up to 10 percent of TANF funds to carry out activities under such block grant, and to require an annual report on such activities by the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

S. 2635

At the request of Mr. FRIST, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2635, a bill to reduce health care costs and promote improved health by providing supplemental grants for additional preventive health services for women.

S. 2690

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2690, a bill to reduce the risk that innocent persons may be executed, and for other purposes.

S. 2696

At the request of Mr. CONRAD, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. BAUCUS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2696, a bill to prevent evasion of United States excise taxes on cigarettes, and for other purposes.

S. 2735

At the request of Mr. CONRAD, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. HAGEL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2735, a bill to promote access to health care services in rural areas.

S. RES. 268

At the request of Mr. EDWARDS, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. DEWINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 268, a resolution designating July 17 through July 23 as "National Fragile X Awareness Week."

S. RES. 301

At the request of Mr. THURMOND, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. ABRAHAM), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. BYRD), and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. ASHCROFT) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 301, a resolution designating August 16, 2000, as "National Airborne Day."

S. RES. 303

At the request of Mr. VOINOVICH, his name was added as a cosponsor of S.