

EC-7628. A communication from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Office of Policy, Planning and Evaluation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Acrylic Graft Copolymer, Polyester Block Copolymer and Polyester Random Copolymer; Tolerance Exemption" (FRL #6490-7), received February 17, 2000; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7629. A communication from the Acting Administrator, Farm Service Agency, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Interim Rule: Amendments to Regulations Governing the Peanut Poundage Quota and Price Support Programs" (RIN0560-AP61), received February 17, 2000; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7630. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Regulatory Analysis and Development, Policy and Program Development, Animal and Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Ports Designated for Exportation of Horses; Dayton, OH" (Docket #99-102-1), received February 17, 2000; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7631. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Regulatory Analysis and Development, Policy and Program Development, Animal and Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National Poultry Improvement Plan and Auxiliary Provisions" (Docket #98-096-2), received February 17, 2000; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7632. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Regulatory Analysis and Development, Policy and Program Development, Animal and Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Melon Fruit Fly" (Docket #99-097-1), received February 17, 2000; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7633. A communication from the Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Department of Agriculture transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Onions Grown in South Texas: Change in Container Requirements" (Docket Number FV00-959-2 IFR), received February 17, 2000; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7634. A communication from the Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Department of Agriculture transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Almonds Grown in California; Revisions to Requirements Regarding Credit for Promotion and Advertising Activities" (Docket Number FV99-981-4 FIR), received February 17, 2000; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7635. A communication from the Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Department of Agriculture transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Olives Grown in California; Revisions to Handling Requirements" (Docket Number FV99-932-3 FR), received February 17, 2000; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7636. A communication from the Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Department of Agriculture transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled

"Marketing Order Regulating the Handling of Spearmint Oil Produced in the Far West; Revision of the Salable Quantity and Allotment Percentage for Class 3 (Native) Spearmint Oil for the 1999-2000 Marketing Year" (Docket Number FV00-985-3 IFR), received February 17, 2000; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7637. A communication from the Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Department of Agriculture transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Marketing Order Regulating the Handling of Spearmint Oil Produced in the Far West; Salable Quantities and Allotment Percentages for the 2000-2001 Marketing Year" (Docket Number FV00-959-2 IFR), received February 14, 2000; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7638. A communication from the Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Department of Agriculture transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Nectarines and Peaches Grown in California; Revision of Reporting Requirements" (Docket Number FV99-916-3 FR), received February 14, 2000; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7639. A communication from the Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Department of Agriculture transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Vidalia Onions Grown in Georgia; Increased Assessment Rate" (Docket Number FV00-955-1 IFR), received February 14, 2000; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7640. A communication from the Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Department of Agriculture transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Oranges, Grapefruit, Tangerines, and tangelos Grown in Florida and Imported Grapefruit; Relaxation of the Minimum Size Requirement for Red Seedless Grapefruit" (Docket Number FV99-905-6 FIR), received February 14, 2000; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-409. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho relative to Federal legislative procedures; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 102

Whereas, the federal administration under President Clinton is continually usurping the powers reserved for the Congress of the United States; and

Whereas, the Clinton administration is, by administrative decree, making law and thereby bypassing both the advise and consent of the Congress; and

Whereas, these administrative laws are being thrust upon the citizens of Idaho and such laws are vigorously enforced by administration bureaucrats.

Now, Therefore, be it resolved by the members of the First Regular Session of the Fifty-fifth Idaho Legislature, the Senate and the House of Representatives concurring therein, That we hereby urgently and earnestly appeal to the Congress of the United States to reclaim its constitutional authority and responsibility to be the law-making body of these United States of America.

It is further resolved, That we respectfully request the Congress to implement proce-

dures similar to the procedure employed by the state of Idaho which requires all rules proposed by executive agencies to be submitted to the Legislature of the State of Idaho for final approval before such administrative law may become effective.

Be it further resolved, That we urge the Congress to limit the scope of executive orders by subjecting such orders to congressional approval before they may become effective.

Be it further resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate be, and she is hereby authorized and directed to forward a copy of this Memorial to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of Congress, and to the congressional delegation representing the State of Idaho in the Congress of the United States.

POM-410. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho relative to Constitutional Conventions; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 129

Whereas, the Legislature of the State of Idaho, acting with the best of intentions, has, at various times, and during various sessions, previously made applications to the Congress of the United States of America to call one or more conventions to propose either a single amendment concerning a specific subject or to call a general convention to propose an unspecified and unlimited number of amendments to the United States Constitution, pursuant to the provisions of Article V thereof; and

Whereas, former Justice of the United States of America Warren E. Burger, former Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court Arthur J. Goldberg and other leading constitutional scholars agree that such a convention may propose sweeping changes to the Constitution, any limitations or restrictions purportedly imposed by the states in applying for such a convention or conventions to the contrary notwithstanding, thereby creating an imminent peril to the well-established rights of the citizens and the duties of various levels of government; and

Whereas, the Constitution of the United States of America has been amended many times in the history of this nation and may be amended many more times; without the need to resort to a constitutional convention, and has been interpreted for more than two hundred years and has been found to be a sound document which protects the lives and liberties of the citizens; and

Whereas, there is no need for, rather, there is great danger in, a new Constitution or in opening the Constitution to sweeping changes, the adoption of which would only create legal chaos in this nation and only begin the process of another two centuries of litigation over its meaning and interpretation.

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the members of the First Regular Session of the Fifty-fifth Idaho Legislature, the Senate and the House of Representatives concurring therein, That the Legislature does hereby repeal, rescind, cancel, nullify, and supersede to the same effect as if they had never been passed, any and all extant applications by the Legislature of the State of Idaho to the Congress of the United States of America to call a convention to propose amendments to the Constitution of the United States of America, pursuant to the terms of Article V thereof, regardless of when or by which session or sessions of the Idaho Legislature such applications were made and regardless of whether such applications were for a limited convention to propose one or more amendments regarding one or more specific subjects and purposes or for a general convention to propose an unlimited

number of amendments upon an unlimited number of subjects.

Be it further resolved, That the following resolutions and memorials, be, and the same are hereby specifically repealed, rescinded, canceled, nullified and superseded: S.J.M. 2, 1901 Session of the Legislature; S.J.R. 2, 1927 Session of the Legislature; H.C.R. 6, 1957 Session of the Legislature; S.J.M. 9, 1963 Session of the Legislature; H.J.M. 7, 1963 Session of the Legislature; S.J.M. 1, 1965 Session of the Legislature; H.C.R. 7, 1979 Session of the Legislature; and S.C.R. 132, 1980 Session of the Legislature.

Be it further resolved, That the Legislature of the State of Idaho urges the Legislatures of each and every state which has applied to Congress to call a convention for either a general or a limited constitutional convention, to repeal and rescind such applications.

Be it further resolved, That notwithstanding any other provision of this Resolution, the Legislature hereby reaffirms its request to the Congress of the United States of America that the Congress of the United States propose an amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America requiring, in the absence of a national emergency, that the total of all federal outlays for any fiscal year shall not exceed the total of all federal receipts for that fiscal year, which amendment may also limit the power of Congress to increase federal taxes, and remit it to the several states for ratification.

Be it further resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate be, and she is hereby authorized and directed to send copies of this Resolution to the Secretary of State of each state in the Union, to the presiding officers of both houses of the Legislatures of each state in the Union, to the President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, to the members of the Congress of the United States representing the State and people of Idaho, and the administrator of General Services, Washington, DC.

POM-411. A resolution adopted by the Board of Chosen Freeholders, County of Ocean, New Jersey relative to ocean dumping off the coast of Sandy Hook, Monmouth County, New Jersey; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

POM-412. A resolution adopted by the House of the Legislature of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania relative to increases in fuel prices; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 352

Whereas, The price of a barrel of oil is \$30, up from just \$11 per barrel in December 1998; and

Whereas, According to the Consumer Price Index, gasoline prices rose by 76.4% in 1999 and by 8.5% in December 1999 alone; and

Whereas, Gasoline pump prices at \$1.29 per gallon are at their highest levels in ten years; and

Whereas, Based on information from the Energy Information Administration, diesel fuel prices in the central Atlantic region averaged more than \$1.38 per gallon the week of January 17, 2000, and heating oil prices averaged more than \$1.10 per gallon in Pennsylvania for the week ending January 17, 2000; and

Whereas, These record increases in oil prices, in some cases surpassing those existing during the Persian Gulf War, will have a direct, serious and substantial impact on both the Pennsylvania and national economies; and

Whereas, These oil price hikes will result in potentially devastating economic consequences for innumerable people employed in the transportation industry in Pennsyl-

vania, including, among others, truckers, service station owners, diesel truck stop and fleet center owners, heating oil retailers and the airlines; and

Whereas, As a result, hundreds of thousands of homeowners will see vast increase in their home heating costs; therefore be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania memorialize the Congress of the United States to call upon its investigative arm, the General Accounting Office, to conduct a comprehensive investigation of whether the recent substantial increases in fuel prices are the result of legitimate market fluctuations or, at least in part, the result of collusion on antitrust violations among and between oil companies; and be it further

Resolved, That the Department of Justice of the United States is urged to immediately commence a comprehensive investigation of whether the recent hike in fuel prices is the result of legitimate market fluctuations or illegal collaboration and anti-trust law violations occurring among and between oil companies; and be it further

Resolved, That there be an immediate increase in LIHEAP eligibility requirements from 110% of the poverty level to 135% of the poverty level and for the Commonwealth to provide for a \$50 increase in crisis funding from \$250 to \$300 per household; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, the Secretary of Energy, the presiding officers of each house of Congress and to each member of Congress from Pennsylvania.

POM-413. A resolution adopted by the House of the Legislature of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania relative to the released of funding for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, release of the United States Strategic petroleum reserves additional oil reserves from non-OPEC, and to negotiate release of additional reserves from non-OPEC countries or negotiate with OPEC on additional supplies; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 344

Whereas, Fuel, in particular diesel fuel, and home heating oil prices have skyrocketed to record highs in the first weeks of 2000, threatening this Commonwealth's citizens' well-being and safety to crisis proportions; and

Whereas, Retail prices of home heating fuel and diesel fuel in some areas of this Commonwealth have reached \$2 per gallon, and level rack prices of diesel fuel are 106% higher than they were in the first week of February 1999; and

Whereas, The impact of escalating oil prices on an industry that is operating on narrow profit margins is being compounded by driver shortages and other increased costs; and

Whereas, These increases dramatically affect prices for essential utility and municipal services, and increases in transportation costs threaten jobs and could cause major disruption of vital supplies and other goods and services; and

Whereas, Home heating oil supplies are extremely tight, particularly in the Mid-Atlantic and the Northeast, and weather forecasts call for continued below-normal temperatures; and

Whereas, Refineries in Pennsylvania and other states must produce more home heating fuel, which may cause shortages of other oil products such as gasoline, kerosene and undyed diesel fuel, thereby driving up prices accordingly; and

Whereas, the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) has indi-

cated its desire to extend existing output cuts amounting to over 4 million barrels per day, resulting in nearly triple prices in less than one year, devastation to world economic growth and inflation; and

Whereas, According to the International Energy Agency, global oil supplies could be as much as 3 million barrels per day below demand in the first quarter of 2000, and as much as 1.5 million barrels per day below requirements in the second quarter; and

Whereas, A mid-January snowstorm, which occurred in the northeast region of the United States, triggered even faster price increases in Pennsylvania, resulting in United States light crude oil selling just 4¢ below the \$30 per barrel mark; therefore be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urge the President of the United States and the Secretary of Energy to take immediate action to release emergency funding to the State for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and to release the United States strategic petroleum reserves, negotiate release of additional oil reserves from non-OPEC countries or negotiate with OPEC on additional supplies; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be sent to the President of the United States, the Secretary of Energy, the presiding officers of each house of Congress and to each member of Congress from Pennsylvania.

POM-414. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the Legislature of the State of Michigan relative to federally funded research using stem cells harvested from human embryos; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 119

Whereas, At the start of December 1999, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) published proposed guidelines for federally funded research projects using stem cells harvested from human embryos. The NIH is seeking public comment on the guidelines; and

Whereas, In 1996, Congress prohibited federally funded research in which human embryos are harmed or destroyed; and

Whereas, Michigan is a state with a long legal and ethical tradition of respecting life from its earliest stages. Michigan law prohibits any research that destroys human embryos. Michigan has also taken the strong step of becoming the only state to prohibit cloning to create human embryos for research. The proposed NIH guidelines would provide for actions that violate our state law and are criminal activity; and

Whereas, Standards of medical ethics historically have rejected justifying research in the name of medical progress when the research requires harming or destroying innocent human life; and

Whereas, Numerous avenues for developing new medical treatments from stem cells that do not require the destruction of human embryos hold great clinical promise; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That we strongly oppose the proposed guidelines of the National Institutes of Health on federally funded research using stem cells destructively harvested from human embryos and call on the NIH to withdraw the guidelines and redraft them to comply with federal law prohibiting NIH involvement in research involving the destruction of human embryos; and be it further

Resolved, That we urge the NIH to direct funding of stem cell research to projects that do not use stem cells destructively harvested from human embryos; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the National Institutes of

Health, the Secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the members of the Michigan congressional delegation, and the President of the United States.

POM-415. A resolution adopted by the House of the General Assembly of the State of Indiana relative to reauthorization of the Ryan White CARE Act; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 14

Whereas, In Indiana as of January 1, 2000, more than 10,000 cases of the expanding epidemic known as AIDS—Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome—have been reported;

Whereas, The state of Indiana created a division of HIV/STD within the state department of health to proactively address issues relating to HIV/AIDS and which now directly administers the expenditure of federal and state funds to combat the disease;

Whereas, Due to advancements in pharmaceutical therapies and an increasing focus on early intervention and treatment, the number of individuals living with HIV has grown significantly;

Whereas, For many, the progression from HIV to an AIDS diagnosis has slowed considerably as a result of these therapies;

Whereas, It is estimated that more than 6,000 residents of Indiana are currently living with HIV;

Whereas, It is estimated that an additional 1,300, or 21 percent, of Hoosiers with HIV are unaware of their condition, and hundreds more have been diagnosed with HIV but remain untreated;

Whereas, It is estimated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that there are 40,000 new HIV infections in the United States each year;

Whereas, HIV/AIDS in Indiana disproportionately impacts communities of color, gay and bisexual men, women, and economically depressed and other underserved communities;

Whereas, In 1999, the rate of HIV disease among whites was 7 per 100,000, while the rate among Hispanics was 19.3 per 100,000, and the rate among African-Americans was 44 per 100,000;

Whereas, In 1999, the rate of HIV disease among white males was 13 per 100,000, while the rate among Hispanic males was 29.9 per 100,000, and the rate among African-American males was 59.8 per 100,000;

Whereas, In 1999, the rate of HIV disease among white females was 1.3 per 100,000 while the rate among Hispanic females was 8.4 per 100,000, and the rate among African-American females was 29.8 per 100,000;

Whereas, The rate among African-American females more than doubled compared to the rate among white females from 1998 to 1999;

Whereas, As many as 16 percent of new HIV infections occur in people under age 25; one in eight HIV infections occurs in people under age 22;

Whereas, Young adults ages 20–29 represent 20 percent of reported AIDS cases but represent 38 percent of newer cases of HIV infection;

Whereas, Increasingly, some individuals have a dual diagnosis; these individuals have been diagnosed with HIV and have also been diagnosed with substances abuse or mental illness, or both;

Whereas, Substance abuse is a factor in well over 50 percent of HIV infections in some United States cities;

Whereas, Indiana looks to the federal government to assist the state in meeting the expanding health care and social service needs of people living with HIV;

Whereas, The Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency (CARE) Act was first adopted by Congress in 1990;

Whereas, The Ryan White CARE Act expires September 30, 2000;

Whereas, Since its inception, the Ryan White CARE Act has ensured the delivery of vital medical care, treatment, and essential support services to thousands of Hoosiers, including medical examinations, laboratory procedures and evaluations, pharmaceuticals, dental care, case management, transportation, housing, legal assistance, benefits education and assistance, treatment education and adherence, and mental health counseling;

Whereas, In more recent years, the state has developed the Health Insurance Assistance Program (HIAP) using a portion of Ryan White CARE Act dollars to purchase comprehensive health insurance policies for hundreds of Hoosiers through the Indiana Comprehensive Health Insurance Association (ICHIA), Indiana's high risk insurance pool, at roughly one-half of the cost of providing medical and pharmaceutical services under the state's Early Intervention Program (EIP) and AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP);

Whereas, Under federal law, the Ryan White CARE Act is designated as the provider of last resort; therefore, it is recognized as the critical safety net program for low income, uninsured or underinsured individuals;

Whereas, The federal budget for fiscal year 2000 contains increased funding for the Ryan White CARE Act and Indiana is expected to receive \$7,813,713 beginning April 1, 2000;

Whereas, Funding under Title II of the Ray White CARE Act pays for care, treatment, and social services, over 80 percent of which are for life extending and life saving pharmaceuticals under the state's AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP), and for comprehensive health insurance policies under the state's Health Insurance Assistance Program (HIAP);

Whereas, Title III of the Ryan White CARE Act provides funding to public and private nonprofit entities in Indiana for outpatient early intervention and primary care services;

Whereas, The goal of the Ryan White CARE Act Special Projects of National Significance (SPNS) Program (Part F) is to advance knowledge about the care and treatment of persons living with HIV/AIDS by providing time limited grants to assess models for delivering health and support services; SPNS projects have supported the development of innovative service models for HIV care to provide legal, health, and social services to communities of color, youth, hard to reach populations, and those with dual diagnoses in Indiana; and

Whereas, The Midwest AIDS Training and Education Centers (MATEC) is funded as part of Part F of the Ryan White CARE Act; in Indiana, MATEC trains clinical health care providers, provides consultation and technical assistance, and disseminates current information for the effective management of HIV disease; Therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

Section 1. That the Indiana General Assembly affirms its support of the Ryan White CARE Act and urges the Congress of the United States to expeditiously reauthorize the Act in order to ensure that the expanding medical care and support service needs of the individuals living with HIV are met.

Section 2. That the Principal Clerk of the House of Representatives transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, the Senate Majority and Minority Leaders, the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the House Minority Leader, the Chairpersons

and Ranking Minority Members of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions, Appropriations, and Budget Committees, the Chairpersons and Ranking Minority Members of the House Commerce, Appropriations, and Budget Committees, and to the members of the Indiana Congressional delegation.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first time and second time by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. WARNER (for himself, Mr. LOTT, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. HUTCHINSON, Mr. CLELAND, Mr. THURMOND, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. SANTORUM, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ALLARD, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. REED, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. INOUE, Mrs. LINCOLN, and Mr. KERRY):

S. 2087. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to improve access to benefits under the TRICARE program; to extend and improve certain demonstration programs under the Defense Health Program; and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. CLELAND:

S. 2088. A bill to amend the Clean Air Act and titles 23 and 49, United States Code, to provide for continued authorization of funding of transportation projects after a lapse in transportation conformity; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. WARNER (for himself, Mr. LOTT, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. HUTCHINSON, Mr. CLELAND, Mr. THURMOND, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. SANTORUM, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ALLARD, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. REED, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. INOUE, Mrs. LINCOLN, and Mr. KERRY):

S. 2087. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to improve access to benefits under the TRICARE program; to extend and improve certain demonstration programs under the Defense Health Program; and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

THE MILITARY HEALTH CARE IMPROVEMENTS ACT OF 2000

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I am introducing this bill with the complete support and, indeed, the leadership of our distinguished majority leader, the Senator from Mississippi, Mr. LOTT.

The Senate will recall that Senator LOTT was one of the principal persons who enabled the pay and other benefits bill that was passed by the Senate, and indeed adopted by the President, to be introduced last year. He has exhibited leadership on this subject throughout. He is a former member of our committee, a very valued member. He has kept quite active on matters relating to not only personnel but the whole aspect of our national defense. I pay a special tribute to him and also to the