

apply to the Secretary of Health and Human Services to have health providers certified and given immunity from malpractice claims.

This small provision could be a big help to the uninsured and those who count on free clinics for health care. The problem is, this provision of HIPAA has been overlooked and regulations for this section—detailing how the legislation should be implemented—were never written.

I am sending a letter to Secretary Thompson calling on him to get those regulations written and published as soon as possible. This should not be difficult. Legislation passed in 1992, which extended the Tort Claims Act coverage to volunteers in community health centers, can serve as a model.

Congress did the right thing in 1996 in recognizing this problem, but we need to finish the job. Two things need to happen now. We need those regulations published, and Congress needs to appropriate funding for the provision.

This will not solve the problems of the more than 40 million Americans without health insurance, but it sure could make a big difference in making care more accessible. It could make a big difference in the lives of the many health professionals who want to give back to their communities.

I again want to urge Secretary Thompson today to get these regulations published as soon as possible. For my part, I intend to stay on the job to assure his Department has funding for this provision.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Tuesday, July 24, 2001, the Federal debt stood at \$5,724,984,658,043.75, five trillion, seven hundred twenty-four billion, nine hundred eighty-four million, six hundred fifty-eight thousand, forty-three dollars and seventy-five cents.

One year ago, July 24, 2000, the Federal debt stood at \$5,668,098,000,000, five trillion, six hundred sixty-eight billion, ninety-eight million.

Five years ago, July 24, 1996, the Federal debt stood at \$5,173,226,000,000, five trillion, one hundred seventy-three billion, two hundred twenty-six million.

Ten years ago, July 24, 1991, the Federal debt stood at \$3,551,395,000,000, three trillion, five hundred fifty-one billion, three hundred ninety-five million.

Fifteen years ago, July 24, 1986, the Federal debt stood at \$2,071,116,000,000, two trillion, seventy-one billion, one hundred sixteen million, which reflects a debt increase of more than \$3.5 trillion, \$3,653,868,658,043.75, three trillion, six hundred fifty-three billion, eight hundred sixty-eight million, six hundred fifty-eight thousand, forty-three dollars and seventy-five cents during the past 15 years.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL JEFFREY A. WAITE

• Mr. BOND. Mr. President, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay special tribute to an outstanding soldier who has distinguished himself in his service to our Nation. Colonel Jeffrey A. Waite will take off his uniform for the last time this month as he retires from the National Guard on July 31st, 2001, following 32 years of service.

Colonel Waite is a fifth generation Missourian who makes our State proud. He began his career by enlisting in the Missouri Army National Guard in 1969 and continued to excel as he climbed through the ranks to Colonel. He imparted his love of the State and to the military to his son, who is now the sixth generation of Waite's to serve our Nation's military. He is a proud Missourian and American.

Colonel Waite completed his initial training at Ft. Bragg, NC and Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD in the spring of 1970 and was commissioned through the Missouri Military Academy Officer Candidate School as a Second Lieutenant of Field Artillery in 1972. He holds a bachelor of science degree in business administration from Southwest Missouri State College and a master of science in business administration from Boston University. In addition, his military education includes the Ordinance Officer Basic and Advanced courses, U.S. Marine Corps Staff Course, U.S. Army Command and General Staff Course, the Air War College, and the Army War College.

Throughout his career, Colonel Waite has held a variety of positions at nearly every level of the Army National Guard. He entered active duty with the National Guard "Captains to Europe" program where he served abroad in Giessen, Germany with the 19th Maintenance Battalion as an Armament Maintenance Officer and Battalion Logistics Officer. Colonel Waite is also to be recognized for his service as Assistant Professor of Military Science, Hofstra University, an important program for developing the soldiers of our future.

Throughout his career, Colonel Waite's level of commitment and service has been recognized and rewarded through numerous decorations and awards. Colonel Waite has demonstrated the utmost patriotism and dedication and has consistently gone above and beyond the call of duty.

Colonel Waite's retirement represents a loss to the both the National Guard Bureau and the Department of Defense. Throughout his career, Colonel Waite made innumerable long-term positive contributions to both the military and our Nation. On behalf of the citizens of Missouri and a grateful Nation, we wish Colonel Jeffrey A. Waite, his wife Lori, and four children all the best for a happy retirement. •

TRIBUTE TO MOUNTAIN VALLEY MEDICAL CLINIC

• Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, right now in my home state of Vermont, a very special institution, the Mountain Valley Medical Clinic, MVMC, in Londonderry, VT, is celebrating 25 years of service. Rural clinics such as Mountain Valley, play a critical role in delivering health care, especially in States as rural as Vermont.

Twenty-five years ago, it was not unusual for communities such as Londonderry, to receive health care through a single practitioner, who served the region. In 1976, as Londonderry's sole practitioner, Dr. Elizabeth Pingree, was retiring, the impending lack of health care in the area became a real concern. A group of involved citizens recognized that people would either be forced to drive great distances to be seen by a physician, or they would go without care. The entire community responded by coming together to create the Mountain Valley Medical Clinic.

The founding fathers, and mothers, of Mountain Valley recognized the rapidly expanding need for improved and broader health care services in the area. With tireless energy, enthusiasm and dedication, these key individuals succeeded in generating widespread support throughout the neighboring communities. They raised funds, developed plans, created a board of volunteers, and opened a state-of-the-art, comprehensive, health care facility to serve area residents and visitors. Additionally, they created an infrastructure that served all citizens regardless of their ability to pay.

Since opening its doors in 1976, more than 300,000 patients have visited this clinic for care. Over the recent decade, more than 11,000 per year have sought medical assistance. Much of the cost of the care has been curtailed by Medicare, Medicaid, or provided without reimbursement. Staying true to its mission, the dedicated staff and volunteer Board of Directors balanced financial losses, each and every year, with the generous support of the community.

As a model rural health care facility, Mountain Valley reminds us that bigger, faster, cheaper, and fancier, do not necessarily translate to better health care. In fact, many part-time residents in this community consider Mountain Valley to be their primary care provider, even though, or perhaps because, they reside in large cities up and down the east coast. I wish other institutions could follow the example of Mountain Valley Health Clinic.

As this noteworthy institution celebrates its 25th anniversary, it remains one of a kind. It is unique among its peers throughout the country for its philosophy and independence, but most of all, because it is the product of so many remarkable people and ideas. It is truly part of the communities it serves. Residents and visitors in the Mountain Valley service area have much to be proud of, and grateful for, with the steadfast medical care given

by the professionals and staff at Mountain Valley Medical Clinic.●

TRIBUTE TO COMMISSIONER
ROBERT W. VARNEY

● Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to an esteemed colleague and dear friend, Robert W. Varney, Commissioner of the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, NHDES, on being appointed Regional Administrator for the Environmental Protection Agency, EPA—New England.

Mr. Varney has served the Granite State as Commissioner of NHDES since July of 1989, having been appointed by three Governors, JUDD GREGG, Steve Merrill and Jeanne Shaheen, with the unanimous approval of the Executive Council. Mr. Varney was responsible for the great task of overseeing all of New Hampshire's air, water and waste programs issues. He is recognized nationally as an environmental leader, and has presided over countless prestigious environmental committees and organizations, including President of the Environmental Council of the States, ECOS, the National Organization of State Environmental Commissioners and has served on the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council.

While his national recognition is commendable, Mr. Varney's prowess in the New England region has been demonstrated by his high ranking positions on numerous regional organizations such as the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment, the Ozone Transport Commission, the New England Governors Conference Environment Committee, and the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission, just to name a few. In June 2000, his efforts to partner with the private sector were recognized when he was presented with the Paul Keough Environmental Award for Government Service by the Environmental Business Council of New England.

As former Chairman and current ranking member of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, and one time Chairman of the Superfund Sub-committee, I have had the pleasure of working quite closely with Mr. Varney on a wide range of issues. On numerous occasions I have depended on his far-reaching environmental expertise to testify before Congress on key issues such as the dangers of the fuel additive MTBE, the current status of superfund cleanup activities and on successful state environmental programs.

With the help of Mr. Varney's leadership, New Hampshire has become, and continues to be, a front-runner in exploring innovative, low-cost technologies while reaping the benefits of developing successful Federal and State relationships. I commend Mr. Varney for his exemplary service to New Hampshire, and look forward to

watching the success that will follow him in this next endeavor. New Hampshire, New England and the Nation are truly fortunate to have such a dedicated environmental leader take on the vitally important role of EPA Regional Administrator, and I am certain he will execute this duty with comparable distinction. It is with pleasure that I extend my deepest congratulations and hope for future success.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 10:46 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 468. An act to designate the Federal building located at 6230 Van Nuys Boulevard in Van Nuys, California, as the "James C. Corman Federal Building."

H.R. 2131. An act to reauthorize the Tropical Forest Conservation Act of 1998 through fiscal year 2004, and for other purposes.

S. 1190. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to rename the education individual retirement accounts as the Coverdell education savings accounts.

The enrolled bills were signed subsequently by the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

At 1:34 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2506. An act making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 4355(a), the Speaker appoints the following Member of the House of Representatives to the Board of Visitors to the United States Military Academy: Mrs. TAUSCHER of California.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 2506. An act making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and

related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations.

ENROLLED BILLS PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, July 25, 2001, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bills:

S. 468. An act to designate the Federal building located at 6230 Van Nuys Boulevard in Van Nuys, California, as the "James C. Corman Federal Building."

S. 1190. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to rename the education individual retirement accounts as the Coverdell education savings account.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER
COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, which were referred as indicated:

EC-3055. A communication from the Deputy Administrator of the General Service Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a Building Project Survey for Jefferson City, MO; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-3056. A communication from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Manufactured Housing Program User Fee Authority; to the Committee on the Budget.

EC-3057. A communication from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, a cumulative report on rescissions and deferrals dated July 24, 2001; to the Committees on Appropriations; the Budget; and Foreign Relations.

EC-3058. A communication from the Acting Commissioner of the Social Security Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a nomination for the position of Commissioner of Social Security, received on July 23, 2001; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3059. A communication from the Chief of the Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revision to Rev. Proc. 2001-2" (Rev. Proc. 2001-41) received on July 23, 2001; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3060. A communication from the Chief of the Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Exxon v. Commissioner" received on July 24, 2001; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3061. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense, Personnel and Readiness, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Parity of Pay between Active and Reserve Component members of the Armed Forces based on length of time on active duty; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-3062. A communication from the Secretary of the Navy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the current unit cost of a major defense acquisition program that has increased by at least 15 percent; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-3063. A communication from the Deputy Secretary of Defense, transmitting, the report of retirements; to the Committee on Armed Services.