

In December of this year, the Coastal Family Health Center will open for business. It will provide general health care, dental care and mental health services in a community where these services are desperately needed.

For his service and dedication to the health of the people in Clatsop County, OR, I salute Terry O. Finklein, a true hero for Oregon.●

COMMENDING ISRAEL BROOKS

● Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, I want to pay tribute to Israel Brooks, a native of Newberry County, SC, as he retires from a 35-year career in law enforcement, most recently as the U.S. Marshal for the District of South Carolina.

In March of 1994, I nominated Mr. Brooks to that important position, and I believe his record in the past eight years has proven what this Senator has long felt: it is one of the best nominations I ever made. He has served with such great distinction that in 1996 the District of South Carolina, under Mr. Brooks' leadership, earned the "Distinguished District of the Year Award" for being the best in the nation in efficiency, service, and work ethics.

Mr. Brooks served in the South Carolina Highway Patrol, being promoted through the ranks all the way up to Major. He served his country as a U.S. Marine. He also served his community, devoting an incredible amount of time and effort to helping elementary, junior high, and senior high students throughout the state.

We will miss Mr. Brooks. I know all the Senators in this body not only thank him for his many achievements, but wish him and his family all the best.●

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The Committee on Indian Affairs was discharged from further consideration of the following bill, which was placed on the calendar:

S. 2018. A bill to establish the T'uf Shur Bein Preservation Trust Area within the Cibola National Forest in the State of New Mexico to resolve a land claim involving the Sandia Mountain Wilderness, and for other purposes.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Mr. HATCH):

S. 3063. A bill to establish a Citizens Health Care Working Group to facilitate public debate about how to improve the health care system for Americans and to provide for a vote by Congress on the recommendations that are derived from this debate; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. NELSON of Florida:

S. 3064. A bill to prohibit the use of patient databases for marketing without the express

consent of the patient; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. HUTCHINSON (for himself, Mr. INHOFE, and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 3065. A bill to provide exceptions to empowerment zone eligibility criteria; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. INOUE:

S. 3066. A bill to improve programs relating to Indian tribes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. THOMPSON:

S. 3067. A bill to amend title 44, United States Code, to make Government information security reform permanent, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. SPECTER:

S. 3068. A bill to amend the Agricultural Adjustment Act to require the Secretary of Agriculture to use the price of feed grains and other cash expenses as factors to determine the basic formula price for milk under milk marketing orders; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

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

S. Res. 335. A resolution relative to the death of Jo-Anne Coe; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BOND:

S. Con. Res. 150. A concurrent resolution welcoming Her Majesty Queen Sirikit of Thailand on her visit to the United States, and for other purposes; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 830

At the request of Mr. CHAFEE, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. FITZGERALD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 830, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize the Director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences to make grants for the development and operation of research centers regarding environmental factors that may be related to the etiology of breast cancer.

S. 874

At the request of Mr. TORRICELLI, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 874, a bill to require health plans to include infertility benefits, and for other purposes.

S. 1129

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. ALLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1129, a bill to increase the rate of pay for certain offices and positions within the executive and judicial branches of the Government, respectively, and for other purposes.

S. 2215

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2215, a bill to halt Syrian support for terrorism, end its occupation of Lebanon, stop its development of weapons

of mass destruction, cease its illegal importation of Iraqi oil, and by so doing hold Syria accountable for its role in the Middle East, and for other purposes.

S. 2562

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2562, a bill to expand research regarding inflammatory bowel disease, and for other purposes.

S. 2608

At the request of Mr. HOLLINGS, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2608, a bill to amend the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 to authorize the acquisition of coastal areas in order better to ensure their protection from conversion or development.

S. 2903

At the request of Mr. SMITH of Oregon, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2903, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for a guaranteed adequate level of funding for veterans health care.

S. 2943

At the request of Mr. FEINGOLD, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2943, a bill to amend title 9, United States Code, to provide for greater fairness in the arbitration process relating to livestock and poultry contracts.

S. 3009

At the request of Mr. WELLSTONE, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3009, a bill to provide economic security for America's workers.

S. 3018

At the request of Mr. HUTCHINSON, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 3018, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to enhance beneficiary access to quality health care services under the medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 3049

At the request of Mr. ALLEN, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3049, a bill to prohibit the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency from issuing or renewing certain national pollutant discharge elimination system permits.

S.J. RES. 46

At the request of Mr. LIEBERMAN, the names of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. BAUCUS) were added as cosponsors of S.J. Res. 46, a joint resolution to authorize the use of United States Armed Forces against Iraq.

S. RES. 266

At the request of Mr. VOINOVICH, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 266, a resolution designating October 10, 2002, as "Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day".

S. RES. 333

At the request of Mr. HUTCHINSON, the names of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS), the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY), the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. THOMAS), and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. ALLEN) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 333, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate relating to a dispute between the Pacific Maritime Association and the International Longshore and Warehouse Union.

S. CON. RES. 142

At the request of Mr. SMITH of Oregon, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 142, a concurrent resolution expressing support for the goals and ideas of a day of tribute to all firefighters who have died in the line of duty and recognizing the important mission of the Fallen Firefighters Foundation in assisting family members to overcome the loss of their fallen heroes.

S. CON. RES. 146

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 146, a concurrent resolution supporting the goals and ideas of National Take Your Kids to Vote Day.

S. CON. RES. 149

At the request of Mr. LEVIN, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 149, a concurrent resolution recognizing the teams and players of the Negro Baseball Leagues for their achievements, dedication, sacrifices, and contributions to baseball and the Nation.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Mr. HATCH):

S. 3063. A bill to establish a Citizens Health Care Working Group to facilitate public debate about how to improve the health care system for Americans and to provide for a vote by Congress on the recommendations that are derived from this debate; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, today I join with Senator ORRIN HATCH, one of the most caring and thoughtful public officials I have ever known, in offering a bipartisan roadmap to creating a health care system that works for all Americans. Our country has been trying to find such a path since President Harry Truman's proposal to cover all Americans was voted down in 1945. I believe the Wyden-Hatch proposal can succeed after 57 years of failure because our bipartisan plan begins with the public discussing and deciding their health care priorities, followed by a guarantee Congress will actually vote on the recommendations that result from this grassroots debate.

This approach has never been tried before. Now, when major health laws

are written, politicians sit down and prescribe what benefits will be offered, and then try to come up with the money to pay for them. After the politicians write their plans, the special interest lobbies start attacking one feature or another through shrill television commercials. Pretty soon, the public gets understandably confused, the chance for building consensus is lost, and important health care needs go unmet.

The 280 million Americans whose survival depends on quality, affordable health care have never been given the chance to shape their health care future before the special interest lobbyists weigh in. The Wyden-Hatch bill changes that. Under our proposal, the public gets to jump-start health reform by stating their priorities at the outset, rather than being treated as an afterthought. We believe our legislation can serve as an illuminated route to a health care system where each American has the ability to obtain quality, affordable health care coverage. We placed three signposts on our roadmap to provide guidance to the American people and their elected officials as they make the tough choices inherent in tackling health care reform.

At the first signpost, the public is given an extensive opportunity, in their home communities and on line, to state their personal health care priorities and how they should be paid for. In addition, the public will be asked to look beyond their personal needs, to those of the community at large, and how those needs should be paid for.

Our legislation forthrightly asks the questions that must be answered to have meaningful health reform—questions such as: What kind of health care do you want most? How much are you willing to pay? How should costs be contained without sacrificing the quality of care? Should the Government or private businesses be required to pay a portion of your costs? How about those of your neighbors?

Our national Government has never directly asked the public these questions. After asking these questions, the Government ought to keep quiet for a bit and listen to the people because without some sense of the public's view, it is always going to be virtually impossible to create a health care system that works for everyone, with the consensus that is needed to get it done.

To ask the key questions and follow up on the suggestions given by the American people, the Wyden-Hatch legislation creates a Citizens' Health Care Working Group. The Working Group is made up of a representative cross-section of our people. It is not just another Washington, DC commission of so-called policy experts.

The Working Group directs the public participation portion of this proposal. For example, as a guide to help the public in formulating their views on the tough choices that lie ahead, the Wyden-Hatch legislation directs

the Working Group to prepare and make widely available a "Health Report to the American People."

The legislation we have authored requires that this report be written in understandable language and describe the cost and availability of the major public and private health choices now available—and also contain enough information so the public can create alternatives. Here are the kinds of issues we want to address: "If covering liver transplants under government health programs requires cutting other services, what services are you willing to cut, or would you rather not have liver transplants covered? If government coverage of long-term care for the elderly would require workers to begin contributing to the program at age 40, is it still worth it to you?"

These are moral choices about what health care the public has a right to expect. These are economic choices that affect the finances of our families. These are legal and social choices that will be difficult for our people to make. The Wyden-Hatch proposal is built around the proposition that these choices are too important to duck any longer.

After establishing a sense of how the public feels about these hard choices, the legislation directs that the Working Group move to the second signpost on our roadmap. There the Working Group is to take the ideas offered by the American people, and translate these views into recommendations for our elected officials to create a health care system that works for all. With the Working Group's involvement in the public participation requirement of this legislation, we believe they are the right people to take this historic step: to synthesize the opinions and information provided by the public and then present a faithful picture to Congress.

At the third signpost, the Congress takes the recommendations from the Working Group and utilizes the legislative process to develop one or more plans for the recommendations, with a guarantee to the public that the plans will be voted on in both Houses of Congress. We believe that the assurance that Congress will vote after the public's will is expressed provides an added measure of credibility for this legislation. Simply put, people will be able to see their voices, their participation, lead to actual votes on the floors of both Houses of Congress to create a health care system that works for all. With these steps I have described, our country can as never before discuss, decide and deliver on health care reforms.

I know there will be many questions about this proposal, and I'll try to answer them in the coming days. I'd like to briefly answer just one question I've already been asked: "Why now? This is the end of the Congressional session; we are all concerned about the possibility of war with Iraq. Why are you putting this before Congress today?"

My answer is that the lack of decent health care for so many Americans,