

and Women's Hospitals, has taken steps to reduce the number of unnecessary diagnostic tests it conducts at outpatient radiology centers, though executives know that smarter care will cut into their revenues.

"That's where you're smack up against the perverseness of the system," said Dr. James J. Mongan, chief executive of Partners.

Medicare's payment policies have stymied efforts in the private sector to improve care, as well.

For example, the Leapfrog Group, a national organization of large employers concerned about health issues, has tried to encourage more hospitals to employ intensivists—specialists who oversee the care provided in intensive-care units. Though studies show that such doctors significantly improve care, Medicare does not pay for them, and employers and insurers are having difficulty persuading some hospitals to take on the added expense.

"It's going to be very hard to compete with the incentives and disincentives in Medicare," said Suzanne Delbanco, the group's executive director.

Others argue that hospitals and doctors should not be paid extra for doing what they should be doing in the first place.

Helen Darling, the executive director of the National Business Group on Health, a national employer group, said Medicare instead should take a firmer stance in demanding quality. The program had a significant effect, she noted, when it said that only hospitals meeting a minimum set of standards could be reimbursed by Medicare for heart transplants.

"The payment system drove quality," Ms. Darling said.

Medicare itself is taking some other tentative steps, including an experiment that pays certain hospitals an extra 2 percent for delivering the highest-quality care, as measured, for example, by administering antibiotics to pneumonia patients quickly and giving heart attack patients aspirin. But some hospital industry executives question whether that is enough money to offset the costs of improving care.

"It can only be a motivator if you really have an incentive," said Carmela Coyle, an executive with the American Hospital Association, who noted that hospitals on average are paid only 98 cents for each dollar of Medicare services they provide.

Mr. Scully, the Medicare administrator, defends the experiment, saying that the agency's goal is to determine if it is using the right measures to reward quality. "If this works, we'll do a bigger demonstration," he said.

But many policy analysts and employer groups want Medicare to do more. "Today, Medicare needs to step out front," said Peter V. Lee, chief executive of the Pacific Business Group on Health, who argues that how hospitals and doctors are paid is a critical component of motivating them to improve care. "There needs to be money at play."

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 279—RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF SPORTSMEN TO AMERICAN SOCIETY, SUPPORTING THE TRADITIONS AND VALUES OF SPORTSMEN, AND RECOGNIZING THE MANY ECONOMIC BENEFITS ASSOCIATED WITH OUTDOOR SPORTING ACTIVITIES

Mr. COLEMAN submitted the following resolution; which was referred

to the Committee on Environment and Public Works:

S. RES. 279

Whereas there are more than 38,000,000 sportsmen in the United States;

Whereas these sportsmen, who come from all walks of life, engage in a sport they love, while helping to stimulate the economy, especially in small, rural communities, and contributing to conservation efforts;

Whereas sportsmen demonstrate values of conservation, appreciation of the outdoors, and love of the natural beauty of the United States;

Whereas sporting activities have both physical and mental health benefits that allow Americans to escape from the fast pace of their lives and to spend time with their families and friends;

Whereas sportsmen pass down their love of the outdoors from generation to generation; Whereas many sportsmen consider hunting, trapping, and fishing of tremendous importance to the American way of life;

Whereas sportsmen have a passion for learning about nature and have tremendous respect for the game pursued, other sportsmen, the non-hunting populace, and the natural resources upon which they depend;

Whereas the total economic contribution of sportsmen amounts to \$70,000,000,000 annually, with a ripple effect amounting to \$179,000,000,000;

Whereas sportsmen contribute \$1,700,000,000 every year for conservation programs, and these funds constitute a significant portion of on-the-ground wildlife conservation funding;

Whereas anglers support 1,000,000 jobs and small businesses in communities in every part of the United States, and they purchase \$3,200,000,000 in basic fishing equipment every year;

Whereas tens of millions of Americans hunt and are a substantial economic force, spending \$21,000,000,000 every year;

Whereas a sportsman President, Theodore Roosevelt, established America's first National Wildlife Refuge 100 years ago, and with the committed support of sportsmen over the last century, the National Wildlife Refuge System includes more than 540 refuges spanning 95,000,000 acres throughout all 50 States;

Whereas the funds raised from sportsmen through purchases of Federal migratory bird hunting and conservation stamps under the Act of March 16, 1934 (commonly known as the Duck Stamp Act) (16 U.S.C. 718a et seq.), are used to purchase and restore vital wetlands in the refuge system;

Whereas the sale of those stamps has raised more than \$500,000,000 which has been used to acquire approximately 5,000,000 acres of refuge lands;

Whereas in 1937, Congress passed the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. 669 et seq.), under which sportsmen and the firearms and ammunition industries agreed to a self-imposed 10 percent excise tax on ammunition and firearms, the proceeds of which are distributed to the States for wildlife restoration;

Whereas the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act has created a source of permanent funding for State wildlife agencies that has been used to rebuild and expand the ranges of numerous species, including wild turkey, white-tailed deer, pronghorn antelope, wood duck, beaver, black bear, American elk, bison, desert bighorn sheep, bobcat, and mountain lion, and several non-game species, including bald eagles, sea otters, and numerous song birds;

Whereas in 1950, Congress passed the Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. 777 et seq.), under which recreational

anglers and the fishing and tackle manufacturing industries agreed to a self-imposed 10 percent excise tax on sport fishing equipment (including fishing rods, reels, lines, and hooks, artificial lures, baits and flies, and other fishing supplies and accessories), the proceeds of which are used for the purposes of constructing fish hatcheries, building boat access facilities, promoting fishing, and educating children about aquatic resources and fishing; and

Whereas the Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act was amended in 1984 to extend the excise tax to previously untaxed items of sport fishing equipment and to dedicate a portion of the existing Federal tax on motorboat fuels to those purposes, so that now approximately 1/3 of the funds expended by State fish and wildlife agencies for maintenance and development of sports fisheries are collected through the use of the excise tax; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the importance and contributions of sportsmen to American society;

(2) supports the traditions and values of sportsmen;

(3) supports the many conservation programs implemented by sportsmen;

(4) recognizes the many economic benefits associated with outdoor sporting activities; and

(5) recognizes the importance of encouraging the recruitment of, and teaching the traditions of hunting, trapping, and fishing to, future sportsmen.

SENATE RESOLUTION 280—CONGRATULATING THE SAN JOSE EARTHQUAKES FOR WINNING THE 2003 MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER CUP

Mrs. BOXER (for herself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 280

Whereas on November 23, 2003, the San Jose Earthquakes defeated the Chicago Fire to win the 2003 Major League Soccer Cup;

Whereas the San Jose Earthquakes achieved a 14-7-9 regular season record to finish first in the Major League Soccer Western Conference;

Whereas the San Jose Earthquakes finished an extraordinary season by overcoming injuries, adversity, and multiple-goal deficits to reach the Major League Soccer Cup championship match;

Whereas in the championship match, the San Jose Earthquakes and the Chicago Fire scored 6 goals combined, breaking the Major League Soccer Cup championship match scoring record;

Whereas head coach Frank Yallop led the San Jose Earthquakes to victory;

Whereas the San Jose Earthquakes is a team of world-class players, including Jeff Agoos, Arturo Alvarez, Brian Ching, Jon Conway, Ramiro Corrales, Troy Dayak, Dwayne De Rosario, Landon Donovan, Todd Dunivant, Ronnie Ekelund, Rodrigo Faria, Manny Lagos, Roger Levesque, Brain Mullan, Richard Mulrooney, Pat Onstad, Eddie Robinson, Chris Roner, Ian Russell, Josh Saunders, Craig Waibel, and Jamil Walker, all of whom contributed extraordinary performances throughout the regular season, playoffs and Major League Soccer Cup;

Whereas San Jose Earthquakes midfielder Ronnie Ekelund scored in the fifth minute of play, tying Eduardo Hurtado for the fastest goal scored in a Major League Soccer Cup championship match;

Whereas with the victory, San Jose Earthquakes captain Jeff Agoos won his second Major League Soccer Cup for the San Jose Earthquakes and his fifth Major League Soccer Cup overall;

Whereas San Jose Earthquakes forward Landon Donovan, who has been named United States National Team Player of the Year twice, scored 2 goals on 2 shots in the championship match, earning the Honda Major League Soccer Cup Most Valuable Player Award;

Whereas by winning the 2003 Major League Soccer Cup, the San Jose Earthquakes join DC United to become the second team in Major League Soccer history to win the Major League Soccer Cup more than once;

Whereas the San Jose Earthquakes have brought great pride to the City of San Jose and to the State of California;

Whereas Major League Soccer has become extremely popular in only 8 seasons; and

Whereas the success of Major League Soccer has contributed to the growing popularity of soccer in the United States in recent years: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the San Jose Earthquakes for winning the 2003 Major League Soccer Cup;

(2) recognizes the achievement of the players, coaches, staff, and supporters of the San Jose Earthquakes in bringing the 2003 Major League Soccer Cup to San Jose;

(3) commends the San Jose community for its enthusiastic support of the San Jose Earthquakes; and

(4) expresses the hope that Major League Soccer will continue to inspire fans and young players in the United States and around the world by producing teams of the high caliber of the San Jose Earthquakes.

SENATE RESOLUTION 281—RELATIVE TO THE DEATH OF THE HONORABLE PAUL SIMON, A FORMER SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF ILLINOIS

Mr. FITZGERALD (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. FRIST, Mr. DASCHLE, and Mr. DEWINE) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 281

Whereas the Honorable Paul Simon at the age of 19 became the Nation's youngest editor-publisher when he accepted a Lion's Club challenge to save the Troy Tribute in Troy, Illinois, and built a chain of 13 newspapers in southern and central Illinois;

Whereas the Honorable Paul Simon used his newspaper to expose criminal activities, and in 1951, at age 22, was called as a key witness to testify before the U.S. Senate's Crime Investigating Committee;

Whereas the Honorable Paul Simon served in the Illinois legislature for 14 years, winning the Independent Voters of Illinois' "Best Legislator Award" every session;

Whereas the Honorable Paul Simon was elected lieutenant governor in 1968 and was the first in Illinois' history to be elected to that post with a governor of another party;

Whereas the Honorable Paul Simon served Illinois in the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate with devotion and distinction;

Whereas the Honorable Paul Simon is the only individual to have served in both the Illinois House of Representatives and the Illinois Senate, and the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate.

Whereas the Honorable Paul Simon was the founder and director of the Public Policy Institute at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, Illinois, and taught there for more than six years in the service of the youth of our Nation;

Whereas the Honorable Paul Simon wrote over 20 books and held over 50 honorary degrees;

Whereas the Honorable Paul Simon was an unapologetic champion of the less fortunate and a constant example of caring and honesty in public service;

Whereas his efforts on behalf of Illinoisans and all Americans earned him the esteem and high regard of his colleagues; and

Whereas his tragic death has deprived his State and Nation of an outstanding lawmaker and public servant: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate has heard with profound sorrow and deep regret the announcement of the death of the Honorable Paul Simon, a former Senator from the State of Illinois.

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate communicate these resolutions to the House of Representatives and transmit an enrolled copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

Resolved, That when the Senate adjourns today, it stand adjourned as a further mark of respect to the memory of the deceased former Senator.

SENATE RESOLUTION 282—PROVIDING THE FUNDING TO ASSIST IN MEETING THE OFFICIAL EXPENSES OF A PRELIMINARY MEETING RELATIVE TO THE FORMATION OF A UNITED STATES SENATE-CHINA INTER-PARLIAMENTARY GROUP

Mr. STEVENS submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 282

Resolved, That—

(1) there is authorized within the contingent fund of the Senate under the appropriation account "MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS" \$75,000 for fiscal year 2004 to assist in meeting the official expenses of a preliminary meeting relative to the formation of a United States Senate-China interparliamentary group including travel, per diem, conference room expenses, hospitality expenses, and food and food-related expenses;

(2) such expenses shall be paid on vouchers to be approved by the President pro tempore of the Senate; and

(3) the Secretary of the Senate is authorized to advance such sums as necessary to carry out this resolution.

SENATE RESOLUTION 283—AFFIRMING THE NEED TO PROTECT CHILDREN IN THE UNITED STATES FROM INDECENT PROGRAMMING

Mr. SESSIONS (for himself, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. BROWNBAC, Mr. NICKLES, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. TALENT, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. KYL, and Mr. HOLLINGS) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 283

Whereas millions of people in the United States are increasingly concerned with the

patently offensive television and radio programming being sent into their homes;

Whereas millions of families in the United States are particularly concerned with the adverse impact of this programming on children;

Whereas indecent and offensive programming is contributing to a dramatic coarsening of civil society of the United States;

Whereas the Federal Communications Commission is charged with enforcing standards of decency in broadcast media;

Whereas the Federal Communications Commission established a standard defining what constitutes indecency in the declaratory order In the Matter of a Citizen's Complaint Against Pacifica Foundation Station WBAI(FM), 56 F.C.C.2d 94 (1975) (referred to in this Resolution as the "Pacifica order");

Whereas the Federal Communications Commission has not used all of its available authority to impose penalties on broadcasters that air indecent material even when egregious and repeated violations have been found in the cases of WKRK-FM, Detroit, MI, File No. EB-02-IH-0109 (Apr. 3, 2003) and WNEW-FM, New York, New York, EB-02-IH-0685 (Sept. 30, 2003);

Whereas the standard established in the Pacifica order focuses on protecting children from exposure to indecent language;

Whereas the standard established in the Pacifica order was upheld as constitutional by the United States Supreme Court in Federal Communications Commission v. Pacifica Foundation, 438 U.S. 726 (1978);

Whereas the Enforcement Bureau of the Federal Communications Commission has refused to sanction the airing of indecent language during the broadcast of the Golden Globe Awards, at a time when millions of children were in the potential audience; and

Whereas as of December 2003, an application for review is pending before the Federal Communications Commission, requesting that the full Commission review that decision of the Enforcement Bureau: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the Federal Communications Commission should re-consider the Enforcement Bureau's decision in the Matter of Complaints Against Various Broadcast Licensees Regarding Their Airing of the "Golden Globe Awards" Program, File No. EB-03-IH-0110, 2003 FCC LEXIS 5382, (Oct. 3, 2003), in light of the public policy considerations in protecting children from indecent material;

(2) the Federal Communications Commission should return to vigorously and expeditiously enforcing its own United States Supreme Court-approved standard for indecency in broadcast media, as established in the declaratory order In the Matter of a Citizen's Complaint Against Pacifica Foundation Station WBAI(FM), 56 F.C.C.2d 94 (1975);

(3) the Federal Communications Commission should reassert its responsibility as defender of the public interest by undertaking new and serious efforts to sanction broadcast licensees that refuse to adhere to the standard established in that order;

(4) the Federal Communications Commission should make every reasonable and lawful effort to protect children from the degrading influences of indecent programming;

(5) the Federal Communications Commission should use all of its available authority to protect the public from indecent broadcasts including: (1) the discretion to impose fines up to a statutory maximum for each separate "utterance" or "material" found to be indecent; and (2) the initiation of license