

these entrepreneurs who had the courage and the vision to strike out on their own. For 18 years, as a member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, I have worked to increase the opportunities for these enterprising women in a variety of ways, leading to greater earning power, financial independence and asset accumulation. These are more than words. For these women, it means having a bank account, buying a home, sending their children to college, calling the shots.

And helping them at every step are the Women's Business Centers. In 2002 alone, these centers helped 85,000 women with the business counseling and assistance they likely could not find anywhere else. Cutting funding for any centers would be harmful to the centers, to the women they serve, to the States, and to the national economy.

The funding gap for Women's Business Centers in the sustainability portion of the program exists because the Small Business Administration has chosen to adopt a funding policy that short-changes existing, proven centers in order to open new, unproven ones. By incorrectly interpreting the funding formula set up in statute for the Women's Business Center program, the SBA intends to make way for new centers at the expense of those that are already established, operational and successful. This is both bad policy and contrary to congressional intent.

As the author of the Women's Business Centers Sustainability Act of 1999, I can tell that when the Women's Business Centers Sustainability Act of 1999 was signed into law, it was Congress's intent to protect the established and successful infrastructure of worthy, performing centers. The law was designed to allow all graduating Women's Business Centers that meet certain SBA standards to receive continued funding under sustainability grants, while still allowing for new centers—but not by penalizing those that have already demonstrated their effectiveness.

Currently there are 81 Women's Business Centers in 48 states. Forty-six of these are in the initial program, 29 are already in sustainability, and six more are graduating or have graduated from the initial program and are now applying for sustainability grants. Because the SBA is incorrectly interpreting the funding formula for sustainability grants in order to open new centers, and in order to accommodate funding for potentially six new sustainability centers, those from Georgia, Iowa, Illinois, North Carolina, Texas, and Washington State, the amount of funds reserved for Women's Business Centers in sustainability must be increased from 30.2 percent to 36 percent.

This legislation does just that. It directs the SBA to reserve 36 percent of the appropriated funds for the sustainability portion of Women's Business Centers program—even though the

SBA already has the authority on its own to increase the reserve—thereby protecting the established Women's Business Centers from almost certain grant funding cuts and still providing enough funds to open six or more new centers across the country.

I want to again express my sincere and steadfast support for the growing community of women entrepreneurs across the Nation and for the invaluable programs through which the SBA provides women business owners with the tools they need to succeed. As a long-time advocate for women entrepreneurs and SBA's programs, my record in support of the SBA's women's programs and for women business owners speaks for itself. I have continually fought for increased funding for the women's programs at the SBA, for sustaining and expanding the women's business centers, and for giving women entrepreneurs their deserved representation within the Federal procurement process, to name a few. With respect to laws assisting women-owned businesses, I have been proud to either introduce the underlying legislation or strongly advocate to ensure their passage and adequate funding.

This bill is necessary to continue the good work of SBA's Women's Business Center network, and I urge all of my colleagues to support it.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read the third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements regarding this matter be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 1247) was read the third time and passed, as follows:

S. 1247

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Women's Business Centers Preservation Act of 2003".

SEC. 2. SUSTAINABILITY GRANTS FOR WOMEN'S BUSINESS CENTERS.

Section 29(k)(4)(A)(iv) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 656(k)(4)(A)(iv)) is amended by striking "30.2 percent" and inserting "36 percent".

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL EPILEPSY AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Con. Res. 48 and that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 48) supporting the goals and ideals of "National Epilepsy Awareness Month" and urging funding for epilepsy research and service programs.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment to the concurrent resolution be agreed to; that the resolution, as amended, be agreed to; that the amendment to the preamble be agreed to; that the preamble, as amended, be agreed to; that the amendment to the title be agreed to; that the title, as amended, be agreed to; that the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, all without intervening action or debate; and that any statements relating to the concurrent resolution be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 924) was agreed to, as follows:

On page 3, line 2, strike "an annual" and insert "a".

On page 3, line 6, after the semicolon insert "and".

On page 3, line 7, strike "an increase in funding" and insert "support".

On page 3, line 10, strike "; and" and all that follows and insert a period.

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 48), as amended, was agreed to.

The amendment (No. 925) was agreed to, as follows:

After the eighth clause of the preamble, insert the following:

Whereas a significant number of people with epilepsy may lack access to medical care for the treatment of the disease;

The preamble, as amended, was agreed to.

The resolution, as amended, with its preamble, as amended, reads as follows:

S. CON. RES. 48

Whereas epilepsy is a neurological condition that causes seizures and affects 2,300,000 people in the United States;

Whereas a seizure is a disturbance in the electrical activity of the brain, and 1 in every 12 Americans will suffer at least 1 seizure;

Whereas 180,000 new cases of seizures and epilepsy are diagnosed each year, and 3 percent of Americans will develop epilepsy by the time they are 75;

Whereas 41 percent of people who currently have epilepsy experience persistent seizures despite the treatment they are receiving;

Whereas a survey conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention demonstrated that the hardships imposed by epilepsy are comparable to those imposed by cancer, diabetes, and arthritis;

Whereas epilepsy in older children and adults remains a formidable barrier to leading a normal life by affecting education, employment, marriage, childbearing, and personal fulfillment;

Whereas uncontrollable seizures in a child can create multiple problems affecting the child's development, education, socialization, and daily life activities;

Whereas the social stigma surrounding epilepsy continues to fuel discrimination, and isolates people who suffer from seizure disorders from mainstream life;

Whereas a significant number of people with epilepsy may lack access to medical care for the treatment of the disease;

Whereas in spite of these formidable obstacles, people with epilepsy can live healthy and productive lives and make significant contributions to society;

Whereas November is an appropriate month to designate as "National Epilepsy Awareness Month"; and

Whereas the designation of a "National Epilepsy Awareness Month" would help to focus attention on, and increase understanding of, epilepsy and those people who suffer from it: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of a "National Epilepsy Awareness Month";

(2) requests the President to issue a proclamation declaring a "National Epilepsy Awareness Month";

(3) calls upon the American people to observe "National Epilepsy Awareness Month" with appropriate programs and activities; and

(4) urges support for epilepsy research programs at the National Institutes of Health and at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The amendment (No. 926) was agreed to, as follows:

Amend the title as to read: A concurrent resolution supporting the goals and ideals of "National Epilepsy Awareness Month" and urging support for epilepsy research and service programs.

The title, as amended, was agreed to.

THE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar Nos. 135 and 136 en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the Senate will proceed to the measures en bloc.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to en bloc; that the preambles be agreed to en bloc; that the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc; and that any statements relating to the resolutions be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CENTENNIAL OF WILBUR AND ORVILLE WRIGHT'S FIRST FLIGHT

The resolution (S. Res. 141) recognizing "Inventing Flight: The Centennial Celebration," a celebration in Dayton, Ohio, of the centennial of Wilbur and Orville Wright's first flight, was considered and agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 141

Whereas 2003 marks the centennial of Wilbur and Orville Wright's achievement of the first controlled, powered flight in history;

Whereas Wilbur and Orville Wright grew up and worked at a bicycle shop in Dayton, Ohio, where they developed, built, and refined the first successful, heavier-than-air, manned, powered aircraft;

Whereas the Wright brothers developed the world's first flying field, the world's first flying school, and the world's first airplane manufacturing company in the Dayton area;

Whereas many legacies of the Wrights' inventiveness and creativity still exists in the region, including Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, the Dayton Aviation Heritage

National Historical Park, the United States Air Force Museum, the National Aviation Hall of Fame, the Wright "B" Flyers, and the Engineers Club of Dayton;

Whereas the city of Dayton, area communities, a number of civic groups, private businesses, government agencies, and military partners, are joining together to honor the Nation's aerospace achievements;

Whereas Dayton is considered the "Birthplace of Aviation" and from July 3 through July 20, 2003, the Dayton region will host "Inventing Flight: The Centennial Celebration", the largest public centennial event in Ohio celebrating the first flight and one of only 4 events nationwide endorsed as a full partner by the United States Centennial of Flight Commission; and

Whereas the celebration will feature pavilions with aviation displays, blimp and hot-air balloon races, dance and cultural performances, river shows, historical reenactments, an international air and space symposium, National Aviation Hall of Fame ceremonies, and a military and general aviation show at the Dayton International Airport: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate recognizes "Inventing Flight: The Centennial Celebration", a celebration in Dayton, Ohio of the centennial of Wilbur and Orville Wright's first flight.

COMMENDING THE FRANCIS MARION UNIVERSITY PATRIOTS MEN'S GOLF TEAM

The resolution (S. Res. 163) commending the Francis Marion University Patriots men's golf team for winning the 2003 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division II Men's Golf Championship was considered and agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 163

Whereas on Friday, May 27, 2003, the Francis Marion University Patriots men's golf team won the 2003 NCAA Division II Men's Golf Championship, the first National Championship for Francis Marion University since it left the Peach Belt Conference in 1992 and moved to Division II;

Whereas the Patriots finished the Championship with a four-round total of 1,149 strokes, for 3 shots under par, beating the second place Rollins College Tars by 14 strokes;

Whereas the Patriots won the National Championship on the course of Crosswater Golf Club in Sunriver, Oregon;

Whereas the Patriots finished the season with a 112-43-2 record against opponents ranked in the top 25 teams in the country;

Whereas the Patriots led at the end of every round and became the second straight team to win the National Championship as an at-large selection;

Whereas players Fredrik Ohlsson, Matt Dura, and Dylan Keylock were honored as All-Americans, and Juan Pablo Bossi and Per Hallberg earned honorable mention recognition for the 2002-03 season;

Whereas Francis Marion University men's golf team has displayed outstanding dedication, teamwork, and sportsmanship throughout the season in achieving Division II collegiate golf's highest honor; and

Whereas the Patriots have brought pride and honor to the State of South Carolina: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends the Francis Marion University Patriots for winning the 2003 National

Collegiate Athletic Association Division II Men's Golf Championship;

(2) recognizes the achievements of all the team's players, coaches, and staff and invites them to the United States Capitol Building to be honored in an appropriate manner; and

(3) directs the Secretary of the Senate to make available enrolled copies of this resolution to Francis Marion University for appropriate display and to transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to each coach and member of the 2003 NCAA Division II Men's Golf Championship team from Francis Marion University.

ORDERS FOR FRIDAY, JUNE 13, 2003

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in adjournment until 9:30 a.m., Friday, June 13. I further ask unanimous consent that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate then begin a period for morning business until the hour of 10 a.m., with the first 15 minutes under the control of Senator HUTCHISON and the remaining 15 minutes under the control of the minority leader or his designee; provided that at 10 a.m., the Senate proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 218, the nomination of R. Hewitt Pate, to be an assistant attorney general, as provided under the previous order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, for the information of all Senators, tomorrow morning the Senate will be in a period for morning business until 10 a.m. Under a previous order, at 10 a.m. the Senate will proceed to executive session and immediately vote on the nomination of R. Hewitt Pate to be an assistant attorney general. This will be the first and last vote of tomorrow's session.

As a reminder, there will be no votes during Monday's session. We will be in session on Monday for Senators to make their opening remarks on the Medicare/prescription drug bill.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:59 p.m., adjourned until Friday, June 13, 2003, at 9:30 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate June 12, 2003: