

During her years at Manual and YPAS, Dr. Keepers has earned the respect of students and teachers alike. She has made the campuses safer, kept the schools up to date with the latest technologies, strove to make student's voices heard, and worked hard to continue the long standing tradition of excellence at Manual High School and YPAS.

If all this work were not enough, Dr. Keepers was recently a student herself. She went back to school in 2000 and completed her doctorate in educational leadership and organizational development at my alma mater, the University of Louisville, where she was named to the dean's list and was recognized with an Outstanding Student award.

Dr. Keepers' hectic schedule does not end when the school bell rings either. While she has shown tireless dedication by working 70-hour weeks, she remains devoted to her family: husband Jerry, and their two daughters, Tiffany and Lauren.

While most would say her contributions to the Louisville community are more than enough, she is quite active outside of school. She serves as a board member of the Kentucky Derby Festival and Kosair Children's Hospital and has participated in Leadership Louisville and the Bingham Fellows.

Today I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring and recognizing Dr. Beverly Keepers as a truly remarkable member of the Louisville community.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2003

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. On May 1, 2003, Senator KENNEDY and I introduced the Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act, a bill that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

On May 19, 2002, in Wise, VA, Joseph Armstrong murdered his cellmate, Kenneth Boothe Jr., at Red Onion State Prison. During the trial, prosecutors contended Armstrong killed Boothe because he hated gays and blacks and thought Boothe was gay.

I believe that the Government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act is a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

MINNESOTA'S FAVORITE TEACHERS

Mr. DAYTON. Mr. President, Recently I invited Minnesotans to honor their favorite teachers. The response was overwhelming.

Over 4,000 Minnesotans nominated their favorite teachers. Many teachers were nominated more than once. Cur-

rent students nominated present teachers. Older Minnesotans nominated teachers from years, even decades, ago.

Many of the honored teachers are still actively teaching; others are now retired; some have passed away. I wish there was time here and space in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to read all of the words of admiration and gratitude, which accompanied those 4,000 nominations.

They were truly heartwarming. Very successful adults credited special teachers with turning their lives around; helping them to recognize their undiscovered talents, or sparking interests which led to their successful careers.

The specific details varied but the conclusions were the same. Those teachers made huge differences in the lives of their students. They saved lives. They made lives. They taught more than their subjects. They taught ways of thinking, ways of being. They taught study skills and the value of hard work. They helped boys and girls; young women and young men to find themselves, to believe in themselves, and to better themselves. They helped young dreamers learn how to live out those dreams and how to make them life-enhancing realities.

We do too little to credit and honor the many teachers—dedicated men and women—who perform these human miracles for our children. They are modestly paid at best, underpaid at worst, although most of them do not teach for monetary rewards. They teach for their love of teaching, for the joys of performing their magical awakening of young minds to new possibilities. They take personal satisfaction in their own knowledge of their successes, even when they are seldom recognized and appreciated by the rest of us. It may be only years later that someone thinks to note their incredible contributions. Now is one those moments.

Sadly, in Minnesota, there is mostly bashing and trashing of public school teachers and public schools. They are paid \$2,500 less than the national averages for public school K-12 teachers. Their class sizes are larger than the national average. State support for public school students is declining, both in real dollars and relative to other states. They are asked to do more and more, with less and less.

The least we can do is to say thank you, when they do their jobs well. I encourage my fellow Minnesotans to thank a teacher this week or this month, and next week or next month. Either a present or former teacher. For a special job, well done. They deserve it. They have earned it.

I ask unanimous consent that names of teachers nominated by Minnesotans as their favorite teachers be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

ABE Program (Burnsville)—Dorien Busch; Academia Cesar Chavez—Melissa Deeb;

Academy of Holy Angels—Nancy Alcombright, Johanna Giesen, Kate Hanson, Mary Jonas, James Page, Gregg Sawyer; Academy of Saints Peter & Paul—Rachel Gapinsky, Molly Green-Tandberg, Mrs. Whitmore; Adams Elementary (Coon Rapids)—Jenny Popp, Tim Simonson; Adams Magnet Elementary (St. Paul)—Casey Cavanaugh, Ruth Gandara, Tatiana Leiva, Andrea Marcy, Marina Median, Amy Ottaviani, Tamara Ramirez, Shelly Stevens, Carrie Webber; Adrian Elementary—Jolene Henning; Afton-Lakeland Elementary—Caroline DeRuck, Colleen Hayne, Derek Olson; AGAPE-ALC (St. Paul)—Rosemary Dosch; Akin Road Elementary—Anita Ruthenbeck; Albany High School—Bill Krogman; Albert Lea High School—Jill Donahue, Paul Kile; Albertville ECSE Program—Linda Foss; Albrook School—Kit Davis, Sandra Olson; Alden-Conger Secondary School—Marty Anderson; Alice Smith Elementary—Anne Crowe, Ms. Lynch, Martha Mason, Jody Olson, Carla Perrier, Shelley Varner; Alta Elementary—Cary Friedrich; Alternative Learning Center (Norwood-Young America)—Dennis Staneck; American Indian Magnet—Ms. Fairbanks, Heidi Nakatani; Ames Elementary—John Weimholt; Anderson Open Elementary—Deb Becker, Martha Purcell, Jo Thies, Tony Trelles; Andover—Patti Bollinger; Andover Elementary—Mrs. Bastian, Gail Fessler, Mrs. Vanarsdale, Linda Zdenek, Terry Zumberg, Sue Casey; Andover High School—Deb Aarsch, Stew Lasky, Renee Voltin; Annandale Middle School—Troy Davidson, Pam Peterson; Anne Sullivan Communication Center—Susette Brandon, Pat Coonen-Korte, Molly Coyne, Sharon DeLisle, Joyce Graham, Alan Husby, Ron Hustvedt, Sue Levahn; Annunciation School—Marie Murphy, Mrs. Nixon, Mary Strickland; Anoka—Joleen Lundeen; Anoka High School—Mr. Alhquist, Mr. Baufield, Scott Birkliid, Jeff Buerkle, Mr. Coffee, Marilee Gustafson, Peter Hayes, Morrie Johnson, Paul Kelley, Bob and Susan Kimball, Mr. Rignell, Brenda Selander, Mr. Wicks;

Anoka-Ramsey Community College—Steve Beste, Gorrdy Wax; Anoka-Hennepin Community College—Judy Klein-Pells, Lea Yager; Anwatin Middle School—Ed Barlow, Lou Byers, Dennis Debe, Tom Muehlbauer, Steven Polen, Libby Schubert, Tanna Swanson, Chris Wernimont, Jackie Williams; Apollo High School—Sue Peterka; Apple Valley High School—Cathy Campbell, Mike Egstad, Barry Gimpel, Robert Helgeson, Thomas O'Neill, Frank Pasquerella, Ron Ronning, Wenzel Ruhmann; Arden Hills—Mr. Price; Argosy University—Susan Hines; Arlington High School—Allan Grady, Tami Molkenbur, Michelle Monogue, Diana Morton, Ms. Page, Mark Rawlings, Claudia Reeve, Sue Tuggle; Armatage Elementary—Sue Allen, Jane Campbell, Hern Livermore, Mary Shaffer, Les Beudoin; Armstrong High School—Mary Davis, Jill Wolpert; ARTech Charter School (Northfield)—Anne Klawiter; Ashland Middle School—Ms. Heino; Assumption School—Ms. Kolidji; Augsburg College—Dal Liddle, John Shockley; Augustan College—Janina Ehrlich; Austin High School—Maurine Carver, Peter Schmidt; Avalon Charter School—Nora Whalen; Aveda Institute—Lyndon Barsten, Joe Lopez; Avon Elementary—Ridell Mathwison; Bailey Elementary—Renee Birkholtz; Baker Elementary—Florence Allen, Sue Powell; Baldwin-Woodville High School—Marti Koller; Bamber Valley Elementary—Janet Carlson; Bancroft Elementary—Mrs. Johnson, Jill Loesch, Danton Tyree; Barton Open Elementary—Mary Austin, Mark Downing, Laura Ellison, Karin Emerson, Lee Fabel, Maryann Fabel, Allison Forester, M. Gauthier, Kate Glasenapp, Robin Jacobs, Chris Jaglo, John

Kline, Julie Martin, Patrice Pavek, Helena Perry, Amber Place, Scott Slocum, Jane Spicer, Jackie Sullivan; Basswood Elementary—Wendy Forsyth, Ms. Lalin, Reene Williams; Battle Creek Magnet Elementary—Jennifer Carwright, Joan Hunkeke; Bay View Elementary (Duluth)—Sue Hieb; Bayview Elementary (Waconia)—Stacy Gustafson; Becker High School—Sue Meyer, Dan Olson, Lisa Sackett, Joini Svaren; Becker Intermediate Elementary—Joan O'Brian; Becker Middle School—Wayne Johnson, Jennifer Mahowald, Sandy Hayes; Bel Air Elementary—Debbie Raymond; Belle Plain Elementary—Diane Hanson; Belle Plaine Junior High—Steven Schroeder; Bemidji—Orin Ecternach, Mrs. Sanford; Bemidji High School—Dan Bryant, James Saari, Diane Sharpe;

Bemloji Middle School—Kent Nichols, Moe Webb; Bemidji State University—Mark Christensen; Ben Franklin Junior High—Dy Fladland; Bendix Elementary—Brian Atkinson, Ms. Fee; Benilde-Saint Margaret's School—Michael Jeremiah, Sylvian Sundrom, Mrs. Zahedi; Benjamin Banneker Middle School—Scott Grabowski, Delores Lemp; Bethune Elementary—Elizabeth Bergu, Sandi Sween; Birch Grove Elementary—Mrs. Johnson, Tanya Stember; Birchview Elementary—Marianne Brinda, Kathy Henkel, Douglas Johnson, Shannon Peterson; Birchwood Elementary (Duluth)—Milton Hill; Birchwood Elementary (Plymouth)—Jill Freshwaters; Bird Island Elementary—Betsy Hennen; Bishop Elementary—Mrs. Barnes; Black Hawk Middle School—Alan Glass, Mrs. Windgate; Blaine High School—Frank Shelton, Robert Strand, Joyce Banghart, Robert Godding, Alan Krantz, Mr. Mesick, Bradley Miller, Bruce Olson, Larry Osnek, Walt Pimlott, Kathleen Pimlott, Ed Schaeffe, Ms. Sundberg, Jean Wontor; Blessed Sacrament School (St. Paul)—Angie Kelcher; Blessed Sacrament School (Toledo, OH)—Mrs. Tansey, Mrs. Wyrick; Bloomington—Mike Becker, Carol Berg, Debbie Rohde, Mrs. Russell, Jan Tweet, All Bloomington School District Teachers; Blue Heron Elementary—Ms. Kegley, Kathy Perreault, Mandy Hidabrand; Bluff Creek Elementary—Sharla Ekegren, Lisa Gilbert, Susan Gulstrand; Braham Area Secondary School—Herman Aune; Brainard High School—Sue Headlee, Alan Hewitt, Keith Peterson; Breck School—Mrs. Barton, Jane Bartow, Peter Clark, Penny Donelson, Dan Dotteny, Mr. Thomas, Sara Thorne, Bonnie Zeff; Bridgewater Elementary—Lee Murray; Brimhall Elementary—Lonnice Doberstein, Shirley Heiligman, Ann Hobbie, Margaret Kuhfield, Marina Liadova, Rich Olson, Ms. Tyler; Brooklyn Center High School—Robert Jacobson, Roger Dick, Ben Vennes; Brookland Park—Mrs. Lafrenz, Judith Nelson, Tracey Williams; Brooklyn Park Junior High—Al Daas, Cindy Knight, Mr. Johnson; Brookside Education Center—Mary Hinnekamp; Brown College—Lyn Bell, Rick Murray; Bruce F. Vento Elementary—Laura Vargo, Marjorie Smith; Bryn Mawr Elementary—Annette Gagliardi, Suzanne Greenberg, Joann Parker, Jeanie Revor; Buchtel Senior High School (Akron, OH)—James Wortham; Budd Elementary—Michelle Rosen; Buffalo Community Middle School—Mrs. Baunschmidt, Greg Blacik, Suzanne Habisch, Barry Johnson, Joan Olson; Buffalo High School—Gerry Bakke, Mrs. Cary, Tracy Hagstrom, David Robinson, Joel Squadroni, Mrs. Soderman; Burnsville—Mrs. Ubbelohde, Ms. Conrad, Shannon Westerback, Dan Wolf, Mrs. Wolter, Matt Deutsch, Mrs. Druge, Kevin Floyd, Linda Goude, Jenny Hugstad-Vaa, Andy Karageorgiu, Jeff Marshall, Cheryl Thorson, Harlan Ernisee, David Griffith;

Burroughs Elementary—Tim Cadotte, Mrs. Curtis, Ms. Davies, Theresa Fee, Norman

Hauer, Joe Janssen, Mr. Kilabarda, Samuel Larsen, Greg Moen; Byron Elementary—Rebecca Demmer, C.H.I.L.D. Preschool, Fairview University Medical Center—Rose Beauchamp; Cambridge—Isanti School District—Chris Miller; Calvin Christian School—Amanda Kubacki; Cambridge Middle School—Mark Rothbauer; Cambridge-Isanti High School—Bruce Anderson, Kathy Dolezal, Bob Dolezal, Rebecca Lieser, John Porisch, Shane Weibel; Cannon Falls Elementary—Nancy Berhow, Staff of Cannon Falls Elementary; Cannon Falls High School—John Fogarty, Pat Senjum; Cannon Falls Middle School—Carol McNeary; Capitol Hill Elementary—Robert Burns, Barbara Ford, Mrs. Gulner; Capitol Hill Magnet—Renne Antonow, John Benda, Robert Burns, Mr. Lewter, Annette Lopez, John Maycock, Jane McKim, Mrs. Ochi-Watson, John Porter, Nancy Randall, Mr. Scott, Tom DeGree, Lucy Kanson, Niemiec Marian, Marti Starr, Mary Steffy, Carlton Elementary—Kathryn Vigliaturo; Carlton High School—Mr. Gardner; Carondelet Catholic School—Kevin Bagley, Anna Hoffman, Jeff Ruhnke, Mr. Wright; Carver Elementary—Kathryn Gantriss, Patti Life, Sandy Winegarden; Carver-Scott Education Cooperative—Cindy Walters; Castle Elementary—Barb Ives, Joyce Tonn, Micah Friese; Cedar Creek Community School—Mrs. Mozetti, Pete Rose; Cedar Island Elementary—Norma Hughes, Ms. Tobler, Chuck Waltz, Jennifer Leslie, All Cedar Island Elementary Teachers; Cedar Manor Elementary—Marriah Davis; Cedar Park Elementary—Mrs. Kouba, Mrs. Rustad, Sandy Spitzner; Cedar Rapids Community Schools—Dora McNulty, Mr. Moran, Jan Schrader; Cedar Ridge Elementary (Eden Prairie)—Beth Kohls, Barry Zeeb; Cedar Riverside Community School (Minneapolis)—Stephanie Byrdziak; Cedar School—Joan Ward; Cedarburg High School—Robert Merklein; Centennial Elementary (Circle Pines)—Mrs. Doble, Ms. Fritz, Mr. Gutbrod, Amy Halbur, Emily Hjelte, Rhonda Stone, Mr. Wirkkunen; Centennial Elementary (Richfield)—Erica Busta-Loken, Jake Jauert, Becky Rysted; Centennial High School (Circle Pines)—Duane, John Eret, Nicole Larson, Greg Schmidt, Nicole Sherry, Jeff Welciek, David Wolff; Centennial Junior High (Lino Lakes)—Mrs. Allen; Centennial Middle School (Lino Lakes)—Jill Ehlen Christian Gould, Suzanne Horne, Erica Joy Johnson, Karen Ross-Brown, Greg Schnagl, Laurie Tangren, Ann Thomsen;

Centerville Elementary School—Ann Batholomew; Central Community Center (Minneapolis)—Kris Fingerson; Central Community Center Child Care (St. Louis Park)—Beth Shannon; Central Elementary (Norwood)—Dave Rauch; Central Elementary (Winona)—Carol Harbinson; Central High School (Duluth)—Cal Benson; Central High School (Omaha, NE)—Dan Daly; Central High School (St. Paul)—R.C. Demers, John Elwell, Orville Everson, Patry Heim, Mrs. Jithendranathan, Mary Mackbee, Donald Murray, Cathy Nachbar, Tom Niland, Matthew Oyen, Lorraine Potuzak, Meredith Rainbow, John Rousseau, Mrs. Schlukieber, Ms. Speltz, Amy Stelle, Ed Roth; Central Lakes College—Mary Barthel; Central Middle School (Eden Prairie)—Patrick Gallagher, Scott Hackett, Karen Nelson; Central Middle School (Plymouth)—Dan Nielsen; Central Middle School (White Bear Lake)—Kari Jansen; Central Park Elementary (Roseville)—Lisa Bell, Liz Dayton, Gail Hoveland-Wires, Andrew Nielsen, Mrs. Snyder, Ms. Wheton; Central Services Building (Stillwater)—Jo Tate; Century College—Brian Downs, Wayne Haag, Mark Hophmeister, Kim Loomis; Centruy High School (Rochester)—Shane Baker, Sonia Ellsworth, Lanny Kolpek, Jean Marvin, Phil-

lip Olson, Kari Stellpflug; Century Junior High (Forest Lake)—Patricia Cheynne, Ricahrd Hofstede, Glen King, Carol Ruper, Ms. Trampe; Champlin Elementary—Deborah Dille, Geoff Olinyk, Dave Walters, Carol Allen, Mr. Baufield, Kerry Bogenreif, Mrs. Burtness, Karen Gallagher, Ms. Hable, Ryan Holmgren, Bradley Johnson, Vicki Johnson, Amy Kennedy, Steve Lyons, Geoff Olinyk, Mr. Rosenkranz, Clark Sanders, Chris Woodward, Kathy Suski; Chanhassen Elementary—Robin Coleman, Jane Johnson, Jen Ptacek, Janet Snyder, Karen Timmers, Sharon Tupper; Chapel Hill Academy—Mary Stude; Chaska Elementary—Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Kingdig, Gregory Lange, Mr. Shernock, Darla Work; Chaska High School—Fred Berg, Cheryl Boe, Sharah Boehlke, Chris Cormmers, Jason Pelowski, Christopher Schriever; Chaska Middle School East—Chris Behrens, Mrs. Melius, Jill Wimberger; Chaska Middle School West—Ron Cramer, Nate Delowski, Cullen Nelson; Chelsea Heights Elementary—Mr. Barnes, Ms. Barry, Lynn Bartol, Lynn Blumthal, Ron Johnson, Jodie Krogsgang, Ann Linz, Micky Palewicz, Christine Stolz, Diana Swanson, Ms. Young; Cherokee Heights Magnet Elementary—Ms. Otto; Cherry View Elementary—Lynn Dolan, Mrs. Grant, Claudia Nelson, Tina Pearson, Deane Barta, Pat Isbel; Child Garden Montessori—Kathy Sefelt;

Children's Center Montessori—Jean, Lori; Children's Country Day School—Sheila; Chippewa Middle School—Christine Alexander, Keith Anderson, Ms. Carley, Karen Forest, Mrs. Ifkavitch, Judy Klohs, Ms. Nickila, Mrs. Plocher, Ric Seiderkranz, Joseph Thell; Chisago—Katie Hawkins Ahearn; Chisago Lakes Elementary—Jamie Thaler; Chisago Lakes High School—Pat Collins, Jason Mahlen, Peg McCubbin, Diane Spychalla; Chisago Lakes Middle School—Jim Gillach, Linda Guanzini, Lynnett Kutzke, Sally Lundholm, Gloria Peterson, Jim Sauerbry, Paul Swanson; Chosen Valley Elementary—Mary Jasmin; Chosen Valley Elementary—Ms. Mathison; Chosen Valley Elementary—Barb Schroeder; Christ Community Lutheran School—Jeff Boehlke, Barb Laabs, Julie Steinborn, Madeline Strei; Christ Lutheran School—Mark Dobberstein; Christa McAuliffe Elementary—Cindy Belongia; Christ's Household of Faith—Karin Alsbury, Adella Alsbury, David Behum; Churchill Elementary (Rochester)—Mrs. Stekel; Churchill High School (Winnipeg, Canada)—Neil Dempsey; City of Lakes Waldorf School—Emily McLoury, Ms. Ouellette; Cityview Community School—Melissa Kaiser-Crist, Michael Stokes; Clarkfield Junior High School—Tom Diekmann; Clear Springs Elementary—Kaari Cox, Ms. Moret; Clearbrook-Gonvick High School—Jacob Boomgaarden; Clearwater Middle School (Waconia)—Jeff Radel; Cleveland Middle School (St. Paul)—Mary Cathryn Ricker; Cleveland Public School (Cleveland)—Greg Davis; Clinton-Graceville-Beardsley High School—Randy Giles; Cloquet High School—Dan Naslund; Clover Ridge Elementary—Heather Miller, Jeffier Shinn; Coleraine—Tom Patnaude; College of Saint Benedict—Mara Faulkner, Dale White; College of Saint Catherine—Patricia Eldred, Dale McGowan, Julie Ashland, Aruni Fernando; Colorado Spring—Ann Elrod; Columbia Heights High School—Jim Jungers, Dan Shuck, Kris Svedberg; Columbus Elementary School—Sharon DeRaad; Community of Peace Academy—Tim Danz, Susan Gottlieb, Carrie Eicher; Community/Family Education Center (St. Paul)—Sue Betten; Como Park Elementary—Susan Munion; Como Park High School—Jeff Gosse, Mr. Grebner, Mike Lewis, Roy Magnuson, Sharon Mason; Concord Elementary—Deborah Carroll, Colin Friden, Kari Ingemann, Ms. Koster, Kimberly Moore, Pam Olson, Leslie Stacey, Mrs.

Swanson, Holly Thiede, Rosemary Thiel; Concordia Academy (Roseville)—Dean Dunnavan, Micah Treichel; Concordia College of Bronxville—Mandara Nakhai.

NUCLEAR MEDICINE WEEK

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I rise today to remind my colleagues that this week, October 3 through October 9, is Nuclear Medicine Week. Nuclear Medicine Week is the first week in October every year and is an annual celebration initiated by the Society of Nuclear Medicine. Each year, Nuclear Medicine Week is celebrated internationally at hospitals, clinics, imaging centers, educational institutions, corporations, and more.

I am particularly proud to note that Dr. Henry Royal, a physician practicing nuclear medicine at the Mallinckrodt Institute of Radiology in St. Louis, is a constituent and immediate-past president of the Society of Nuclear Medicine. The Society of Nuclear Medicine is an international scientific and professional organization of more than 15,000 members dedicated to promoting the science, technology and practical applications of nuclear medicine. I commend him and his colleagues for their outstanding work in the field of nuclear medicine and for their dedication to caring for people with cancer and other serious and life-threatening illnesses that can be diagnosed, managed, and treated with medical isotopes via nuclear medicine procedures.

With nuclear medicine, health care providers can use a safe, noninvasive procedure to gather information about a patient's condition that might otherwise be unavailable or have to be obtained through surgery or more expensive diagnostic tests. Nuclear medicine procedures often identify abnormalities very early in the progression of a disease—long before some medical problems are apparent with other diagnostic tests. This early detection allows a disease to be treated early in its course, when there may be a more successful prognosis.

An estimated 16 million nuclear medicine imaging and therapeutic procedures are performed each year in the United States. Of these, 40 to 50 percent are cardiac exams and 35 to 40 percent are oncology related. Nuclear medicine procedures are among the safest diagnostic imaging tests available. The amount of radiation from a nuclear medicine procedure is comparable to that received during a diagnostic x-ray.

Nuclear medicine tests, also known as scans, examinations, or procedures, are safe and painless. In a nuclear medicine test, small amounts of medical isotopes are introduced into the body by injection, swallowing, or inhalation. A special camera, PET or gamma camera, is then used to take pictures of your body. The camera does this by detecting the medical isotope in the target organ, bone or tissue and thus

forming images that provide data and information about that area of your body. This is how nuclear medicine differs from an x-ray, ultrasound or other diagnostic test—it determines the presence of disease based on function rather than anatomy.

Recently, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' announced its decision to approve coverage of positron emission tomography or PET for Medicare beneficiaries who have suspected Alzheimer's disease. This decision will allow physicians to obtain an early and more definitive diagnosis and to begin treatment at the time when it provides the best chance of prolonging cognitive function for our Medicare beneficiaries. Some of the more frequently performed nuclear medicine procedures include: bone scans to examine orthopedic injuries, fractures, tumors or unexplained bone pain; heart scans to identify normal or abnormal blood flow to the heart muscle, measure heart function or determine the existence or extent of damage to the heart muscle after a heart attack; breast scans that are used in conjunction with mammograms to more accurately detect and locate cancerous tissue in the breasts; liver and gallbladder scans to evaluate liver and gallbladder function; cancer imaging to detect tumors and determine the severity—staging—of various types of cancer; treatment of thyroid diseases and certain types of cancer; brain imaging to investigate problems within the brain itself or in blood circulation to the brain; renal imaging in children to examine kidney function.

Unfortunately, the field of nuclear medicine is not attracting enough incoming students to fill the current demand for nuclear medicine technologists—usually called NMTs. Currently, there is approximately an 18-percent vacancy of NMTs as determined by the American Hospital Association, AHA. By 2010, the Bureau of Labor Statistics, BLS, projects that the U.S. will need an additional 8,000 NMTs to fill the projected demand created by the aging workforce and expanding senior population. Over the next 20 years, the BLS expects that there will be a 140-percent increase in the demand for imaging services. The use of diagnostic imaging services has been increasing by approximately four percent a year, even as the number of certified NMTs and registered radiologic technologists has remained stable. As a result, imaging technologists often work longer shifts, and patients can face weeks of delay for routine exams.

A similar situation is developing for nuclear medicine physicians. According to the American Board of Medical Specialties, there currently are 4,087 certified nuclear medicine physicians in the United States. At the same time, the number of physician training programs is also declining, exacerbating the future shortage.

Over the next 20 years, the number of people over the age of 65 is expected to

double at the exact same time when the nation will face shortages of medical personnel—including nurses, NMTs, physicians, laboratory personnel, and other specialists. With an increasing number of people needing specialized care—such as nuclear medicine—coupled with an inadequate workforce, our Nation quickly could face a healthcare crisis of serious proportions with limited access to quality cancer care, particularly in traditionally underserved areas.

I encourage my colleagues to support Nuclear Medicine Week, to support policies such as the newly released CMS decision, and to support increased funding for programs so that our Nation will have a sufficient supply of nuclear medicine physicians and technologists to care for all patients in need of nuclear medicine procedures and related care.

CHIP PROTECTION AND IMPROVEMENT ACT

Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, I introduced S. 2759, along with my colleague, Senator ROCKEFELLER, to help States with healthy State Children's Health Insurance programs remain strong, so that they may continue to provide high-quality health care coverage to the children they serve. Our bill achieves this objective by allowing States to keep \$1.1 billion in expiring funds in the SCHIP program and continuing current law redistribution rules through 2007.

Concerns have been expressed that S. 2759 would not reallocate SCHIP funds in an effective manner and that States cannot utilize their current SCHIP allotments. Proponents of this view believe the expiring SCHIP funds could be more effectively used for outreach and enrollment in the program. We fully support greater outreach and enrollment, but do not believe that it should come at the expense of providing adequate health insurance to children currently served by the program. In 2003, due to State budget deficits, seven States capped enrollment in their SCHIP. Over the next few years, unless we extend the availability of existing SCHIP funds and target them to the States with the most need, many States will lack adequate funds to meet their existing need, much less enroll more eligible but uninsured children. It is also important to note that ten percent of the amount States spend on coverage can be spent on administrative costs, including outreach. Consequently, an increase in coverage would also increase the funding States have for outreach and enrollment. Moreover, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation currently provides SCHIP outreach grants to community health centers, hospitals, and faith-based organizations through its Covering Kids & Families Initiative.

Another criticism of S. 2759 deals with the amount of money States will have available in fiscal year 2005.