

(1) by striking "Phase B" in subsection (a) and inserting "implementation";

【(2) by striking "\$150,000,000" in subsection (a) and inserting "\$250,000,000";】

【(3)】 (2) by striking "Chief Financial Officer" each place it appears in subsection (a) and inserting "Administrator";

【(4)】 (3) by inserting "and consider" in subsection (a) after "shall conduct"; and

【(5)】 (4) by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following:

"(b) IMPLEMENTATION DEFINED.—In this section, the term 'implementation' means all activity in the life cycle of a program or project after preliminary design, independent assessment of the preliminary design, and approval to proceed into implementation, including critical design, development, certification, launch, operations, disposal of assets, and, for technology programs, development, testing, analysis and communication of the results to the customers."

**SEC. 506. ELECTRONIC ACCESS TO BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES.**

Title III of the National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958, as amended by section 604 of this Act, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

**"SEC. 319. ELECTRONIC ACCESS TO BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES.**

"(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator may implement a pilot program providing for reduction in the waiting period between publication of notice of a proposed contract action and release of the solicitation for procurements conducted by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

"(b) APPLICABILITY.—The program implemented under subsection (a) shall apply to non-commercial acquisitions—

"(1) with a total value in excess of \$100,000 but not more than \$5,000,000, including options;

"(2) that do not involve bundling of contract requirements as defined in section 3(o) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632(o)); and

"(3) for which a notice is required by section 8(e) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(e)) and section 18(a) of the Office of Federal Procurement Policy Act (41 U.S.C. 416(a)).

"(c) NOTICE.—

"(1) NOTICE OF ACQUISITIONS SUBJECT TO THE program authorized by this section shall be made accessible through the single Government-wide point of entry designated in the Federal Acquisition Regulation, consistent with section 30(c)(4) of the Office of Federal Procurement Policy Act (41 U.S.C. 426(c)(4)).

"(2) Providing access to notice in accordance with paragraph (1) satisfies the publication requirements of section 8(e) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(e)) and section 18(a) of the Office of Federal Procurement Policy Act (41 U.S.C. 416(a)).

"(d) SOLICITATION.—Solicitations subject to the program authorized by this section shall be made accessible through the Government-wide point of entry, consistent with requirements set forth in the Federal Acquisition Regulation, except for adjustments to the wait periods as provided in subsection (e).

"(e) WAIT PERIOD.—

"(1) Whenever a notice required by section 8(e)(1)(A) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(e)(1)(A)) and section 18(a) of the Office of Federal Procurement Policy Act (41 U.S.C. 416(a)) is made accessible in accordance with subsection (c) of this section, the wait period set forth in section 8(e)(3)(A) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(e)(3)(A)) and section 18(a)(3)(A) of the Office of Federal Procurement Policy Act (41 U.S.C. 416(a)(3)(A)), shall be reduced by 5

days. If the solicitation applying to that notice is accessible electronically in accordance with subsection (d) simultaneously with issuance of the notice, the wait period set forth in section 8(e)(3)(A) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(e)(3)(A)) and section 18(a)(3)(A) of the Office of Federal Procurement Policy Act (41 U.S.C. 416(a)(3)(A)) shall not apply and the period specified in section 8(e)(3)(B) of the Small Business Act and section 18(a)(3)(B) of the Office of Federal Procurement Policy Act for submission of bids or proposals shall begin to run from the date the solicitation is electronically accessible.

"(2) When a notice and solicitation are made accessible simultaneously and the wait period is waived pursuant to paragraph (1), the deadline for the submission of bids or proposals shall be not less than 5 days greater than the minimum deadline set forth in section 8(e)(3)(B) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(e)(3)(B)) and section 18(a)(3)(B) of the Office of Federal Procurement Policy Act (41 U.S.C. 416(a)(3)(B)).

"(f) IMPLEMENTATION.—

"(1) Nothing in this section shall be construed as modifying regulatory requirements set forth in the Federal Acquisition Regulation, except with respect to—

"(A) the applicable wait period between publication of notice of a proposed contract action and release of the solicitation; and

"(B) the deadline for submission of bids or proposals for procurements conducted in accordance with the terms of this pilot program.

"(2) This section shall not apply to the extent the President determines it is inconsistent with any international agreement to which the United States is a party.

"(g) STUDY.—Within 18 months after the effective date of the program, NASA, in coordination with the Small Business Administration, the General Services Administration, and the Office of Management and Budget, shall evaluate the impact of the pilot program and submit to Congress a report that—

"(1) sets forth in detail the results of the test, including the impact on competition and small business participation; and

"(2) addresses whether the pilot program should be made permanent, continued as a test program, or allowed to expire.

"(h) REGULATIONS.—The Administrator shall publish proposed revisions to the NASA Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement necessary to implement this section in the Federal Register not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2005. The Administrator shall—

"(1) make the proposed regulations available for public comment for a period of not less than 60 days; and

"(2) publish final regulations in the Federal Register not later than 240 days after the date of enactment of that Act.

"(i) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The pilot program authorized by this section shall take effect on the date specified in the final regulations promulgated pursuant to subsection (h)(2).

"(2) LIMITATION.—The date so specified shall be no less than 30 days after the date on which the final regulation is published.

"(j) EXPIRATION OF AUTHORITY.—The authority to conduct the pilot program under subsection (a) and to award contracts under such program shall expire 2 years after the effective date established in the final regulations published in the Federal Register under subsection (h)(2)."

**SEC. 507. REPORTS ELIMINATION.**

(a) REPEALS.—The following provisions of law are repealed:

(1) Section 201 of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 2451 note).

(2) Section 304(d) of the Federal Aviation Administration Research, Engineering, and Development Authorization Act of 1992 (49 U.S.C. 47508 note).

(3) Section 323 of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2000.

(b) AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Section 315 of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Act of 1958 (42 U.S.C. 2459j) is amended by striking subsection (a) and redesignating subsections (b) through (f) as subsections (a) through (e).

(2) Section 315(a) of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act, Fiscal Year 1993 (42 U.S.C. 2487a(c)) is amended by striking subsection (c) and redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (c).

**VETERANS' BENEFITS IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2005**

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar 218, S. 1235.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1235) to amend chapters 19 and 37 of title 38, United States Code, to extend the availability of \$400,000 in coverage under the servicemembers' life insurance and veterans' group life insurance programs, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill which had been reported from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs with an amendment.

(Strike the part shown in black brackets and insert the part shown in italic.)

S. 1235

*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 "Veterans' Benefits Improvement Act of 2005".】

**【SEC. 2. GROUP LIFE INSURANCE.**

【(a) SERVICEMEMBERS' GROUP LIFE INSURANCE.—Section 1967 of title 38, United States Code, as in effect on October 1, 2005, is amended—

【(1) in subsection (a)—

【(A) in paragraph (2), by adding at the end the following:

【“(C) With respect to a policy of insurance covering an insured member, the Secretary of Defense shall make a good-faith effort to notify the spouse of a member if the member elects, at any time, to—

【“(i) reduce amounts of insurance coverage of an insured member; or

【“(ii) name a beneficiary other than the insured member's spouse.

【“(D) The failure of the Secretary of Defense to provide timely notification under subparagraph (C) shall not affect the validity of an election by the member.

【“(E) If a servicemember marries or remarries after making an election under subparagraph (C), the Secretary of Defense is not required to notify the spouse of such election. Elections made after marriage or remarriage are subject to the notice requirement under subparagraph (C).”]; and

[(B) in paragraph (3)—

[(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking clause (i) and inserting the following:

“(i) In the case of a member, \$400,000.”; and

[(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking “member or spouse” and inserting “member, be evenly divisible by \$50,000 and, in the case of a member’s spouse”; and

[(2) in subsection (d), by striking “\$250,000” and inserting “\$400,000”.

[(b) DURATION OF COVERAGE.—Section 1968(a) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

[(1) in paragraph (1)(A), by striking “one year” and inserting “2 years”; and

[(2) in paragraph (4), by striking “one year” and inserting “2 years”.

[(c) VETERANS’ GROUP LIFE INSURANCE.—Section 1977(a) of title 38, United States Code, as in effect on October 1, 2005, is amended by striking “\$250,000” each place it appears and inserting “\$400,000”.

#### SEC. 3. ADJUSTABLE RATE MORTGAGES.

[Section 3707(c)(4) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “1 percentage point” and inserting “such percentage as the Secretary may prescribe”.

#### SEC. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE.

[The amendments made by this Act shall take effect on October 1, 2005, immediately after the execution of section 1012(i) of Public Law 109-13.]

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Veterans Benefits Improvement Act of 2005”.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

##### Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

###### TITLE I—INSURANCE MATTERS

##### Sec. 101. Group Life Insurance.

##### Sec. 102. Treatment of stillborn children as insurable dependents under Servicemembers’ Group Life Insurance program.

###### TITLE II—HOUSING MATTERS

##### Sec. 201. Adjustable rate mortgages.

##### Sec. 202. Technical corrections to Veterans Benefits Improvement Act of 2004.

##### Sec. 203. Permanent authority for housing loans for Native American veterans.

###### TITLE III—OTHER MATTERS

##### Sec. 301. Annual plan on outreach activities.

##### Sec. 302. Extension of reporting requirements on equitable relief cases.

##### Sec. 303. Inclusion of additional diseases and conditions in diseases and disabilities presumed to be associated with prisoner of war status.

##### Sec. 304. Post traumatic stress disorder claims.

###### TITLE I—INSURANCE MATTERS

#### SEC. 101. GROUP LIFE INSURANCE.

(a) SERVICEMEMBERS’ GROUP LIFE INSURANCE.—Section 1967 of title 38, United States Code, as in effect on October 1, 2005, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (2), by adding at the end the following:

“(C) With respect to a policy of insurance covering an insured member, the Secretary concerned shall make a good-faith effort to notify the spouse of the member, at the last address of the spouse in the records of the Secretary concerned, if the member elects, prior to discharge from the military, naval, or air service, to—

“(i) reduce amounts of insurance coverage of the member; or

“(ii) name a beneficiary other than the member’s spouse or child.

“(D) The failure of the Secretary concerned to provide timely notification under subparagraph (C) shall not affect the validity of an election by a member.

“(E) If an unmarried member marries after having made one or more elections to reduce or decline insurance coverage or to name beneficiaries, the Secretary concerned is not required to notify the spouse of such marriage of such elections. Elections made after such marriage are subject to the notice requirements under subparagraph (C).”; and

(B) in paragraph (3)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking clause (i) and inserting the following:

“(i) In the case of a member, \$400,000.”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking “member or spouse” and inserting “member, be evenly divisible by \$50,000 and, in the case of a member’s spouse”; and

(2) in subsection (d), by striking “\$250,000” and inserting “\$400,000”.

(b) DURATION OF COVERAGE.—Section 1968(a) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)(A), by striking “one year” and inserting “2 years”; and

(2) in paragraph (4), by striking “one year” and inserting “2 years”.

(c) VETERANS’ GROUP LIFE INSURANCE.—Section 1977(a) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “\$250,000” each place it appears and inserting “\$400,000”.

(d) CONSTRUCTION OF CERTAIN OTHER AMENDMENTS.—Notwithstanding subsection (h) of section 1012 of Public Law 109-13, the amendments made by subsections (a)(1), (c), (d), (e)(2), (f), and (g) of such section shall not go into effect on September 1, 2005, as otherwise provided by such subsection (h), and shall not be treated for any purposes as having gone into effect on that date.

(e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—(1) The amendments made by subsection (a) of this section shall take effect on September 1, 2005.

(2) The amendments made by subsections (b) and (c) of this section shall take effect on October 1, 2005, immediately after the execution of section 1012(i) of Public Law 109-13.

(3) If the date of the enactment of this Act occurs after September 1, 2005, and before October 1, 2005, the provisions of paragraph (2) of section 1967(a) of title 38, United States Code, shall, for purposes of the execution of the amendments made by subsection (a) of this section, be such provisions as in effect on May 10, 2005, the day before the date of the enactment of Public Law 109-13.

#### SEC. 102. TREATMENT OF STILLBORN CHILDREN AS INSURABLE DEPENDENTS UNDER SERVICEMEMBERS’ GROUP LIFE INSURANCE PROGRAM.

(a) TREATMENT.—Section 1965(10) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(C) The member’s stillborn child.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 101(4)(A) of such title is amended by striking “section 1965(10)(B)” in the matter preceding clause (i) and inserting “subparagraph (B) or (C) of section 1965(10)”.

###### TITLE II—HOUSING MATTERS

#### SEC. 201. ADJUSTABLE RATE MORTGAGES.

Section 3707A(c)(4) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “1 percentage point” and inserting “such percentage as the Secretary may prescribe”.

#### SEC. 202. TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS TO VETERANS BENEFITS IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2004.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2101 of title 38, United States Code, as amended by section 401 of the Veterans Benefits Improvement Act of 2004 (Public Law 108-454), is further amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (d);

(2) by inserting after subsection (b) a new subsection (c) consisting of the text of subsection (c) of such section 2101 as in effect immediately before the enactment of such Act, modified—

(A) by inserting after “(c)” the following: “ASSISTANCE TO MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES.—”;

(B) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in the first sentence, by striking “paragraph (1), (2), or (3)” and inserting “subparagraph (A), (B), (C), or (D) of paragraph (2)”; and

(ii) in the second sentence, by striking “the second sentence” and inserting “paragraph (3)”; and

(C) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in the first sentence, by striking “paragraph (1)” and inserting “paragraph (2)”; and

(ii) in the second sentence, by striking “paragraph (2)” and inserting “paragraph (3)”; and

(3) in subsection (a)(3), by striking “subsection (c)” in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) and inserting “subsection (d)”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall take effect immediately after the enactment of the Veterans Benefits Improvement Act of 2004 (Public Law 108-454).

#### SEC. 203. PERMANENT AUTHORITY FOR HOUSING LOANS FOR NATIVE AMERICAN VETERANS.

(a) PERMANENT AUTHORITY.—Section 3761 of title 38, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

##### “§3761. Authority for housing loans for Native American veterans

“(a) The Secretary shall make direct housing loans to Native American veterans in accordance with the provisions of this subchapter.

“(b) The purpose of loans under this subchapter is to permit Native American veterans to purchase, construct, or improve dwellings on trust land.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 3762 of such title is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by inserting “under this subchapter” after “Native American veteran” in the matter preceding paragraph (1);

(2) in subsection (b)(1)(E), by striking “in order to ensure” and all that follows and inserting a period;

(3) in subsection (c)(1)(B), by striking “shall be the amount” and all that follows in the second sentence and inserting “shall be such amount as the Secretary considers appropriate for the purpose of this subchapter.”;

(4) in subsection (d)(1), by striking the second sentence;

(5) in subsection (i)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “of the pilot program” and all that follows and inserting “of the availability of direct housing loans for Native American veterans under this subchapter.”; and

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking “under the pilot program” and all that follows and inserting “under this subchapter”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (E), by striking “in participating in the pilot program” and inserting “in participating in the making of direct loans under this subchapter”; and

(6) by striking subsection (j).

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—(1) The heading of subchapter V of chapter 37 of such title is amended to read as follows:

##### “Subchapter V—Housing Loans for Native American Veterans”.

(2) The table of contents for such chapter is amended—

(A) by striking the matter relating to the subchapter heading of subchapter V and inserting the following new item:

##### “SUBCHAPTER V—HOUSING LOANS FOR NATIVE AMERICAN VETERANS”;

and

(B) by striking the item relating to section 3761 and inserting the following new item:

“3761. Authority for housing loans for Native American veterans.”.

###### TITLE III—OTHER MATTERS

#### SEC. 301. ANNUAL PLAN ON OUTREACH ACTIVITIES.

(a) ANNUAL PLAN REQUIRED.—Subchapter II of chapter 5 of title 38, United States Code, is

amended by inserting after section 523 the following new section:

**“§523A. Annual plan on outreach activities**

“(a) ANNUAL PLAN REQUIRED.—The Secretary shall prepare each year a plan for the outreach activities of the Department for the following year.

“(b) ELEMENTS.—Each annual plan under subsection (a) shall include the following:

“(1) Directors for efforts to identify veterans who are not enrolled or registered with the Department for benefits or services under the programs administered by the Secretary.

“(2) Plans for informing veterans and their dependents of modifications of the benefits and services under the programs administered by the Secretary, including eligibility for medical and nursing care and services.

“(c) COORDINATION IN DEVELOPMENT.—In developing an annual plan under subsection (a), the Secretary shall consult with the following:

“(1) Directors or other appropriate officials of organizations approved by the Secretary under section 5902 of this title.

“(2) Directors or other appropriate officials of State and local education and training programs.

“(3) Representatives of non-governmental organizations that carry out veterans outreach programs.

“(4) Representatives of State and local veterans employment organizations.

“(5) Businesses and professional organizations.

“(6) Other individuals and organizations that assist veterans in adjusting to civilian life.

“(d) INCORPORATION OF ASSESSMENT OF PREVIOUS ANNUAL PLANS.—In developing an annual plan under subsection (a), the Secretary shall take into account the lessons learned from the implementation of previous annual plans under such subsection.

“(e) INCORPORATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE OUTREACH AND AWARENESS.—In developing an annual plan under subsection (a), the Secretary shall incorporate the recommendations for the improvement of veterans outreach and awareness activities included in the report submitted to Congress by the Secretary pursuant to section 805 of the Veterans Benefits Improvement Act of 2004 (Public Law 108-454).”

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 523 the following new item:

“523A. Annual plan on outreach activities.”.

**SEC. 302. EXTENSION OF REPORTING REQUIREMENTS ON EQUITABLE RELIEF CASES.**

Section 503(c) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “December 31, 2004” and inserting “December 31, 2009”.

**SEC. 303. INCLUSION OF ADDITIONAL DISEASES AND CONDITIONS IN DISEASES AND DISABILITIES PRESUMED TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH PRISONER OF WAR STATUS.**

Section 1112(b)(3) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraphs:

“(L) Atherosclerotic heart disease or hypertensive vascular disease (including hypertensive heart disease) and their complications (including myocardial infarction, congestive heart failure and arrhythmia).

“(M) Stroke and its complications.”.

**SEC. 304. POST TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER CLAIMS.**

The Secretary shall develop and implement policy and training initiatives to standardize the assessment of post traumatic stress disorder disability compensation claims.

Amend the title so as to read: “To amend title 38, United States Code, to extend the availability of \$400,000 in life insurance coverage to servicemembers and veterans, to make a stillborn child an insurable depend-

ent for purposes of the Servicemembers’ Group Life Insurance program, to make technical corrections to the Veterans Benefits Improvement Act of 2004, to make permanent a pilot program for direct housing loans for Native American veterans, and to require an annual plan on outreach activities of the Department of Veterans Affairs.”.

Mr. GRASSLEY. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute be agreed to, the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed, the amendment to the title be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The bill (S. 1235), as amended, was read the third time and passed.

The title amendment was agreed to.

**ASSISTANCE FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES AFFECTED BY HURRICANES KATRINA AND RITA ACT OF 2005**

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 3864 which was received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3864) to assist individuals with disabilities affected by Hurricanes Katrina or Rita through vocational rehabilitation services.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

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

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

The bill (H.R. 3864) was read the third time and passed.

**HONORING THE LIFE OF SANDRA FELDMAN**

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 256, which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 256) honoring the life of Sandra Feldman.

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

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I extend my deepest sympathies to the family and friends of Sandy Feldman at her untimely passing. We have lost a dedicated educator, a proud labor leader, a committed reformer, and someone my

wife Teresa, and I were so proud to have as a friend in our lives.

From her early days as a civil rights advocate, Sandy had an unshakeable sense of justice and fairness. Sandy did not just talk about helping teachers and their students—she actually did it. While her career spanned more than four decades, Sandy’s commitment grew out of her early work in the civil rights movement. An advocate for civil rights and social justice, she was an activist in the Freedom Rides and the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. It was her firsthand knowledge of the power of an excellent teacher that led Sandy to a lifetime of activism. Sandy understood the importance of quality public education and the wealth of opportunities it can unleash for every student, regardless of who they are or where they’re from.

“Created my future,” that is what Sandy always said about growing up in Brooklyn and the public schools and libraries she spent her childhood in. Sandy’s commitment to education was fueled by her childhood experiences and her dedication to bettering the lives of students and teachers. Beginning as a second grade teacher, Sandy quickly became a union activist when she led the teachers at her elementary school to organize. In 1986, Sandy became president of AFT’s largest affiliate, New York City’s United Federation of Teachers, UFT. During her years as UFT president and then since 1997 when she became president of the AFT, Sandy earned the respect of Presidents, of her colleagues, and of many of us in Congress.

Calling early childhood education “getting it right from the start,” Sandy consistently called for greater investment in public education and a greater emphasis on high standards and increased accountability. Sandy’s focus on early childhood education led her to introduce a program that would provide extended learning opportunities for disadvantaged students before and after the normal kindergarten school year. Within a few years, Sandy’s program, Kindergarten-Plus, had been introduced as Federal legislation, passed or considered in several State legislatures, and passed into law in at least one State.

My hope is that her tragic passing after a courageous battle with cancer will inspire all of us to do just what Sandy fought her entire life for—to make sure we are getting it right from the start and to stand by our children and our teachers. Sandy was an amazing American. I will miss her wisdom and her counsel very much. Our hearts go out to her husband Arthur and their family in this difficult time.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 256) was agreed to.