

that may be related to the etiology of breast cancer.

At the request of Mr. HAGEL, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 757, supra.

S. 843

At the request of Mr. SANTORUM, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 843, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to combat autism through research, screening, intervention and education.

S. 1057

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the names of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) and the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1057, a bill to amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to revise and extend that Act.

S. 1155

At the request of Mr. BROWNBACK, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1155, a bill to establish a commission to conduct a comprehensive review of Federal agencies and programs and to recommend the elimination or realignment of duplicative, wasteful, or outdated functions, and for other purposes.

S. 1173

At the request of Mr. DEMINT, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1173, a bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act to ensure the right of employees to a secret-ballot election conducted by the National Labor Relations Board.

S. 1353

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1353, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the establishment of an Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Registry.

S. 1462

At the request of Mr. SANTORUM, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1462, a bill to promote peace and accountability in Sudan, and for other purposes.

S. 1759

At the request of Mr. CRAIG, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1759, a bill to require the Secretary of the Army to remove the remains of Russell Wayne Wagner from Arlington National Cemetery.

S. 1779

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1779, a bill to amend the Humane Methods of Livestock Slaughter Act of 1958 to ensure the humane slaughter of non-ambulatory livestock, and for other purposes.

S. 1800

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) was added as a cospon-

sor of S. 1800, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the new markets tax credit.

S. 1841

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1841, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide extended and additional protection to Medicare beneficiaries who enroll for the Medicare prescription drug benefit during 2006.

S. CON. RES. 46

At the request of Mr. BROWNBACK, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SANTORUM) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 46, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress that the Russian Federation should fully protect the freedoms of all religious communities without distinction, whether registered and unregistered, as stipulated by the Russian Constitution and international standards.

S. RES. 260

At the request of Mr. BIDEN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. OBAMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 260, a resolution calling for free and fair parliamentary elections in the Republic of Azerbaijan.

S. RES. 277

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. AKAKA) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 277, a resolution supporting the goals of Red Ribbon Week.

AMENDMENT NO. 2182

At the request of Mr. LEVIN, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2182 proposed to H.R. 3058, a bill making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, Treasury, and Housing and Urban Development, the Judiciary, District of Columbia, and independent agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. BURNS:

S. 1909. A bill to improve the provision of telehealth services under the Medicare Program, to provide grants for the development of telehealth networks, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I rise today to talk about the introduction of my bill, the Medicare Telehealth Enhancement Act of 2005.

Now, not all of us live in the big city—like New York City or Chicago—but that should not mean that all of us cannot receive the same quality health care. Since I have been in office, I have spent a lot of time making sure that folks who live out in the hinterland—like the small towns of Scobey or Jordan or Wolf Point across Montana—still get quality health care, like everyone else. I do not want distance to be a barrier to care.

One of the ways we have bridged these divides is through telehealth—actually using technology to draw people together and deliver care. Now, across the great State of Montana, we have doctors consulting with patients who may be 200 or 300 miles away. That means those folks who live in the middle of nowhere do not have to drive 400 miles roundtrip, just to get a medical opinion on symptoms they may have or minor changes which may need to be made to their diabetes equipment, or feedback from an x-ray at a local clinic, from a specialist. That is a big deal, especially when roads are icy and the temperature is below zero.

I have sponsored the Medicare Telehealth Enhancement Act of 2005, which is a bill to improve the provisions of telehealth services under the Medicare Program and provide grants for the development of telehealth networks.

Specifically, my bill will: facilitate the provision of telehealth services across State lines, Licensure, as it affects providers who consult diagnose across State lines, remains a significant barrier to accessing such services, and call for Medicare reimbursement for remote medical and health services for all remaining institutions eligible to participate in Medicare but not currently eligible to be reimbursed for telemedicine/telehealth services.

Include an expansion of Medicare-covered originating telehealth sites, prioritizing eligibility for nursing homes, dialysis centers, and community-based mental health centers.

Revise “originating site” language to ensure telehealth service providers are reimbursement-eligible when patients are located at sites with telehealth capabilities, regardless of originating site designation.

Expand Medicare reimbursement for telehealth services to all geographical areas, recognizing eligibility for telehealth sites among urban populations as well as rural and underserved populations.

Allow for “eligible practitioners” furnishing telehealth services to include physical and occupational therapists, speech-language pathologists, and other certified providers, as well as those the Secretary of Health and Human Services approves.

Amend Medicare coverage to all remaining medical services currently covered under the CPT procedure codes but not eligible to be reimbursed when provided via telemedicine/telehealth, and medical services that are provided using store-and-forward technology.

Authorize a grant program through the Office for the Advancement of Telehealth of HRSA for the development of telehealth networks and defines non-profit and for-profit alliances as grant-eligible provided the grant recipient is a nonprofit.

Reauthorize the Telehealth Network and Telehealth Resource Centers grant programs through 2012.

Shortages of health care workers across the spectrum are nothing new.

We have all witnessed this disturbing trend of shortages in nursing, radiology, mental health professions, and many other health professionals for quite some time. While the ultimate solution to this problem lies in a variety of actions, telehealth has proven a solution to this mounting crisis. I have long supported efforts in technology to improve the efficiency and quality of health care, and make it easier for folks in rural areas to get the health services they need. Telehealth is one answer to the access and affordability problems facing health care today, and I hope my bill will increase the ease with which folks obtain their critical health services.

Telehealth applications have a record of cutting costs, increasing choice and reducing medical errors in facilities and communities across the country. Telehealth also provides services to elderly who may not otherwise be able to get to a health care facility for care. This is growing increasingly important in rural America—especially in my State of Montana. Montana's demographics have been changing over the past few years, and our health care providers continue to see more and more patients over the age of 65. We now have more elderly people per capita than most States in the union, and by 2025, Montana is predicted to rank third in the Nation in the number of people over the age of 65.

We must charge forward to modernize and improve healthcare through the application of information technology. Healthcare expenditures in 2003 totaled \$1.7 trillion—a number that is growing faster than the overall economy. Increased adoption of health information technology has the potential to save this country billions of dollars and thousands of lives. I want to do what I can to bring more money to the State of Montana for telehealth services and expand the availability of these services to more patients in more areas than ever before. I will continue my efforts, both through bringing money to Montana to make this happen and by passing meaningful, common-sense legislation to get rid of the over-burdensome red-tape that often gets in the way of good care.

I think it is essential to bring quality health care to all comers of Montana and other rural States. It is high time we bring back the dynamic days of these frontier areas by creating and maintaining vibrant and thriving communities, which have so much to offer their residents, including one of the most important basic needs—health care.

#### AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2194. Mr. REED (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. KERRY, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. COLEMAN, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. OBAMA, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. LEAHY, Ms. STABENOW, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. DAYTON, Mr. REID, Mr. BAYH, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. SAR-

Mr. REID, Mr. BAYH, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. SARBAKES, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. SALAZAR, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. SMITH, and Mr. KOHL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3010, making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2195. Mr. LEVIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3010, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2196. Mr. DURBIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3010, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2197. Mr. SPECTER proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 3010, supra.

SA 2198. Mrs. CLINTON (for herself and Mr. SCHUMER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3010, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2199. Mr. ALLEN (for himself and Mr. WARNER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3010, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2200. Mr. NELSON, of Florida submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3010, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2201. Mr. NELSON, of Florida submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3010, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2202. Mr. NELSON, of Florida submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3010, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2203. Mrs. CLINTON (for herself and Mr. SCHUMER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3010, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2204. Ms. CANTWELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3010, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2205. Mr. BAYH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3010, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2206. Mr. BAYH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3010, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2207. Mr. BAYH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3010, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2208. Mr. BAYH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3010, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2209. Mr. BAYH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3010, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2210. Mr. BAYH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3010, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

#### TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2194. Mr. REED (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. KERRY, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. COLEMAN, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. OBAMA, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. LEAHY, Ms. STABENOW, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. DAYTON, Mr. REID, Mr. BAYH, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. SAR-

BANES, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. SALAZAR, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. SMITH, and Mr. KOHL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3010, making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In title II, in the matter under the heading "LOW-INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE", in the matter under the heading "ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES", after the first sentence insert the following:

In addition to amounts appropriated under the preceding sentence, for making payments under title XXVI of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981 (42 U.S.C. 8621 et seq.), \$2,920,000,000, which amount is designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 402 of H. Con. Res. 95 (109th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2006.

SA 2195. Mr. LEVIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3010, making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. (a) Section 316 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1427), is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(g) The continuous residency requirement under subsection (a) may be reduced to 3 years for an applicant for naturalization if—

"(1) the applicant is the beneficiary of an approved petition for classification under section 204(a)(1)(E);

"(2) the applicant has been approved for adjustment of status under section 245(a); and

"(3) such reduction is necessary for the applicant to represent the United States at an international event.

"(h)(1) The Secretary of Homeland Security shall adjudicate an application for naturalization under this section not later than 30 days after the submission of such application if the applicant—

"(A) requests such expedited adjudication in order to represent the United States at an international event; and

"(B) demonstrates that such expedited adjudication is related to such representation.

"(2) An applicant is ineligible for expedited adjudication under paragraph (1) if the Secretary of Homeland Security determines that such expedited adjudication poses a risk to national security. Such a determination by the Secretary shall not be subject to review."

(b) There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Homeland Security for the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services, \$100,000 for fiscal year 2006, to review applications for naturalization submitted by applicants who are eligible for the reduced residency requirement or expedited adjudication under subsections (g) and (h) of 316 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as added by subsection (a).

(c) The amendment made by subsection (a) is repealed on October 1, 2006.

SA 2196. Mr. DURBIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by