

these people visited the pharmacy this month thinking that they would receive their medications for the same price they paid in December. Some of these dually eligible individuals were victims of data glitches that resulted in the pharmacists being unable to verify enrollment in any insurance, and they were told to pay for the full costs of their drugs. Some were charged the wrong amount even though their insurance was verified. These bills reached into the thousands of dollars at times. I was disheartened to learn that some of the beneficiaries paid for the drugs on their credit cards, their only other option being to go without their medications. Those with little income will be paying for these drugs for months, with interest, and this is a sad burden for the Federal Government to place on the neediest in society.

While my office did its utmost to help those who called, I wonder how many Wisconsinites did not call my office, did not have relatives to help them, or were unable to get through to the help lines that had waiting times of up to 5 days. How many people are being forced into emergency rooms in order to get their medications? How many people are being injured because of lack of medications? Have any deaths occurred as a result of the extraordinary bureaucratic hurdles in this program? The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services needs to find answers to these questions and address this crisis immediately.

Fortunately, many State governments, including Wisconsin's, came to the aid of the public when the Federal Government would not by enacting emergency provisions. Now, these States are depending on the Federal Government to return the favor and reimburse them for funds that were spent out of tight State budgets. To date, the administration has refused to compensate States. I will work to try to make sure that Congress quickly addresses this problem, passes legislation, and reimburses the States.

The health of our Nation's citizens is not a partisan issue, and we all must join together to assist the most needy. I voted against this program in 2003 and have since made numerous attempts to try to improve the program. Since mid-December, I have sent three letters to the administration, urging that the most pressing problems with the Medicare drug benefit be addressed. While these efforts were not supported by Republicans, I want to make new efforts that I hope the other side of the aisle will support. We cannot sustain a great nation if we do not care for the elderly, the sick, the disabled, and the homebound. These are the populations that this drug plan is supposed to be serving, and I fear that they have been dismally let down the past few weeks. Let us not wait any longer. Congress is in session, we are in a position to come to their aid, and I hope that we will do the right thing and quickly bring relief to the suffering.

SALMON RECOVERY

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, today, as you may know, Jim Connaughton, chairman of the White House Council on Environmental Quality, called for a comprehensive and collaborative approach to salmon recovery in the Pacific Northwest. While I may not agree completely with Chairman Connaughton's statement, we must stop ignoring what is going on. It is about time that someone speaks out about the reality of the situation in the Northwest in regards to salmon recovery. He proposed to end outdated hatchery programs and to stop harvest levels and practices that impede recovery of salmon listed under the Endangered Species Act, ESA. He also outlined a comprehensive collaborative process to promote a shared goal and responsibility of salmon recovery. As early as next week, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's fisheries service, NOAA Fisheries, will launch a collaborative review of how harvest and hatcheries are affecting the recovery of ESA-listed salmon and steelhead.

There has been no clear direction in the past, and CEQ is taking the first step to provide a meaningful direction. We have sat back and idly watched while the region moved from injunction to injunction and lawsuit to lawsuit. In fact, over the past 2 years, two injunctions have been ordered and more lawsuits are being filed. This situation just fosters mistrust and the inability to meet common goals and objectives.

Our past practices have focused on keeping the fish in the river and in abundant numbers so that we can have our cake and eat it, too. In no other place in the world do we treat an ESA-listed species this way. We don't raise bald eagles only to use their feathers for our clothes, so why do we spend hundreds of millions of dollars—each year—to recover the species, and then allow a majority of them to be killed through harvesting? The people who pay for these absurd practices are the Northwest ratepayers.

Here are some facts that the region should know. The total cost of fish mitigation in the Northwest from 1978 to 2005 has been approximately \$7 billion. Fish costs now make up to 30 percent of the Bonneville Power Administration's power rates, 30 cents of every dollar paid for BPA-managed power. Snake River Fall Chinook are the most impacted ESA-listed species in the Columbia River system. These fish drive BPA's fish and wildlife program. Approximately 40 percent to 60 percent of this species is harvested.

Last summer, Judge Redden ordered a change in river operations that resulted in an approximately \$75 million dollar hit to the region's ratepayers. This means that depending on how many fish survive, summer spill costs between \$225,000 and \$3 million per fish, and consequently, ratepayers are left with the bill. Even at \$225,000 per fish,

that is a lot of money. Judge Redden, once again, second-guessed the region's fish managers and made the decision to increase spill this spring and summer. This will result in another cost to the ratepayers of approximately \$60 million dollars.

Management of the river by the courts is not management at all. I would like to help the management agencies—the appropriate managers of the river system—to succeed in their efforts to manage the river, in partnership with local, State, and tribal governments.

Why not trust the experts who have the scientific knowledge to make those decisions and help empower the region to work together instead of giving up and having the court systems make management decisions? How are we to succeed in the future if we keep allowing others to make our decisions for us?

When will this silliness stop? When will the region take ownership and responsibility for the river? And when will we work together as a region and get serious about salmon recovery? CEQ made the first step today.

I will work with other Members of Congress to finally face these challenges and to help provide direction and be more accountable to the public and to recovery of the species. If we are serious about recovery, we need to start acting serious and not avoid the tough questions.

I would like to challenge my colleagues to come together in a bipartisan way to help the region get back on track.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM B. BONVILLIAN

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to express my profound gratitude and heartfelt best wishes to a dear friend and dedicated American, William B. Bonvillian, who has served as my legislative director and chief counsel since I first took office in the U.S. Senate in January 1989. It is truly a bittersweet occasion to bid farewell this week to an outstanding and valued staff member with whom I have worked for 17 years in this hallowed institution that we both dearly cherish and respect. I can only say that, as Bill embarks on his new venture as director of federal relations for the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, MIT, my loss is most surely MIT's gain.

Bill came to my Senate office as an accomplished and respected attorney who had previously served in the executive branch from 1977–1980 as Deputy Assistant Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation, where he was involved in major legislation relating to transportation deregulation and funding issues. However, our long association actually goes back much further than that, to the early 1970s. Bill was my first intern when I was elected to the State Senate; we rode from New Haven to the State Capitol in Hartford

in my old copper-colored Pinto several times a week after his classes at Yale Divinity School. Later, I hired him for a summer position with our State Senate committee investigating State construction issues. After I was elected to my first term here in the U.S. Senate, I sought to rehire Bill, who was by then a partner at a national law firm working on corporate, real estate, transportation, and administrative law matters. I was beyond delighted when Bill agreed to leave his partnership to reen-ter public service.

Bill's record of service in the U.S. Senate has been one of enormous distinction. When I look back with pride on the many legislative initiatives I undertook with Bill's advice and assistance, I recall with great admiration his determination, tenacity, and passionate involvement in crafting legislation. He built a stellar reputation on both sides of the aisle for his skill in nurturing innovative ideas and negotiating and advancing measures through an often complex legislative process. Bill's intuitive skills and strong leadership abilities have helped result in the successful passage of many crucial policy initiatives for which I have fought. Bill has played a key role in formulating and enacting vitally important legislative policy in the areas of science and technology; economic growth; innovation, research, and development in the fields of defense, manufacturing, health, and bioterrorism protection programs; and ensuring America's global competitiveness.

In addition, Bill's extensive and tireless work has resulted in many other significant legislative victories in our years together, including those pertaining to environmental and wilderness protection; energy security; defense and foreign policy; health and social welfare; campaign finance reform; media safeguards for children; education; and transportation and our Nation's infrastructure. Bill also had a firm hand in the landmark law that led to the creation of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and new intelligence reform initiatives to ensure the protection of our citizens. His ability to forge a consensus on these and countless other complex issues is unequalled. Bill's influence has been felt throughout the halls of Congress, and he has left a great legacy here.

I would like to highlight key legislation, grouped by subject area, on which Bill and his legislative team have assisted me over the years. I note that many of these bills or parts of them have gone on to become laws:

Economic Growth—National Innovation Act, S. 2109 (2005); National Nanotechnology R&D Act, P.L. 108-153 (2003); R&D Doubling Act, S. 2046 (2000) and predecessor bill, S. 1305 (1997); Individual Development Accounts, S. 2023 (2000); Enterprise Zone Act, S. 1032 (1991)

Defense, Homeland Security, and Foreign Policy—Rebuild the Army (increasing Army end-strength), S. 1397

(2005); Intelligence Reform Act, P.L. 108-458 (2004); 9/11 Commission Act, P.L. 107-306; Homeland Security Department Authorization, S. 2452 (2002); Establishment of the Quadrennial Defense Review, S. Amdt. 4156 to S. 1745 (1996); Bosnia Intervention, S.J. Res. 44 (1995); Gulf War Resolution, H.R. 2100 (1991)

Environment, Conservation, and Energy Security—Vehicle and Fuel Choices for America Act, S. 2025 (2005); Climate Change Act, S. 1151 (2005) and prior climate bills dating back to 1991; Clean Air Act of 1990, S. 1630 (1990); Conte Connecticut River National Fish and Wildlife Refuge Act, S. 821 (1991); Weir Farm National Historic Site, S. 2059 (1990)

Health and Social Programs—American Center for Cures, S. 2104 (2005); Bioshield II, S. 975 (2005)

Education—Technology Talent, S. 1549 (2001); 3R Act (No Child Left Behind), S. 303 (2001); Federal Charter School Assistance, S. 1513 (1994)

Media and Values—Parental Choice in Television Act (V-Chip), S. 632 (1995)

Government Reform—e-Government Act, S. 803 (2001); Congressional Accountability Act, S. 2071 (1994)

Transportation—Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA), P.L. 102-240 (1992).

We have been extremely fortunate to work with a person of Bill's character and caliber. He has graciously shared his wealth of knowledge and wise counsel with legislative aides, fellows, and other staff members. He helped us form our innovative Legislative Fellows Program, in particular, which has helped us build a strong, substantive, policy- and idea-oriented office. Under Bill's leadership as legislative director, I have consistently had a professional staff of which I am very proud. I think it is the equal of any on Capitol Hill.

Somehow, despite the long hours his work has involved, Bill finds the time to nurture his abiding interest in an array of subjects, from art to history, and this is part of what makes Bill so very interesting to be around. On many occasions, Bill led our new staffers and fellows on unique, memorable tours of the Capitol, where he regaled us with his vast knowledge of the Capitol's architecture, art collections, and historical vignettes of Congress and our democracy.

And now to add to these many accomplishments, Bill has an exciting opportunity to focus his efforts on science and technology innovation and policy, issues of deep concern to him and of critical importance to our Nation and the world. I have no doubt that Bill will distinguish himself in this endeavor just as he has throughout his Senate career.

I sincerely thank Bill's wife, Janis Ann Sposato, for her understanding of the long hours and enormously demanding schedule so often posed by the Senate legislative calendar, even as they juggled the demands of parenting and their public service careers. It has

been a pleasure to see Janis and Bill's sons, Raphael and Marcus, grow from childhood into the fine young men they are today.

It has been a memorable journey. Through it all, Bill has maintained his clear vision of a better future for all, a sense of humor, and calm demeanor in the eye of any approaching storm. In all of his interactions with staff, visiting constituents, and other parties with whom he has come in contact, he has always given generously of his time and talent. I could not have made a better choice for my legislative director than I did in 1989 when I asked Bill to take on the challenges we have faced together.

I am proud to call Bill a trusted adviser and lifelong friend. The office will be a different place without him. My staff and I will miss him a great deal, but we wish him success, health, and happiness always. I sincerely thank and congratulate Bill Bonvillian on his outstanding, loyal, and dedicated service to the U.S. Senate.

TRIBUTE TO ROGER WILLIAMS

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President. I rise today to pay special tribute to America's pre-eminent, piano-playing patriot, Mr. Roger Williams. Roger is to American music what the Grand Canyon is to the American landscape.

Roger has enjoyed decades of success and the title "Pianist to the Presidents," because he has had the honor to perform for eight of our Nation's Commanders In Chief. In 2004, Roger celebrated his birthday alongside Jimmy Carter because the two share the exact same birth date.

Despite his advancing years, Roger's ivory-tickling fingers continue to thrill audiences. In November, he broke his own record for marathon piano-playing with a 14-hour performance at Steinway Hall in New York City. The marathon was to raise awareness of the importance of music education and to commemorate the 50th anniversary of his classic, "Autumn Leaves." This song is the only piano instrumental that has ever reached No. 1 on the Billboard singles charts.

According to Billboard Magazine, Roger is the greatest-selling pianist of all time, with 18 Gold and Platinum albums to his credit. He is the first pianist to receive a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, and is—so far—the only recipient of the Steinway Lifetime Achievement Award. Williams has played the music for soundtracks to films of three generations and in 2004 he released his 116th album. His records "Born Free," "The Impossible Dream," "Almost Paradise," and the theme from "Somewhere in Time" are only some of his hits, which span 4 decades.

Not only a virtuoso, Roger is also a man of great virtue. He is a champion of music education in all schools and California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger named him "Champion for Youth 2004." Roger regularly