

EC-2418. A communication from the Chairman, Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Corporation's annual report for calendar year 2006; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2419. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Cold Treatment Regulations" (Docket No. APHIS-2006-0050) received on July 9, 2007; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2420. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Asian Longhorned Beetle; Removal of Quarantined Area in Illinois" (Docket No. APHIS-2006-0105) received on July 9, 2007; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2421. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Export Certificate for Wood Packaging Material" (Docket No. APHIS-2006-0122) received on July 9, 2007; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2422. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a violation of the Antideficiency Act by the Department of the Air Force, case number 04-02; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC-2423. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting, the report of the authorization of two officers to wear the authorized insignia of the next higher grade in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2424. A communication from the Chairman, Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the status of significant unresolved issues with the Department's design and construction projects; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2425. A communication from the Director, Education Activity, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the results of the Department's public-private competition for Logistics Support in the Domestic Dependent Elementary and Secondary Schools at Fort Knox, Kentucky; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2426. A communication from the Acting Chief, Programs and Legislation Division, Department of the Air Force, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the initiation of a standard competition of the Central Heat Plant function at Malmstrom Air Force Base; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2427. A communication from the Vice President, National Security Research Division, RAND Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "F-22A Multi-Year Procurement Program: An Assessment of Cost Savings"; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2428. A communication from the Vice President, National Security Research Division, RAND Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "The Thin Green Line: An Assessment of DoD's Readiness and Environmental Protection Initiative to Buffer Installation Encroachment"; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2429. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Policy), transmitting,

pursuant to law, a report relative to the funding of the Cooperative Threat Reduction Program during fiscal year 2007; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2430. A communication from the Liaison Officer, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Non-procurement Debarment and Suspension" (RIN0790-AH97) received on July 5, 2007; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2431. A communication from the Director, Education Activity, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the results of its public-private competition for bus services in the Domestic Dependent Elementary and Secondary Schools at Camp Lejeune; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2432. A communication from the Acting Assistant Director for Licensing, Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Republication of Appendix A to 31 CFR Chapter V" (5 USC 553) received on July 5, 2007; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. DORGAN, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, without amendment:

H.R. 835. A bill to reauthorize the programs of the Department of Housing and Urban Development for housing assistance for Native Hawaiians (Rept. No. 110-126).

By Mr. DORGAN, from the Committee on Appropriations, without amendment:

S. 1751. An original bill making appropriations for energy and water development for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 110-127).

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. SPECTER (for himself and Mr. CASEY):

S. 1750. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to preserve access to community cancer care by Medicare beneficiaries; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. DORGAN:

S. 1751. An original bill making appropriations for energy and water development for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes; from the Committee on Appropriations; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. VITTER:

S. 1752. A bill to establish the policy of the United States with respect to deployment of missile defense systems capable of defending allies of the United States against ballistic missile attack; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. HARKIN (for himself and Mr. SMITH):

S. 1753. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a tax credit to employers for the costs of implementing wellness programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HARKIN (for himself and Mr. SMITH):

S. 1754. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for a workplace wellness education campaign and an evaluation of employer-based wellness programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. REID (for himself and Mr. MCCONNELL):

S. Res. 263. A resolution to authorize testimony and legal representation in *State of Iowa v. Chester Guinn, Brian David Terrell, Dixie Jenness Webb, Kathleen McQuillen, and Elton Lloyd Davis*; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. VITTER:

S. Res. 264. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate upon the 50-year anniversary of Hurricane Audrey; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Ms. MIKULSKI):

S. Res. 265. A resolution congratulating the St. Mary's College of Maryland sailing team for winning the 2007 Inter-collegiate Sailing Association (ICSA) Women's National Championship and the 2007 ICSA Team Race National Championship; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 35

At the request of Mr. COLEMAN, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VOINOVICH) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 35, a bill to amend section 7209 of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 and for other purposes.

S. 41

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. SALAZAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 41, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide incentives to improve America's research competitiveness, and for other purposes.

S. 65

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 65, a bill to modify the age-60 standard for certain pilots and for other purposes.

S. 185

At the request of Mr. SPECTER, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) were added as cosponsors of S. 185, a bill to restore habeas corpus for those detained by the United States.

S. 335

At the request of Mr. DORGAN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 335, a bill to prohibit the Internal Revenue Service from using private debt collection companies, and for other purposes.

S. 399

At the request of Mr. BUNNING, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 399, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to include podiatrists as physicians for purposes of covering

physicians services under the Medicaid program.

S. 456

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 456, a bill to increase and enhance law enforcement resources committed to investigation and prosecution of violent gangs, to deter and punish violent gang crime, to protect law-abiding citizens and communities from violent criminals, to revise and enhance criminal penalties for violent crimes, to expand and improve gang prevention programs, and for other purposes.

S. 579

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 579, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize the Director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences to make grants for the development and operation of research centers regarding environmental factors that may be related to the etiology of breast cancer.

S. 638

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. SUNUNU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 638, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for collegiate housing and infrastructure grants.

S. 644

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 644, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to recodify as part of that title certain educational assistance programs for members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces, to improve such programs, and for other purposes.

S. 773

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 773, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow Federal civilian and military retirees to pay health insurance premiums on a pretax basis and to allow a deduction for TRICARE supplemental premiums.

S. 774

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BAYH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 774, a bill to amend the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 to permit States to determine State residency for higher education purposes and to authorize the cancellation of removal and adjustment of status of certain alien students who are long-term United States residents and who entered the United States as children, and for other purposes.

S. 803

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the names of the Senator from

Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. OBAMA) were added as cosponsors of S. 803, a bill to repeal a provision enacted to end Federal matching of State spending of child support incentive payments.

S. 805

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) were added as cosponsors of S. 805, a bill to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to assist countries in sub-Saharan Africa in the effort to achieve internationally recognized goals in the treatment and prevention of HIV/AIDS and other major diseases and the reduction of maternal and child mortality by improving human health care capacity and improving retention of medical health professionals in sub-Saharan Africa, and for other purposes.

S. 819

At the request of Mr. DORGAN, the names of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) were added as cosponsors of S. 819, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand tax-free distributions from individual retirement accounts for charitable purposes.

S. 849

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 849, a bill to promote accessibility, accountability, and openness in Government by strengthening section 552 of title 5, United States Code (commonly referred to as the Freedom of Information Act), and for other purposes.

S. 871

At the request of Mr. LIEBERMAN, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BAYH) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 871, a bill to establish and provide for the treatment of Individual Development Accounts, and for other purposes.

S. 915

At the request of Mrs. DOLE, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 915, a bill to establish a pilot program to provide grants to encourage eligible institutions of higher education to establish and operate pregnant and parenting student services offices for pregnant students, parenting students, prospective parenting students who are anticipating a birth or adoption, and students who are placing or have placed a child for adoption.

S. 958

At the request of Mr. SESSIONS, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 958, a bill to establish an adolescent literacy program.

S. 1012

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr.

BROWNBACK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1012, a bill to amend the Consumer Credit Protection Act to assure meaningful disclosures of the terms of rental-purchase agreements, including disclosures of all costs to consumers under such agreements, to provide certain substantive rights to consumers under such agreements, and for other purposes.

S. 1070

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BAYH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1070, a bill to amend the Social Security Act to enhance the social security of the Nation by ensuring adequate public-private infrastructure and to resolve to prevent, detect, treat, intervene in, and prosecute elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation, and for other purposes.

S. 1164

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1164, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve patient access to, and utilization of, the colorectal cancer screening benefit under the Medicare Program.

S. 1175

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1175, a bill to end the use of child soldiers in hostilities around the world, and for other purposes.

S. 1177

At the request of Mr. CARPER, the names of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. BIDEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1177, a bill to amend the Clean Air Act to establish a national uniform multiple air pollutant regulatory program for the electric generating sector.

S. 1276

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1276, a bill to establish a grant program to facilitate the creation of methamphetamine precursor electronic logbook systems, and for other purposes.

S. 1277

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1277, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to clarify the treatment of payment under the Medicare program for clinical laboratory tests furnished by critical access hospitals.

S. 1337

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1337, a bill to amend title XXI of the Social Security Act to provide for equal coverage of mental health services under the State Children's Health Insurance Program.

S. 1342

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1342, a bill to improve the health of Americans and reduce health care costs by reorienting the Nation's health care system toward prevention, wellness, and self care.

S. 1369

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1369, a bill to grant immunity from civil liability to any person who voluntarily notifies appropriate security personnel of suspicious activity believed to threaten transportation safety or security or takes reasonable action to mitigate such activity.

S. 1382

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. BENNETT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1382, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide the establishment of an Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Registry.

S. 1394

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1394, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, to exclude from gross income of individual taxpayers discharges of indebtedness attributable to certain forgiven residential mortgage obligations.

S. 1418

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1418, a bill to provide assistance to improve the health of newborns, children, and mothers in developing countries, and for other purposes.

S. 1469

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. BYRD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1469, a bill to require the closure of the Department of Defense detention facility at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and for other purposes.

S. 1484

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SPECTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1484, a bill to amend part B of title XVIII of the Social Security Act to restore the Medicare treatment of ownership of oxygen equipment to that in effect before enactment of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005.

S. 1494

At the request of Mr. DOMENICI, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BAYH) were added as cosponsors of S. 1494, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the special diabetes programs for Type I diabetes and Indians under that Act.

S. 1518

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms.

CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1518, a bill to amend the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act to reauthorize the Act, and for other purposes.

S. 1556

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1556, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the exclusion from gross income for employer-provided health coverage to designated plan beneficiaries of employees, and for other purposes.

S. 1563

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1563, a bill to require the disclosure of certain activities relating to the petroleum industry of Sudan, to increase the penalties for violations of sanctions provisions, and for other purposes.

S. 1605

At the request of Mr. CONRAD, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1605, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to protect and preserve access of Medicare beneficiaries in rural areas to health care providers under the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 1607

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1607, a bill to provide for identification of misaligned currency, require action to correct the misalignment, and for other purposes.

S. 1626

At the request of Mr. BAYH, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1626, a bill to amend title XIV of the Social Security Act to ensure funding for grants to promote responsible fatherhood and strengthen low-income families, and for other purposes.

S. 1651

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) were added as cosponsors of S. 1651, a bill to assist certain Iraqis who have worked directly with, or are threatened by their association with, the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 1703

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1703, a bill to prevent and reduce trafficking in persons.

S. 1715

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1715, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to eliminate discriminatory copayment rates for outpatient psychiatric services under the Medicare program.

S. 1733

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1733, a bill to authorize funds to prevent housing discrimination through the use of nationwide testing, to increase funds for the Fair Housing Initiatives Program, and for other purposes.

S. 1742

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. LUGAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1742, a bill to prevent the Federal Communications Commission from repromulgating the fairness doctrine.

S. 1747

At the request of Mr. SPECTER, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1747, a bill to regulate the judicial use of presidential signing statements in the interpretation of Act of Congress.

S. 1748

At the request of Mr. COLEMAN, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. BROWNBACK), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. LUGAR), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) and the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. HAGEL) were added as cosponsors of S. 1748, a bill to prevent the Federal Communications Commission from repromulgating the fairness doctrine.

S.J. RES. 4

At the request of Mr. BROWNBACK, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 4, a joint resolution to acknowledge a long history of official depredations and ill-conceived policies by the United States Government regarding Indian tribes and offer an apology to all Native Peoples on behalf of the United States.

S. RES. 87

At the request of Mr. HAGEL, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 87, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the President should declare lung cancer a public health priority and should implement a comprehensive interagency program to reduce the lung cancer mortality rate by at least 50 percent by 2015.

S. RES. 203

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. COLEMAN) and the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 203, a resolution calling on the Government of the People's Republic of China to use its unique influence and economic leverage to stop genocide and violence in Darfur, Sudan.

S. RES. 215

At the request of Mr. ALLARD, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 215, a resolution designating September 25, 2007, as "National First Responder Appreciation Day".

AMENDMENT NO. 2000

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, the names of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. HAGEL), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI), the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN), the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. SALAZAR) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 2000 intended to be proposed to H.R. 1585, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. SPECTER (for himself and Mr. CASEY):

S. 1750. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to preserve access to community cancer care by Medicare beneficiaries; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I have sought recognition today to introduce the Community Cancer Care Preservation Act, which will ensure Medicare beneficiaries' access to community-based cancer treatment and provide Medicare reimbursement assistance for oncologists providing vital cancer care services.

Cancer takes a great toll on our friends, family and our Nation. In the U.S. cancer causes one out of every four deaths. Although the number of cancer diagnoses appears to have plateaued, more than 1.4 million Americans will still find out they have a form of cancer in 2007, and 560,000 will die, keeping cancer the second-leading cause of death in the U.S. In 2005, over 2 million new cases of cancer were diagnosed, the most prevalent of which were breast, prostate, lung, and colorectal.

While these statistics are daunting, according to the American Cancer Society, the number of Americans who died of cancer in 2006 dropped for a second straight year. This decrease is the result of earlier detection and diagnosis, more effective and targeted cancer therapies, and greater accessibility to quality care provided by oncologists. These vital services have allowed millions of individuals to lead healthy and productive lives after successfully battling cancer.

In 2006, 43.2 million individuals were enrolled in Medicare; of those beneficiaries over 29 percent have had cancer during their lives, 12.5 million beneficiaries. With such a large percentage of our seniors facing this horrible disease, the need for access to community cancer care is critical.

Community cancer clinics treat 84 percent of Americans with cancer. Community cancer centers are free-standing outpatient facilities that pro-

vide comprehensive cancer care in a physician's office setting and are located in patients' communities. These clinics are especially critical in rural areas where access to larger cancer clinics may not be available. They provide patients with early diagnoses, effective cancer therapies, and innovative and supportive care that reduces fatigue, nausea/vomiting, and pain. The accessibility of treatment in the hands of skilled community oncologists has decreased the cancer mortality rate.

On December 8, 2003, the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003, MMA, was signed into law by President Bush. This legislation contained numerous provisions that were beneficial to America's seniors and medical facilities; however, it also provided a reduction in Medicare's reimbursement for oncology treatment. The provisions sought to bring a balance to the reimbursement for the cost of cancer drugs and services. Prior to the implementation of the law, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, CMS, reimbursed the cost of cancer treatment drugs at a very high level. This level provided sufficient funding to supplement the costs of care and the storage of the prescription drugs, which were not being provided adequate reimbursement. The law enacted reimbursement reductions for the cost of prescription drugs while increasing the funding provided for cancer care services; however, that increase did not sufficiently offset oncologists' losses from the reduction in cancer drug reimbursement.

The Congressional Budget Office estimated that Medicare reimbursements to oncologists would be reduced by \$4.2 billion from 2004–2013. PricewaterhouseCoopers, an independent auditing firm, estimates that reductions will reach \$14.7 billion over that time. This increased reduction will have a debilitating effect on oncologists' ability to provide cancer treatment to Medicare beneficiaries, especially those in the community setting.

For 2005, CMS provided an estimated \$300 million in Medicare funding to community cancer clinics via a demonstration project, in part as stop-gap funding for Medicare reimbursement cuts. This funding was reduced to \$150 million in 2006 and has been eliminated in 2007. These decreases, in addition to other reductions in services payments, have resulted in a \$200–300 million reduction in reimbursement in 2007. However, this reimbursement reduction may be larger than estimated. CMS did not factor in the delay in the adjustment of reimbursement rates when a drug manufacturer increases the price for cancer therapies and the inability of some beneficiaries to pay their Medicare 20 percent coinsurance payment. When accounting for these reductions, the overall cut to cancer care will likely exceed \$300–400 million.

The MMA mandated a transitional increase of 32 percent in service fees in

2004, falling to 3 percent in 2005, and 0 percent in 2006. This was done to provide time for CMS to pay for essential unpaid medical services, such as pharmacy facilities and treatment planning. In 2005, CMS created a cancer care demonstration project as a quality enhancement initiative to examine the effects of oncology drugs on patients. This demonstration project also provided \$300 million in critical funding because CMS had not increased the reimbursement for essential unpaid medical services. On June 29, 2005, I sent a letter with 38 other Senators to President Bush requesting an extension of the demonstration project through 2006. CMS, however, announced a new oncology demonstration project for 2006 that examines the quality of cancer care in relation to treatment guidelines, but at least \$150 million less than the previous funding level.

Accordingly, I am introducing legislation to provide assistance to community oncologists that are disadvantaged by CMS reforms brought forth under the MMA. The bill's \$1.7 billion cost, over the next 5 years, is a relatively small cost in the face of the vast reductions in CMS's reimbursement to oncologists. Let me briefly summarize the provisions of this legislation.

1. Sales Price Updates: Currently, CMS updates the prices for cancer treatment drugs quarterly, however there is a 6-month lag from when prices increase in the marketplace and when CMS applies that information to increase reimbursement. For example, a price change in the first quarter will not be reflected until reimbursement in the third quarter. This forces community cancer clinics to often pay increased prices for prescription drugs without increased reimbursement. This legislation requires the sales price for oncology drug reimbursement be updated as changes occur in the price to provide a more accurate reimbursement to oncologists for the cost of drugs every 2 months. This will provide reimbursements to oncologists that are fair and reflective of market costs.

2. Removal of the Prompt Pay Discount: The prompt pay discount is a discount from the pharmaceutical manufacturer to the wholesaler, not the community cancer clinic, for prompt payment on prescription drugs. However, the MMA requires that this prompt pay discount be included in the calculation of average sales price, ASP, which forms the basis for the Medicare drug reimbursement provided, by the manufacturer. This has the impact of lowering ASP, thus artificially lowering drug reimbursement to community cancer clinics. My legislation would remove the prompt pay discount from ASP, requiring CMS to reimburse oncologists at the price they actually pay for drugs without the inclusion of discounts.

3. Increase in Payments for Chemotherapy Administration: The MMA increased the payment for the first hour