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EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES FOR CHILDREN [EMSC] 10th ANNIVERSARY

Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, it gives me great pleasure to congratulate the Emergency Medical Services for Children [EMSC] Grant Program on its 10th anniversary, and acknowledge the progress it has made in meeting the emergency care needs of our Nation's children. Before the authorization legislation was passed in 1984 most emergency care training focused on adult care while the needs of children were underrecognized. Little was known regarding appropriate drugs and dosages for children, and pediatric equipment was not readily available in emergency departments nor in ambulances. Now, more than 40 States have received funding to improve the emergency care provided to acutely ill and seriously injured children, and training in pediatric emergency health care has been greatly expanded nationwide.

It is a tremendous source of pride for me, as I am sure it is for Senator HATCH and Senator KENNEDY, to have introduced this legislation in the Congress a decade ago and to witness the dedication of those who have worked so diligently toward implementation of the various EMSC programs across the country. Few people realize that emergency medical service systems are relatively new—in fact, development of a network of lifesaving resources and technology began a scant 30 years ago. Even fewer realize that these systems initially made no allowance for the unique medical needs of children. During the past 10 years, many people have striven to correct this situation, and EMSC has proven to be an investment in our children that has paid countless dividends in the form of lives saved.

Few of us will ever forget the images of innocent people suffering in the wake of the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah building in Oklahoma City. Our Nation's collective emotion galvanized around the unforgettable image of the limp body of a child being carried by a firefighter. If that tragedy had occurred 4 years earlier, prior to an EMSC implementation grant awarded to the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Oklahoma Health Services Center, many lifesaving components would not have been in place. Each ambulance that responded to the incident was equipped with pediatric emergency care resources above the national standard. Firefighters, police, doctors, and nurses on the scene were

able to assist children effectively because they were trained in pediatric emergency care. All of the these things were possible because of EMSC funding at the Federal level to the State of Oklahoma.

Because our children are our most precious resource, our challenge is to take the EMSC infrastructure that now exists and extend it everywhere so that the system works for all children. A recent Institute of Medicine report on pediatric emergency care documented many remaining gaps. Health care providers remain uninformed about emergency pediatric care, many communities lack even the basic elements of a functional system for emergency care, much of the public remains untrained in CPR and bystander care, and many injury prevention technologies have yet to be generally adopted. We still have much to learn. Research and evaluation are critical in identifying problems, assessing how effectively our strategies address those problems, and enhancing every aspect of care.

Join me in celebrating this important 10 year anniversary by pledging continued support for EMSC so that the special needs of vulnerable children will be met. I extend my best wishes for the future as EMSC reaches for its goal to serve every region of our country and to provide our children with the highest quality emergency care possible. I would also like to recognize the outstanding contributions of Dr. Jean Athey, the current program administrator, and my long-time friend, Dr. Cal Sia, a visionary among pediatricians, who have been so vital to the success of this invaluable program. Congratulations, EMSC, for 10 years of dedicated service.

RESPONSE TO THE PRESIDENT'S SATURDAY RADIO ADDRESS

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I have prepared and taped for broadcast the Republican response to President Clinton's national radio address. My comments address the need to reform our Nation's welfare system. The August recess should give all Senators the opportunity to discuss with our constituents their views on welfare reform. When we return in September, I look forward the passage of a welfare reform bill that will be signed by President Clinton.

I ask that my remarks be printed in the RECORD.

The remarks follow:

THE REPUBLICAN RESPONSE TO THE PRESIDENT'S SATURDAY RADIO ADDRESS

If there is any area of government activity that cries out for radical change it is our welfare programs. While the President has talked about changing the system, it was the Republican leadership that stepped forward with specific proposals for reform.

As a Presidential candidate, Bill Clinton promised to "end welfare as we know it." Yet for the first two years of the Clinton Administration—when the Democrats controlled not only the White House but both Houses of Congress—nothing was done.

In the State Houses and in Congress, Republicans are making things happen. We have had legislation introduced in the Senate by Bob DOLE to replace the current welfare system with a fundamentally new approach. That approach rests on several key ideas.

First, we want to give the states the flexibility to manage their own programs. The states have been successful in developing new programs that put able bodied people to work. Governor Thompson of Wisconsin, for example, has worked closely with his legislature and put in place a very different welfare program that is working by emphasizing work. The welfare roles in Wisconsin have been cut by 27 percent with a monthly savings of 17 and a half million dollars. Those are the kinds of results we can expect with greater flexibility at the state level.

Secondly, our approach gets local administrators and case workers to concentrate on moving the welfare caseload off welfare and into the workforce. Most importantly, by stressing employment, it gets able bodied welfare recipients to support themselves and their families. Our plan requires welfare recipients to be working after two years and it limits the duration of eligibility for benefits.

Last week, Democrats in the Senate finally introduced their welfare bill. That bill not only keeps welfare as a federal entitlement, but expands the range of benefits. Furthermore, it flatly ignores pleas from the Nation's Governors to give them more flexibility in designing and managing their own welfare-to-work programs. To continue believing that Washington "can do it better" is to ignore the experience of the past sixty years.

The real tragedy with the current system is the effect it is having on children. In Los Angeles, 62 percent of the children are on welfare. In Chicago, 43 percent of the children are on welfare. In Detroit, the rate is 73 percent. Clearly, we have a system that is not working, and it is even making matters worse.

Today, too many welfare recipients have a greater incentive to remain on welfare than to work. We must change the incentives and break the cycle of dependency. Most who are living under these conditions want a much different life for themselves and their children. But there has been very little encouragement, and too many have no hope at all.

We can change directions; but we must have a program that emphasizes parental support for children, the value of work, and individual responsibility. The Republican leadership plan does that.

Enacting real welfare reform is one of the greatest challenges facing Congress and the Administration. Your Congressman and Senators will be back in their states during the August recess. Let them know how you feel about this issue. We believe our approach is much closer to the kind of change the American people want. Please support our effort if you agree.

SPECTRUM REFORM

Mr. PRESSLER. Mr. President, I rise today to call attention to the historic action taken in the House of Representatives on August 4. Our colleagues in the other body, under the able leadership of Chairmen TOM BLILEY and JACK FIELDS and ranking minority member JOHN DINGELL, overwhelmingly approved, on a broad bipartisan vote of 305 to 117, H.R. 1555, a companion bill to S. 652, the Senate telecommunications reform bill. As my