

delay would unnecessarily put the woman's health at risk.

Mr. President, opponents to the amendment argue that many Americans oppose abortion and that their tax dollars should not be used to support this medical procedure. But health benefits are earned benefits, they are a part of compensation package for all Federal employees. We do not judge the way Federal employees spend their earned income—it is their right to make that decision. Neither should we judge or restrict their choice of insurance plan. Taxpayer money goes to Federal workers to compensate them for the job they do. Part of that compensation is comprehensive health insurance that covers legal medical procedures.

Others speaking against this amendment have argued that those Federal employees who are morally opposed to abortion and should not have to contribute to plans that cover the service. They argue that providing coverage under the FEHBP forces federally employed abortion opponents to contribute to others' insurance coverage through their health insurance premiums. But only about half of the FEHBP plans provide coverage for this medical procedure, so those who do not want to participate in a plan that covers this reproductive health services have ample alternatives.

We should not, de facto, make reproductive health decisions for any woman who is employed by or is a dependent of an employee of the Federal Government. Her reproductive health decisions should be a decision made by her and her health professional. I regret the Senate adopted the Nickles amendment.●

#### FREDDIE MAC'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY

● Mr. D'AMATO. Mr. President, I rise to offer my congratulations to the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation as it celebrates its 25th anniversary. The Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, known as Freddie Mac, has served as a vital source of mortgage capital for 2½ decades.

Since its Congressional charter in 1970, Freddie Mac has purchased over \$1.2 trillion in mortgage loans. After purchase, mortgage loans are packaged into securities and sold to investors. Freddie Mac has developed an efficient and liquid secondary mortgage market that has ensured a continuous and reliable flow of funds to the primary mortgage market.

Freddie Mac steadfastly continues to fulfill its important mission to make a reality of the American dream of decent, safe and affordable housing. Since its creation, Freddie Mac has assisted 16 million hard working American families by financing one out of every six homes in the United States. This is a tremendous accomplishment which deserves our commendation.

Freddie Mac is working to enhance the existing mortgage finance delivery

system through efforts to ensure fair lending, revitalize neighborhoods and expand affordable housing opportunities. These efforts should enable Freddie Mac to continue to serve Americans for generations to come.

It is with pleasure that I recognize the success story of the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation. I applaud Freddie Mac for a job well done and wish them a happy anniversary.●

#### COMMEMORATION OF THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE

● Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, the enfranchisement of women 75 years ago contributed to remarkable changes in the lives and well being, not just of women in our society, but of our Nation as a whole.

On August 26 our Nation will celebrate the 75th anniversary of the 19th amendment to the Constitution. With the passage of this amendment, over a century after ratification of the U.S. Constitution, the right to vote was extended to women.

This occasion is a time to reflect upon the many contributions made by women as a result of being enfranchised to vote, and I am proud to say that I am both a beneficiary of this historic amendment and a product of its legacy.

In seeking the right to vote, the women who preceded me in political arena sought more than mere representation at the polls. Gaining the right to vote was the first critical step toward women becoming full and equal partners in every aspect of American society.

The 19th amendment, in addition to enfranchising women, was a tacit declaration of a woman's right to hold office. In the first elections held after the ratification of the 19th amendment, women won public office in 23 States.

The impact of women voting was felt even before the 19th amendment was ratified. In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson, embroiled in a hotly contested reelection campaign, faced the first known gender-gap in a Presidential election. At the time, there were 12 States which allowed women to vote, and the newly formed Women's Party had mounted an aggressive campaign in those States to defeat Wilson because of his stiff opposition to women's suffrage. In Illinois, the only State where votes were tallied by sex, women voted against Wilson by a ratio of 2 to 1. And, in California, another equal suffrage State, Wilson won by only .3 percent of the vote. The women's vote nearly cost Woodrow Wilson the election.

Although the Women's Party could not deny President Wilson a second term, an important goal had been accomplished—women were noticed as a significant force at the polls. Democrats put out as much campaign literature on women's suffrage that year as they did on peace.

Today, although still grossly under-represented in numbers, women hold office in all levels of government. Fifty-five women serve in Congress today, including 7 in the U.S. Senate. Women hold the office of mayor in 178 cities with populations larger than 30,000. And, since 1925, 13 women have served as Governor of their State.

In the past 75 years numerous women have broken the glass ceiling with many firsts. Janet Reno as the first woman Attorney General; Hazel O'Leary as the first woman Secretary of Energy; Jeane Kirkpatrick as the first woman Ambassador to the United Nations; Sandra Day O'Connor as the first woman Supreme Court Justice. I look forward to the day, however, when women no longer make news for being the first appointed, but for what they do. Then our Nation can say we have attained the level of equality the voters of 75 years ago began working toward.

As a Member of the U.S. Senate, I stand before you as a direct descendant of the tireless efforts of Alice Paul, Lucy Burns and Dorothy Day—women who went to prison for picketing for the right to vote. These trailblazers, and many others whose names have escaped the history books, devoted their lives to make women full and equal partners in American society.

I know that with every vote I cast as a Member of this body, I honor their legacy. It is in recognition of those women, and the progress made over the last 75 years, that we commemorate the 75th anniversary of the 19th amendment to the U.S. Constitution.●

#### ACADEMY OF RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION

● Mr. MACK. Mr. President, I rise today to support and recognize the significant achievements of the Academy of Residential Construction [ARC], a major training effort in my State to teach noncollege bound high school students a trade in the homebuilding industry. As ARC prepares for its second year of skilled carpentry framer training, it is refreshing to see a partnership that is free from Government funds and enthusiastically embraced by both the business community and educators.

ARC is an ambitious collaboration between William H. Turner Technical Arts High School, the Builders Association of South Florida, the Latin Builders Association, Inc., the Home Builders Institute, PAVE, and the Education and Training Foundation. Through ARC, secondary students, many of whom are disadvantaged, work with south Florida's leading educators, builders, manufacturers, and suppliers to learn homebuilding from the ground up. With the help of the Fannie Mae Foundation, these partners have developed the Nation's first and only high school construction training program