''Whereas, such proposed constitutional amendment is a long overdue response to a Federal judiciary that, in the pursuit of seemingly good end, fails to recognize the constitutional limits on its power; and

''Whereas, in addition to being introduced in the United States Congress such constitutional amendment has also been proposed by several States; and

''Whereas, the text of such proposed constitutional amendment reads: 'Neither the Supreme Court nor any inferior court of the United States shall have the power to instruct or order a State or political subdivision thereof, or an official of such State or political subdivision, to levy or increase taxes'; and

''Whereas, such amendment seeks properly to prevent Federal courts from levying or increasing taxes without representation of the people and against the people's wishes. Therefore be it

''*Resolved*, That the Massachusetts Senate hereby memorializes the United States Congress to propose and submit to the several States for ratification no later than January first, Nineteen Hundred and Ninety-six, an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, the text of which amendment shall read:

'' 'Neither the Supreme Court nor any inferior Court of the United States shall have the power to instruct or order a State or political subdivision thereof, or an official or such State or political subdivision, to levy or increase taxes'; and calls upon the Massachusetts congressional delegation to use immediately the full measure of its resources and influence in order to ensure the passage of such amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which provides that no court shall have the power to levy or increase taxes; and further proposes that the legislatures of each of the several States comprising the United States which have not yet made similar request apply to the United States Congress requesting enactment of such amendment to the United States Constitution; and be it further

''*Resolved*, That copies of these resolutions be transmitted forthwith by the Clerk of the * * * to the Vice President of the United States as the Presiding Officer of the Senate, the * * * of the House of Representatives, each member of the Massachusetts Congressional delegation, * * * officer and minority party leader in each house of the legislatures of each State * * *.''

POM–626. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the Commonwealth of Virginia; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

''SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 146

''Whereas, with each passing year this nation becomes deeper in debt as its federal government's expenditures repeatedly exceed available revenues, so that the federal public debt is now approximately $4.9 trillion—or $19,000 for every man, woman, and child; and

''Whereas, the annual federal budget has not been balanced since 1969, demonstrating an unwillingness or inability of both the legislative and executive branches of the federal government to spend in conformity with available revenues; and

''Whereas, knowledgeable planning, fiscal prudence, and plain good sense require that the federal budget should not be manipulated to present the appearance of being in balance, while, in fact, federal indebtedness continues growing; and

''Whereas, believing that fiscal irresponsibility at the federal level, which is resulting in a lower standard of living and endangering economic opportunity now and for the next generation, is the greatest threat which faces our nation; and

''Whereas, Thomas Jefferson recognized the importance of a balanced budget when he wrote ''The question whether one generation has the right to bind another by the deficit it imposes is a question of such consequence as to place it among the fundamental principles of government. We should consider ourselves unauthorized to saddle posterity with our debts, and morally bound to pay them ourselves''; and

''Whereas, the principal functions of the Constitution of the United States include: promoting the broadest principles of a government of, by, and for the people; setting forth the most fundamental responsibilities of government; and enumerating and limiting the powers of the government to protect the basic rights of the People; and

''Whereas, the federal government's unlimited ability to borrow involves decisions of such magnitude, with such potentially profound consequences for the nation and its People, today and in the future, that it is appropriately a subject for limitation by the Constitution of the United States; and

''Whereas, the Constitution vests the ultimate responsibility to approve or disapprove of amendments to the Constitution of the United States with the People of the several States, as represented by their elected Legislatures; and

''Whereas, opposition by a small minority within Congress and, on occasion, by the President, has repeatedly thwarted the will of the People of the United States that a Balanced Budget Amendment to the Constitution of the United States should be submitted to the States for ratification, while large majorities of both Houses of Congress already have prepared, considered, and voted for such amendment: Now, therefore, be it

''*Resolved by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring*, That the Congress of the United States be urged to submit a balanced budget amendment to the United States Constitution to the states for ratification. The Congress is encouraged to expeditiously pass and propose an amendment that would require, in the absence of a national emergency, that the total of all federal appropriations made by the Congress for any fiscal year may not exceed the total of all estimated federal revenues for that fiscal year; and, be it

''*Resolved further*, That the Legislatures of each of the several States be urged to apply to the Congress requesting the proposal for ratification of an appropriate amendment to the Constitution of the United States; and, be it

''*Resolved finally*, That the Clerk of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States, each Member of the Virginia Congressional Delegation, the Chairmen of the National Conference of State Legislatures, the Council of State Governments and the American Legislative Exchange Council, and the presiding officers of both Houses of the Legislatures of each of the other States in the Union.''

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. DODD:

S. 1896. A bill to amend the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 to apply the Act to a greater percentage of the United States workforce and to allow employees to take parental involvement leave to participate in or attend their children's educational and extracurricular activities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

By Mrs. KASSEBAUM (for herself, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. PELL, and Mr. HATFIELD):

S. 1897. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to revise and extend certain programs relating to the National Institutes of Health, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. LAUTENBERG (for himself, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. LIEBERMAN):

S. Res. 268. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate with respect to the summit of Arab heads of state being held in Cairo beginning on June 21, 1996; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. LOTT (for himself and Mr. DASCHLE):

S. Res. 269. A resolution to authorize testimony and representation of former Senate employee in Ward v. United States; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. LIEBERMAN (for himself, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. SPECTER, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mr. MOYNIHAN):

S. Res. 270. A resolution urging continued and increased United States support for the efforts of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia to bring to justice the perpetrators of gross violations of international law in the former Yugoslavia; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. DODD:

S. 1896. A bill to amend the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 to apply the act to a greater percentage of the U.S. work force and to allow employees to take parental involvement leave to participate in or attend their children's educational and extracurricular activities and for other purposes; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

THE FAMILY MEDICAL AND PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT LEAVE ACT OF 1996

• Mr. DODD. Mr. President, in my nearly 16 years as a U.S. Senator few accomplishments have given me as much pride as the day in February 1993 when President Clinton signed into law the Family and Medical Leave Act.

Passage of this legislation was an exhausting, lengthy, and sometimes exasperating process. But in the end, through the hard and courageous work of Senators from both sides of the political aisle, the vast opportunities for family and medical leave were made available to millions of Americans.

In an era when the American people bemoan the lack of bipartisanship and compromise in Washington, when they decry the blatant and nasty partnership, the Family and Medical Leave Act stands in sharp contrast.

Family and medical leave is an issue that truly goes beyond partisan political differences. It is something that

every American, be they Democrat or Republican, can relate to and understand.

Enactment of the Family and Medical Leave Act in 1993 threw millions of struggling Americans a lifeline. It made it easier for people to balance the responsibilities of work with their responsibilities to their family. And most important, it said to the American people: If you or a loved one becomes ill, you won't be forced to choose between your family and your job.

But, my involvement with the issue of family and medical leave did not end with its enactment. There is more work to be done.

Across America, working families, teachers, and school boards continue to lament the lack of parental involvement in their children's lives. With more and more families working outside the home, with mothers and fathers too busy and too stressed from working long hours, children are losing the guiding hand they need from their parents.

The Family and Medical Leave Act performed a genuine need among America's working families to allow them take leave in times of medical and family emergency. This legislation would continue that process by providing parents with the time they need to make a difference in their children's education.

For that reason, I am today introducing legislation that would build on our earlier successes while at the same time offering greater leave opportunities and flexibility to our Nation's families.

First, it would lower the threshold of coverage to include worksites with 25 or more employees. Today, 40 percent of private sector employees remain unprotected by the Family and Medical Leave Act because their worksite does not meet the current 50-or-more employee threshold.

Second, the bill would grant eligible parents 24 hours of unpaid leave per year to participate in their children's school or community group activities. Parents would provide their employers with at least 2 weeks notice and could take only 4 hours per month, unless otherwise agreed to by the employer.

These are commonsense reforms that build on the successes of the Family and Medical Leave Act while providing expanded opportunities for American families.

For those of my colleagues who doubt the success of the Family and Medical Leave Act, I urge them to examine a recent bipartisan report, which indicates that the success of the Family and Medical Leave Act is clear cut.

When this legislation passed in 1933, provisions of the bill established a commission to examine the impact of the act on workers and businesses. The commission's analysis spanned 2½ years, including independent research and field hearings across the country to hear first hand about the act's impact from individuals and businesses.

Additionally, through the Bureau of Labor Statistics, we commissioned two major research surveys to gauge the impact of family leave policies on employees and employers. These surveys provided us with the first statistically valid, nationally representative data on the impact on the legislation.

And, the overall findings of this commission are quite clear—family and medical leave is an overwhelming success. What's more, according to the commission's final report, the law represents ''A significant step in helping a larger cross-section of working Americans meet their medical and family caregiving needs while still maintaining their jobs and economic security.''

Due to this legislation, Americans have significantly greater opportunities to keep their health benefits, maintain job security, and take leave for longer and for greater reasons.

While the American people have seen expanded opportunities under this legislation, there is plenty of good news for America's businesses as well.

The conclusions of the bipartisan report are a far cry from the concerns that were voiced when this law was being considered in Congress. The vast majority of businesses—over 93 percent—report little to no additional costs associated with the Family and Medical Leave Act. More than 92 percent reported no noticeable effect on profitability. And nearly 96 percent reported no noticeable effect on growth.

Additionally, 83 percent of employers reported no noticeable impact on employee productivity. And of those that have seen an effect nearly as many are as likely to note a positive effect as a negative one. In fact, 12.6 percent actually report a positive effect on employee productivity from the Family and Medical Leave Act.

While the benefits of family leave have been clear, millions of Americans continue to face painful choices involving their competing responsibilities to family and work. Those not covered by FMLA are still often told that they must choose between sick family members and their jobs. And parents, who want to participate in their children's school and community activities, even to attend parent-teacher conferences, find their employment responsibilities are forcing them to make impossible choices.

More and more parents are simply too busy to take the time necessary to play an active role in their children's education. This comes at a time when not only is a strong education so important to our Nation's youth, but ample evidence indicates that parental involvement in school activities has a dramatic impact on academic performance.

Studies have shown that academic achievement is much higher at schools when parents are strongly involved. In fact, a recent study by the Department of Education found that parental involvement is a key factor in the development of children's reading skills. And a Carnegie Corp. study released this spring found that, ''Parents who want their children to do well in school must remain involved in their education through the middle and high school years.''

So many parents, however, simply don't have the time to participate in school and community activities while balancing responsibilities to their job. A survey of 30,000 PTA leaders found that 89 percent of parents do not get involved in their children's education because they do not have enough time. Yet another study indicates that 66 percent of employed parents report that they don't have enough time for their children. And as the number of single-parent families, and families where both parents have to work, continues to rise the constraints placed on parents are only going to increase.

The bill that I introduce today represents a genuine and commonsense effort to tackle these problems. It would take a giant step toward widening the opportunities provided under the Family and Medical Leave Act while giving parents the chance to play a greater role in their children's education.

While I'm fully aware this is an election year, I introduce this legislation with the hope and expectation that we can put aside our political differences and build on the success of the Family and Medical Leave Act.

It's common sense that hard working people should not only be able to play a role in their children's lives, but face family crises without losing their jobs. The American people understand the need for these provisions and I urge all my colleagues to join me in supporting this critically important legislation for our Nation's working families.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1896

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. COVERAGE OF EMPLOYEES.

Paragraphs (2)(B)(ii) and (4)(A)(i) of section 101 of the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (29 U.S.C. 2611 (2)(B)(ii) and (4)(A)(i) are amended by striking ''50'' each place it appears and inserting ''25''.

SEC 2. PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT LEAVE.

(a) LEAVE REQUIREMENT.—Section 102(a) of the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (29 U.S.C. 2612(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(3) ENTITLEMENT TO PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT LEAVE.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to section 103(f), an eligible employee shall be entitled to a total of 4 hours of leave during any 30-day period, and a total of 24 hours of leave during any 12-month period, in addition to leave available under paragraph (1), to participate in or attend an activity that—

''(i) is sponsored by a school or community organization; and

''(ii) relates to a program of the school or organization that is attended by a son or daughter of the employee, including foster children.

''(B) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this paragraph:

''(i) COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION.—The term 'community organization' means a private nonprofit organization that is representative of a community or a significant segment of a community and provides activities for individuals described in subparagraph (A) or (B) of section 101(12), such as a scouting or sports organization.

''(ii) SCHOOL.—The term 'school' means an elementary school or secondary school (as such terms are defined in section 14101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 8801)), a Head Start program assisted under the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9831 et seq.), and a child care facility licensed under State law.''.

(b) SCHEDULE.—Section 102(b)(1) of such Act (29 U.S.C. 2612(b)(1)) is amended by inserting after the second sentence the following: ''Leave under subsection (a)(3) may be taken intermittently or on a reduced leave schedule.''

(c) SUBSTITUTION OF PAID LEAVE.—Section 102(d)(2)(A) of such Act (29 U.S.C. 2612(d)(2)(A)) is amended by inserting before the period the following: '', or for leave provided under subsection (a)(3) for any part of the 24-hour period of such leave under such subsection''.

(d) NOTICE.—Section 102(e)(1) of such Act (29 U.S.C. 2612(e)(1) is amended by adding at the end of the following: ''In any case in which an employee requests leave under subsection (a)(3), the employee shall provide the employer with not less than 7 day's notice, before the date the leave is to begin, of the employee's intention to take leave under such subsection.''.

(e) CERTIFICATION.—Section 103 of such Act (29 U.S.C. 2613) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(f) CERTIFICATION FOR PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT LEAVE.—An employer may require that a request for leave under section 102(a)(3) be supported by a certification issued at such time and in such manner as the Secretary may by regulation prescribe.''.

SEC. 3. PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT LEAVE FOR CIVIL SERVANTS.

(a) LEAVE REQUIREMENTS.—Section 6382(a) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(3)(A) Subject to section 6383(f), an employee shall be entitled to a total of 4 hours of leave during any 30-day period, and a total of 24 hours of leave during any 12-month period, in addition to leave available under paragraph (1), to participate in or attend an activity that—

''(i) is sponsored by a school or community organization; and

''(ii) relates to a program of the school or organization that is attended by a son or daughter of the employee, including foster children.

''(B) As used in this paragraph:

''(i) The term 'community organization' means a private nonprofit organization that is representative of a community or a significant segment of a community and provides activities for individuals described in subparagraph (A) or (B) of section 6381(6), such as a scouting or sports organization.

''(ii) The term 'school' means an elementary school or secondary school (as such terms are defined in section 14101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 8801)), a Head Start program assisted under the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9831 et seq.) and a child care facility licensed under State law.''.

(b) SCHEDULE.—Section 6382(b)(1) of such title is amended by inserting after the second sentence the following: ''Leave under subsection (a)(3) may be taken intermittently or on a reduced leave schedule.''

(c) SUBSTITUTION OF PAID LEAVE.—Section 6382(d) of such title is amended by inserting before '', except'' the following: '', or for leave provided under subsection (a)(3) any of the employee's accrued or accumulated annual leave under subchapter I for any part of the 24-hour period of such leave under such subsection''.

(d) NOTICE.—Section 6382(e)(1) of such title is amended by adding at the end the following: ''In any case in which an employee requests leave under subsection (a)(3), the employee shall provide the employing agency with not less than 7 day's notice, before the date the leave is to begin, of the employee's intention to take leave under such subsection.''.

(e) CERTIFICATION.—Section 6383 of such title is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(f) An employing agency may require that a request for leave under section 6382(a)(3) be supported by a certification issued at such time and in such manner as the Office of Personnel Management may by regulation prescribe.''.●

By Mrs. KASSEBAUM (for herself, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. PELL, and Mr. HATFIELD):

S. 1897. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to revise and extend certain programs relating to the National Institutes of Health, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

THE NIH REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 1996

Mrs. KASSEBAUM. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce legislation which supports the important work of the National Institutes of Health. This bill, the National Institutes of Health Revitalization Act of 1996, will reauthorize the ongoing work of this outstanding Federal research institution.

We all can take great pride in the exceptional contributions that the NIH has made to the improvement of the health of our citizens.

NIH grants constitute the bulk of support for biomedical research throughout this country—almost $10 billion every year, distributed in nearly 25,000 separate grants. This unique investment of talent and dollars has one simple, overriding goal—the advancement of the health of Americans.

This agency is, indeed, an extraordinary success story. To cite just one illustration: An NIH grant made possible the discovery of the BRCA–1 gene, a genetic marker for an important form of breast cancer. Such a discovery offers great promise for new strategies for diagnosis and treatment of breast cancer and other serious illnesses.

As long term commitment to further support of research into the mysteries of the human genetic code, this bill authorizes the creation of the National Human Genome Research Institute. The elevation of the National Center for Genome Research to institute status, while budget neutral, will ensure a continued focus of NIH resources for this important work.

Mr. President, in addition to reauthorizing the lifesaving work of the two largest institutes, the National Cancer Institute and the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, the bill authorizes a number of other important institutes and initiatives. Among them is research into new and resistant infections such as tuberculosis; and an Office of Rare Diseases to support research on over 2,000 uncommon diseases that, together, afflict thousands of Americans.

Another critical area that this bill addresses is the education and training of the next generation of clinical researchers, the biomedical scientists who perform research that directly involves patients. This bill provides for greater support for expert training of young biomedical scientists who have elected the difficult, and increasingly competitive, careers in scientific inquiry. In addition, it provides important resources for the 75 general clinical research centers that exist in academic medical centers throughout the country.

The role of NIH in clinical research is critical, since academic health centers in the 21st century will be posed with an unprecedented challenge: how to maintain their research mission in the face of a fundamentally changed health care system. These changes are the consequence of dramatic market shifts that are taking place in health care in this country. They have a potentially deleterious effect on the irreplaceable work of this country's academic health centers. Cost competition has made it particularly difficult for the continuation of many of these established institutions that frequently care for the sickest, as well as the poorest, citizens of our communities.

This bill also makes substantial efforts to reduce administrative excess and duplicative infrastructure at NIH. It reduces redundant committees and reports. Every dollar saved from unnecessary administrative burdens is another dollar freed up for support of biomedical research.

By its very nature, ever-expanding scientific knowledge places pressure on the limited resources for biomedical research support. Accordingly, this bill provides for a Biomedical Research Trust Fund within the Treasury. This trust fund is a first small step toward affording additional funds for the indispensable research mission in this era of shrinking Federal resources.

In conclusion, Mr. President, reauthorization of the important work of the National Institutes of Health represents for the American people an investment beyond compare or valuation. I am pleased to welcome Senators KENNEDY, JEFFORDS, PELL, and HATFIELD as original cosponsors of this legislation. I urge my colleagues to support the adoption of the National Institutes of Health Revitalization Act of 1996.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I strongly support the NIH Revitalization Act of 1996. The National Institutes of Health is the premier health care research center in this country and the world. Reauthorizing a strong NIH should be a bipartisan goal.

This bill reauthorizes the present Institutes, and provides a framework for the NIH to respond more effectively to the health issues of today and the future.

Clinical research is addressed by incorporating many of the provisions of the Hatfield-Kennedy clinical research enhancement bill. General Clinical Research Centers, which serve as an infrastructure for clinical research and training, are authorized. Clinical Research Career Enhancement Awards and Innovative Medical Science Awards are created to support individual careers and research projects in clinical research. In addition, existing research assistance, training and loan repayment programs are expanded to include those involved in clinical investigations.

The human genome project which has been so productive becomes the National Human Genome Research Institute. The Office of Rare Diseases is formally established. A national fund for health research is created to provide additional financial resources. A number of other changes are made to streamline the administrative processes at NIH.

All of us recognize that a number of concerns require further discussion. NIH's desires for maximum flexibility have been addressed. We must also meet the research and treatment needs of particular diseases. I look forward to working together to find ways to address Parkinson's disease, the pediatric research initiative, and diabetes.

We must also find ways to deal with the impact of managed care on medical training, education, and research. That problem that was the topic of our final NIH hearing this year.

Investment in health care research is one of the soundest investments we can make in the Nation's future. The NIH Revitalization Act of 1996 is designed to maintain and strengthen our return on this investment, and I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to secure its enactment.

Mr. HATFIELD. Mr. President, I am honored to join my friend and colleague from Kansas, Senator KASSEBAUM, in sponsoring legislation to revitalize the crown jewel of medical science in this country, the National Institutes of Health. Senator KASSEBAUM deserves the Nation's gratitude for her commitment to biomedical research and her efforts to ensure that the wealth of this country is measured by the health of its citizens.

The NIH has enhanced the health of our Nation immeasurably, and through the efforts of its scientists and staff continues to place us on the cutting edge of biomedical research. Yet, as all of us in this body know so well, all institutions must evolve if they are to continue to thrive. The legislation introduced today provides the elements necessary for the NIH to evolve successfully in the years to come.

Every year, medical researchers uncover more mysteries of the human body. Because of their efforts, today we have therapies, drugs and technologies that were unimaginable just a decade ago. Of great importance to all Americans is the outcome of our investment in biomedical research. We want to know, what has been cured lately? How have the billions we invest in NIH each year reached Americans and eased their suffering? How has the chasm between the scientist in the laboratory and the physician administering treatment been bridged? To address that gulf, I believe we must heighten our support for translational—or clinical—research. To that end, I introduced S. 1534 this year, the Clinical Research Enhancement Act of 1996. This bill will increase funding for clinical research, improve training for persons planning clinical research careers, and modify the focus of the NIH to make it more receptive to clinical research proposals.

I am very pleased that Senator KASSEBAUM has included components of S. 1534 in her legislation. The bill authorizes the General Clinical Research Centers which are the frontline troops not only in the training of clinical researchers but in performing many of the clinical studies in our academic medical centers. The 75 current centers have never been authorized despite their continued congressional support since 1965.

The bill also establishes two new award programs: the Clinical Research Career Enhancement Awards and the Innovative Medical Science Awards. These awards will provide both young and established investigators with the resources needed to bridge unfunded periods while promoting continued clinical research and training. At present training opportunities for persons considering clinical research careers are few and fragmented.

The bill also expands loan repayment opportunities for young physician scientists to pursue research careers. Currently the average medical school graduate has a debt of $63,000. This burden has resulted in a decline of physician researchers to just 2.2 percent of the physician population of the United States.

Last year, Congress acknowledged the importance of biomedical research when it restored proposed cuts to the NIH budget for 1996. As a result, we are now enjoying a 5.7-percent increase in funding for the NIH. However, we have far to go in stabilizing funding for medical research, and we must now turn our attention toward insuring sustainable growth in the coming years.

I am pleased that Senator KASSEBAUM's legislation also includes my bill, S. 1251, to establish a national fund for health research. This fund will supplement annual appropriations to the NIH by contributing public and private donations to enhance research grants. While the language in this bill does not specify a funding source, I am hopeful that when the bill comes to the floor we will have several options to consider to secure its financial future. I have proposed a 25-cent increase in the tobacco tax, as well as a voluntary Federal income tax checkoff in the past, and would be willing to look at other options in the future such as some sort of managed care set-aside. I believe this proposal marks the beginning of a longer-term strategy for biomedical research funding and I am gratified by its inclusion in this bill. Senator TOM HARKIN has been my longtime partner in this matter and I know he is as pleased as I am that the foundation for the fund has today been further advanced.

Finally, Senator KASSEBAUM has included one additional piece of my legislative portfolio, S. 184, a bill to establish an Office for Rare Disease Research at the NIH to assist our citizens who have the misfortune of suffering from uncommon diseases. This legislation has already passed the Senate this year, only to languish in the House. I am hopeful that this vehicle will carry it through to enactment.

This legislation, Mr. President, is essential for the continued effective functioning of the National Institutes of Health, and for the continued health of our citizens. I believe this legislation deserves our strong support and I urge my colleagues to endorse its contents. At this time, I would like to publicly commend Senator KASSEBAUM's staff, David Stevens, Kent Bradley, and Ann Rufo, for their work in crafting this revitalization package. They have been mentors to my staff and have represented Senator KASSEBAUM with great dedication and commitment in putting this vital piece of legislation together.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 901

At the request of Mr. BENNETT, the name of the Senator from New Mexico [Mr. BINGAMAN] was added as a cosponsor of S. 901, a bill to amend the Reclamation Projects Authorization and Adjustment Act of 1992 to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the design, planning, and construction of certain water reclamation and reuse projects and desalination research and development projects, and for other purposes.

S. 1794

At the request of Mr. GREGG, the names of the Senator from Wyoming [Mr. THOMAS], the Senator from Michigan [Mr. ABRAHAM], and the Senator from Oklahoma [Mr. INHOFE] were added as cosponsors of S. 1794, a bill to amend chapter 83 of title 5, United States Code, to provide for the forfeiture of retirement benefits in the case of any Member of Congress, congressional employee, or Federal justice or judge who is convicted of an offense relating to official duties of that individual, and for the forfeiture of the retirement allowance of the President for such a conviction.