

would be implemented and administered by States.

The program will make a major difference in the lives of millions of families, but its basic principles are not novel or untested. Fourteen States already have similar programs in place and running. Earlier their year, for example, Massachusetts enacted a program very similar to our proposal.

Under our plan, the Federal Government will assist all families with incomes under 300 percent of poverty to purchase health insurance for their children, if they do not already receive coverage under an existing public program. Families with incomes under 185 percent of poverty will receive a full subsidy. Families with incomes between 185 percent of and 300 percent of poverty will receive assistance on a sliding scale. Between 80 and 90 percent of all uninsured children live in families with incomes below 300 percent of poverty. Even uninsured families with higher incomes might buy coverage for their children if policies designed for children were available. Families with income under 150 percent of poverty will also receive assistance with the cost of copayments and deductibles. Similar assistance will be provided to uninsured pregnant women.

The program will be administered by States under Federal guidelines. In general, States will contract with private insurance companies to offer children's coverage to any family that wants it. Lower income families will receive assistance with the cost of coverage, but coverage will be available to all families at all income levels. Basic rules will guarantee that coverage is adequate and tailored to the special needs of children, especially the need for comprehensive preventive care.

This plan does not guarantee that every child will have insurance coverage, but it gives the opportunity to every family to cover their children at a cost the family can probably afford. It will be a giant step toward the day when every member of every American family has true health security.

The cost of a similar program has been estimated at \$24 billion over 5 years. We propose to finance our plan by a combination of tobacco tax increases and closing corporate tax loopholes. The Nation currently spends close to \$1 trillion per year on health care. The additional cost of this proposal is substantial, but it is a needed step toward healthier lives for millions of American children and peace of mind for their parents.

In this Congress, we made substantial progress toward improving the health care system. We turned back extreme proposals to slash Medicare and Medicaid. Working together in a bipartisan way, we were able to pass the Kassebaum-Kennedy Health Insurance Reform Act, take a significant first step toward mental health parity, and protect mothers and infants from premature discharge from the hospital. Every Democratic and Republican

health plan in the previous Congress endorsed the idea of subsidizing private insurance coverage for children. This proposal should be a bipartisan health priority for the next Congress. I believe it is an idea whose time has finally come.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 1178

At the request of Mr. CHAFEE, the name of the Senator from Kansas [Mrs. FRAHM] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1178, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage of colorectal screening under part B of the Medicare Program.

S. 1385

At the request of Mr. BREAUX, the name of the Senator from Kansas [Mrs. FRAHM] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1385, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage of periodic colorectal screening services under part B of the Medicare Program.

S. 2030

At the request of Mr. LOTT, the name of the Senator from Nebraska [Mr. KERREY] was added as a cosponsor of S. 2030, a bill to establish nationally uniform requirements regarding the titling and registration of salvage, non-repairable, and rebuilt vehicles, and for other purposes.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 73

At the request of Mr. D'AMATO, the names of the Senator from Colorado [Mr. CAMPBELL], the Senator from Idaho [Mr. KEMPTHORNE], the Senator from Pennsylvania [Mr. SANTORUM], the Senator from Michigan [Mr. ABRAHAM], the Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID], the Senator from Florida [Mr. GRAHAM], and the Senator from Wisconsin [Mr. FEINGOLD] were added as cosponsors of Senate Concurrent Resolution 73, a concurrent resolution concerning the return of or compensation for wrongly confiscated foreign properties in formerly Communist countries and by certain foreign financial institutions.

SENATE RESOLUTION 307—ELECTING THE SECRETARY OF THE SENATE

Mr. LOTT submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 307

Resolved, That Gary Lee Sisco of Tennessee be and he is hereby elected Secretary of the Senate.

SENATE RESOLUTION 308—A NOTIFICATION TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. LOTT submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 308

Resolved, That the President of the United States be notified of the election of Gary Lee

Sisco of Tennessee as Secretary of the Senate.

SENATE RESOLUTION 309—A NOTIFICATION TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. LOTT submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 309

Resolved, That the House of Representatives be notified of the election of Gary Lee Sisco of Tennessee as Secretary of the Senate.

SENATE RESOLUTION 310—COMMENDING KELLY D. JOHNSTON FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE UNITED STATES SENATE

Mr. LOTT (for himself, Mr. DASCHLE, and Mr. NICKLES) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 310

Whereas Kelly D. Johnston faithfully served the Senate of the United States as Secretary of the Senate during the 104th Congress, and discharged the duties and responsibilities of that office with unflinching dedication and a high degree of efficiency; and

Whereas, as an elected officer of the Senate and as an employee of the Senate and the House of Representatives, Kelly D. Johnston has upheld the high standards and traditions of the United States Congress, from his service on the staff of the House of Representatives from the 96th through the 101st Congress and then on the staff of the Senate from the 102nd through the 104th Congress; and

Whereas, through his exceptional service and professional integrity as an officer and employee of the Senate of the United States, Kelly D. Johnston has earned the high esteem, confidence and trust of his associates and the Members of the Senate:

Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate recognizes the notable contributions of Kelly D. Johnston to the Senate and to his country and expresses to him its appreciation and gratitude for faithful and outstanding service.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED

THE PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY AND WORK OPPORTUNITY RECONCILIATION ACT OF 1996 AMENDMENT ACT

DASCHLE AMENDMENT NO. 5424

Mr. MURKOWSKI (for Mr. DASCHLE) proposed an amendment to the bill (S. 2183) to make technical corrections to the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. . EXTENSION OF NORTHERN GREAT PLAINS RURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION.

Section 11 of the Northern Great Plains Rural Development Act (Public Law 103-318; 7 U.S.C. 2661 note) is amended by striking