

to sue and be sued for pain and suffering damages.

American taxpayers stand to save a total of \$45 billion nationwide. This savings would go directly in the pocket of every insured person at no cost to the taxpayers. The Joint Economic Committee has projected that the auto choice option will save Oklahomans \$420 million in automobile insurance premiums and will put \$186 back into the accounts of every person with a car. This is the equivalent of an instant tax cut for every insured person.

The New York Times stated that with this bill: "Everyone would win—except the lawyers" that live off of the current liability system. In fact, trial lawyers take in an estimated \$17 billion a year from auto accident cases. USA Today reported that 35 cents of every auto premium dollar goes to lawyers.

This bill has been labeled a "model of federalism." Each State has the right to opt out of auto choice if the State insurance commissioner finds that residents fail to receive at least a 30 percent reduction in bodily injury premiums. The State legislature retains the right to simply pass a law against this option and keep its current auto liability system.

There is mounting evidence that the current auto liability insurance system has become prey to rampant fraud and abuse, which is constantly fed by inflated pain and suffering claims. FBI Director Louis Freeh estimated that the average household pays an additional \$200 in unnecessary premiums just to cover these fraudulent schemes. This hits low income families particularly hard since about one-third of a family's disposable income is consumed by car insurance costs. Auto choice will put that money back into the pockets of taxpayers to help pay for needed expenses, providing long-overdue relief to all who choose this option.

I am happy to cosponsor this bill and hope that every American with car insurance will be given the opportunity to make this choice to provide long over due relief to all who choose this option. It is time for all drivers to begin to enjoy lower auto premiums and to allow government to spend its resources outside of the courtroom.

JOHN F. KENNEDY CENTER PARKING IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1997

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 85, S. 797.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 797) to amend the John F. Kennedy Center Act to authorize the design and construction of additions to the parking garage and certain site improvements, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the bill?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, I am delighted that the Senate is considering S. 797, the John F. Kennedy Center Parking Improvement Act. This legislation, which will help to address parking and security problems at the Kennedy Center, was approved unanimously by the Committee On Environment and Public Works on June 5 of this year. I want to recognize the bill's cosponsors, Senators LOTT, BAUCUS, STEVENS, and KENNEDY, for their valuable assistance.

Briefly, Mr. President, this legislation provides authority to the Kennedy Center Board of Trustees to construct an addition to the existing parking garage at each of the north and south ends of the Center. Importantly, the Congressional Budget Office, in their letter of June 11, 1997, wrote that there will be not Federal costs associated with the enactment of S. 797.

The garage project will be financed through the issuance of industrial revenue bonds which will be repaid entirely with revenue derived from operation of the expanded garage. The bill includes a provision explicitly prohibiting the use of appropriated funds for the purpose of constructing or financing the parking garage expansion.

Also included in the bill is authorization for the Center to take action on site modifications for the improvement of security on the site. The Center has conducted a complete security review, and among the recommendations are changes to the main approach and plaza. This legislation allows the Center to pursue site modifications for the protection of the building and its visitors. The authorization of appropriations for this work, the site improvements and modifications, is provided by existing law.

Consistent with the John F. Kennedy Center Act Amendments of 1994, the Center's plans for the garage expansion and other, related site improvements will be developed in close consultation with the Department of the Interior.

Mr. President, the legislation reflects the commitment of the Kennedy Center Trustees to continually improve this Presidential monument for the benefit of the public—in a manner that is financially responsible. I want to again thank Senators LOTT, BAUCUS, STEVENS, and KENNEDY, for their help in drafting this bill. I urge the Senate to adopt this legislation.

AMENDMENT NOS. 1048 THROUGH 1053, EN BLOC

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, the following requests have been agreed to on both sides. There are six amendments at the desk that have been cleared on both sides. They are as follows:

Nos. 1048, 1049, 1050, 1051, 1052, and 1053.

I ask unanimous consent that these amendments be agreed to en bloc, the

bill be considered read a third time and passed, and that any statements relating to the amendments or bill appear at this point in the RECORD. I finally ask consent that the motion to reconsider the above action be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendments (Nos. 1048, 1049, 1050, 1051, 1052, and 1053) agreed to en bloc are as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 1048

Page 3, line 7, strike "or".

Page 3, line 12, strike the first period and all that follows and insert "; or".

Page 3, after line 12, insert the following:

"(C) any project to acquire large screen format equipment for an interpretive theater or to produce an interpretive film that the Board specifically designates will be financed using sources other than appropriated funds."

Page 4, strike lines 9 through 14.

Page 4, line 15, strike "5" and insert "4".

AMENDMENT NO. 1049

(Purpose: To provide for the design, construction, furnishing, and equipping of a Center for Performing Arts within the complex known as the New Mexico Hispanic Cultural Center, and for other purposes)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ CONSTRUCTION OF A CENTER FOR PERFORMING ARTS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The United States has an enriched legacy of Hispanic influence in politics, government, economic development, and cultural expression.

(2) The Hispanic culture in what is now the United States can be traced to 1528 when a Spanish expedition from Cuba to Florida was shipwrecked on the Texas coast.

(3) The Hispanic culture in New Mexico can be traced to 1539 when a Spanish Franciscan Friar, Marcos de Niza, and his guide, Estevanico, traveled into present day New Mexico in search of the fabled city of Cibola and made contact with the people of Zuni.

(4) The Hispanic influence in New Mexico is particularly dominant and a part of daily living for all the citizens of New Mexico, who are a diverse composite of racial, ethnic, and cultural peoples. Don Juan de Oarte and the first New Mexican families established the first capital in the United States, San Juan de los Caballeros, in July of 1598.

(5) Based on the 1990 census, there are approximately 650,000 Hispanics in New Mexico, the majority having roots reaching back ten or more generations.

(6) There are an additional 200,000 Hispanics living outside of New Mexico with roots in New Mexico.

(7) The New Mexico Hispanic Cultural Center is a living tribute to the Hispanic experience and will provide all citizens of New Mexico, the Southwestern United States, the entire United States, and around the world, an opportunity to learn about, partake in, and enjoy the unique Hispanic culture, and the New Mexico Hispanic Cultural Center will assure that this 400-year old culture is preserved.

(8) The New Mexico Hispanic Cultural Center will teach, showcase, and share all facets of Hispanic culture, including literature, performing arts, visual arts, culinary arts, and language arts.

(9) The New Mexico Hispanic Cultural Center will promote a better cross-cultural understanding of the Hispanic culture and the

contributions of individuals to the society in which we all live.

(10) In 1993, the legislature and Governor of New Mexico created the Hispanic Cultural Division as a division within the Office of Cultural Affairs. One of the principal responsibilities of the Hispanic Cultural Division is to oversee the planning, construction, and operation of the New Mexico Hispanic Cultural Center.

(11) The mission of the New Mexico Hispanic Cultural Center is to create a greater appreciation and understanding of Hispanic culture.

(12) The New Mexico Hispanic Cultural Center will serve as a local, regional, national, and international site for the study and advancement of Hispanic culture, expressing both the rich history and the forward-looking aspirations of Hispanics throughout the world.

(13) The New Mexico Hispanic Cultural Center will be a Hispanic arts and humanities showcase to display the works of national and international artists, and to provide a venue for educators, scholars, artists, children, elders, and the general public.

(14) The New Mexico Hispanic Cultural Center will provide a venue for presenting the historic and contemporary representations and achievements of the Hispanic culture.

(15) The New Mexico Hispanic Cultural Center will sponsor arts and humanities programs, including programs related to visual arts of all forms (including drama, dance, and traditional and contemporary music), research, literary arts, genealogy, oral history, publications, and special events such as, fiestas, culinary arts demonstrations, film video productions, storytelling presentations and education programs.

(16) Phase I of the New Mexico Hispanic Cultural Center complex is scheduled to be completed by August of 1998 and is planned to consist of an art gallery with exhibition space and a museum, administrative offices, a restaurant, a ballroom, a gift shop, an amphitheater, a research and literary arts center, and other components.

(17) Phase II of the New Mexico Hispanic Cultural Center complex is planned to include a performing arts center (containing a 700-seat theater, a stage house, and a 300-seat film/video theater), a 150-seat black box theater, an art studio building, a culinary arts building, and a research and literary arts building.

(18) It is appropriate for the Federal Government to share in the cost of constructing the New Mexico Hispanic Cultural Center because Congress recognizes that the New Mexico Hispanic Cultural Center has the potential to be a premier facility for performing arts and a national repository for Hispanic arts and culture.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) CENTER.—The term "Center" means the Center for Performing Arts, within the complex known as the New Mexico Hispanic Cultural Center, which Center for the Performing Arts is a central facility in Phase II of the New Mexico Hispanic Cultural Center complex.

(2) HISPANIC CULTURAL DIVISION.—The term "Hispanic Cultural Division" means the Hispanic Cultural Division of the Office of Cultural Affairs of the State of New Mexico.

(3) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

(c) CONSTRUCTION OF CENTER.—The Secretary shall award a grant to New Mexico to pay for the Federal share of the costs of the design, construction, furnishing, and equipping of the Center for Performing Arts that will be located at a site to be determined by the Hispanic Cultural Division, within the

complex known as the New Mexico Hispanic Cultural Center.

(d) GRANT REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In order to receive a grant awarded under subsection (c), New Mexico, acting through the Director of the Hispanic Cultural Division—

(A) shall submit to the Secretary, within 30 days of the date of enactment of this section, a copy of the New Mexico Hispanic Cultural Center Program document dated January 1996; and

(B) shall exercise due diligence to expeditiously execute, in a period not to exceed 90 days after the date of enactment of this section, the memorandum of understanding under paragraph (2) recognizing that time is of the essence for the construction of the Center because 1998 marks the 400th anniversary of the first permanent Spanish settlement in New Mexico.

(2) MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.—The memorandum of understanding described in paragraph (1) shall provide—

(A) the date of completion of the construction of the Center;

(B) that Antoine Predock, an internationally recognized architect, shall be the supervising architect for the construction of the Center;

(C) that the Director of the Hispanic Cultural Division shall award the contract for architectural engineering and design services in accordance with the New Mexico Procurement Code; and

(D) that the contract for the construction of the Center—

(i) shall be awarded pursuant to a competitive bidding process; and

(ii) shall be awarded not later than 3 months after the solicitation for bids for the construction of the Center.

(3) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of the costs described in subsection (c) shall be 50 percent.

(4) NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—The non-Federal share of the costs described in subsection (c) shall be in cash or in kind fairly evaluated, including plant, equipment, or services. The non-Federal share shall include any contribution received by New Mexico for the design, construction, furnishing, or equipping of Phase I or Phase II of the New Mexico Hispanic Cultural Center complex prior to the date of enactment of this section. The non-Federal share of the costs described in subsection (c) shall include the following:

(A) \$16,410,000 that was appropriated by the New Mexico legislature since January 1, 1993, for the planning, property acquisition, design, construction, furnishing, and equipping of the New Mexico Hispanic Cultural Center complex.

(B) \$116,000 that was appropriated by the New Mexico legislature for fiscal year 1995 for the startup and operating expenses of the New Mexico Hispanic Cultural Center.

(C) \$226,000 that was appropriated by the New Mexico legislature for fiscal year 1996 for the startup and operating expenses of the New Mexico Hispanic Cultural Center.

(D) \$442,000 that was appropriated by the New Mexico legislature for fiscal year 1997 for the startup and operating expenses of the New Mexico Hispanic Cultural Center.

(E) \$551,000 that was appropriated by the New Mexico legislature for fiscal year 1998 for the startup and operating expenses of the New Mexico Hispanic Cultural Center.

(F) A 10.9-acre lot with a historic 22,000 square foot building donated by the Mayor and City Council of Albuquerque, New Mexico, to New Mexico for the New Mexico Hispanic Cultural Center.

(G) 12 acres of "Bosque" land adjacent to the New Mexico Hispanic Cultural Center complex for use by the New Mexico Hispanic Cultural Center.

(H) The \$30,000 donation by the Sandia National Laboratories and Lockheed Martin Corporation to support the New Mexico Hispanic Cultural Center and the program activities of the New Mexico Hispanic Cultural Center.

(e) USE OF FUNDS FOR DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION, FURNISHING, AND EQUIPMENT.—The funds received under a grant awarded under subsection (c) shall be used only for the design, construction, management and inspection, furnishing, and equipment of the Center.

(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this section a total of \$17,800,000 for fiscal year 1998 and succeeding fiscal years. Funds appropriated pursuant to the authority of the preceding sentence shall remain available until expended.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, tonight we are passing the Kennedy Center garage bill with an amendment authorizing the the Hispanic Cultural Center's Performing Arts Center. On a day when we pass the monumental spending bill and a tax cut I am pleased that we are also authorizing this cultural center.

We could not be here today passing the cultural center bill if it were not that Senator CHAFEE was willing to be so helpful to me. He let me attach this amendment to the urgently needed legislation for the Kennedy Center. I want to thank Senator CHAFEE for his tremendous cooperation and legislative skills. I want to thank him for helping accomplish a very important project for the State of New Mexico. Next year marks the 400th anniversary of the first Hispanic settlement in the United States and it happened to be located in New Mexico.

Many celebrations are planned around the State, but this cultural center will be a permanent addition and showcase.

Mr. President, I am eager to present my colleagues with a wonderful plan to honor and perpetuate the Hispanic culture of America. Next year, 1998, is the 400th anniversary of Hispanic presence in New Mexico. In 1598, Juan de Oñate conquered New Mexico and founded the second city of the United States, San Gabriel de los Españoles. This was the first permanent Spanish settlement in New Mexico. From New Mexico, Juan de Oñate traveled across the desert to California where he founded San Francisco in 1605.

On the occasion of the 400th anniversary of Spanish presence, New Mexico will be beginning a new era of Spanish pride and cooperation with other cultures. In New Mexico, we are very proud of our cultural relations between the Indian, Spanish, and Anglo people. It is now time to pay special tribute to the Spanish people of New Mexico and the United States.

In preparing for the 400th anniversary celebrations, the State of New Mexico has invested over \$17.7 million toward the establishment of phase I of the New Mexico Hispanic Cultural Center. In addition, the city of Albuquerque has donated 10.9 acres and an historic 22,000 square foot building.

Twelve acres of "bosque" land near the Rio Grande have also been donated by the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District. Private contributions are also helping to meet the Hispanic Cultural Center goals.

I am asking my colleagues to match these New Mexico contributions with the funds to build the critical Hispanic Performing Arts Center at an estimated cost of \$17.8 million. I believe the people of New Mexico have done a stellar job in committing their own resources for an art gallery, museum, restaurant, ballroom, amphitheater, research center, literary arts center, and other supportive components.

To showcase the Hispanic culture in New Mexico for all Americans, the Hispanic Performing Arts Center is a vital component. Phase II plans include a 700-seat theater, a stage house, a 300-seat film/video center, a 150-seat black box theater, an art studio building, a culinary art building, and a research and literary arts building. The estimated cost of all phase II components is \$26 million. By agreeing to fund the Hispanic Performing Arts Center, Congress will make a significant contribution toward the phase II plan.

Not counting the land contributions, phase I and phase II design, construction, equipping, and furnishing is estimated to cost slightly more than \$40 million. Major infrastructure components are included in both phases. These include an aqueduct, acequia, and pond from the Barelays Drain; parking; a plaza and courtyard, and landscaping.

Phase I is now near the bidding stage. The Hispanic Performing Arts and Film Arts—the three theaters—are estimated to cost \$17.8 million, with necessary equipment—construction: \$15.9 million; fixed equipment: \$1.9 million. The remaining components of phase II are estimated to cost \$8 million.

This multifaceted Hispanic Cultural Center is designed to showcase, share, archive, preserve, and enhance the rich Hispanic culture for local, regional, and national audiences. It is designed to be a tourist attraction as well as a great source of local pride.

The Hispanic Cultural Center will be the southernmost facility on a cultural corridor that includes the Rio Grande Nature Center, the Albuquerque Aquarium, Botanical Gardens, and the Rio Grande Zoo. Historic Old Town Albuquerque is at the center of this cultural corridor.

Antoine Predock of Albuquerque and Pedro Marquez of Santa Fe are the project architects. They have emphasized the inclusion of New Mexico architectural features such as adobe construction—like the existing historic building used as the administrative center—courtyards, portals, cottonwoods for shading, and the irrigation ditches known in New Mexico as "acequias". The site is at the corner of Fourth Street and Bridge Boulevard in Southwest Albuquerque.

Once built, the Hispanic Cultural Center will employ over 100 people. Tourism dollars are expected to increase in this part of Albuquerque, and new ancillary businesses are anticipated to complement and enhance the attractions in the historic Barelays Neighborhood of Albuquerque.

The many forms of art, culture, research, performing arts, culinary arts, literature, and other activities are expected to add important cultural connections to the roots of the local and State Hispanic people. Completion of the Hispanic Performing Arts Center will be the major facility needed to showcase live and filmed Spanish cultural events. A whole new industry of preserving, showcasing, and enhancing pride in Spanish cultural roots is a vital anticipated benefit of this New Mexico-based Hispanic institution.

Visitors are expected from California, New York, Florida, Texas, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and other States with large Hispanic populations. The New Mexico Hispanic Cultural Center and its active Hispanic Performing Arts Center are expected to become nationally known treasures of living Hispanic culture in America.

I believe that the Federal funding for the Hispanic Performing Arts Center will be just the perfect contribution to a budding national treasure in its critical formative stages. I urge my colleagues to support the funding for the Hispanic Performing Arts Center in Albuquerque, NM, in honor of the 400th anniversary of Spanish culture, and in hopes of seeing the preservation and enhancement of this culture flourish into its 500th year.

AMENDMENT NO. 1049

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I rise to speak about a subject that is very important to the people of New Mexico; not just the Hispanic community, but people of all ethnicities that value the rich, historical traditions of our State. Today, I am proud to be co-sponsoring with my colleague from New Mexico, Senator DOMENICI, legislation that will finally make possible the creation of an Hispanic Cultural Center. The Center has been in the planning stages for many years and, when completed, will be the product of very hard work by numerous people in New Mexico. I would like to thank Senator DOMENICI for his work and Senator KENNEDY, Senator CHAFEE, Senator BOND, and Senator GORTON for their efforts to make this Center a reality, and I congratulate them.

Mr. President, the United States and New Mexico have enjoyed an enriched legacy of Hispanic tradition and culture. New Mexico especially can be proud of strong Hispanic participation in politics, government, economic development, and cultural expression. Hispanic presence in the United States reaches far back to 1528, and in New Mexico to 1539. Hispanic influence on our society can be seen all across our state, in our architecture, food, clothing, literature, music, family tradition,

and even the names of many of our towns and cities; names like "Alamogordo," "Raton," "Quemado," and "Penasco." Since the time that Don Juan de Onate first settled New Mexico in 1598, Hispanic families have been a part of the New Mexico landscape. Today, we can look forward to a Center that will showcase this rich tradition, and it will serve as a living tribute to the Hispanic experience for all citizens of our Nation.

Regrettably, our Federal Government has done too little to recognize that the Hispanic community has been present on this continent for 500 years and has been an integral fiber in our Nation's fabric. The Hispanic culture has made and continues to make many valuable contributions to our society as a whole. Hispanics make up the fastest growing minority group in this country. The Census Bureau reports that Hispanics presently account for 11 percent of our Nation's population, and by 2025 it will have accounted for 44 percent of the national population growth.

Certainly, the Center will promote a better understanding of Hispanics, and, more importantly, will serve as a showcase of how New Mexico is a place where many cultures, including Anglo, Native American, and African American, live and work together in magnificent harmony. This legislation is an important first step by our Federal Government to long-delayed recognition.

There is still much work to be done to make this Center a reality, however. Construction on the facility will begin, and the location of the Center is presently being determined. I strongly encourage all concerned parties to work together to ensure that the spirit of the Center remains intact.

Again, Mr. President, on behalf of the people of New Mexico, I thank the distinguished Senators.

AMENDMENT NO. 1050

(Purpose: To provide for the design, construction, furnishing and equipping of a Center for Historically Black Heritage within Florida A&M University)

At the appropriate place insert the following:

SEC. . CONSTRUCTION OF A CENTER FOR REGIONAL BLACK CULTURE.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Currently 500,000 historically important artifacts of the Civil War era and the early days of the civil rights movement in the Southeast region of the United States are housed at Florida A&M University.

(2) To preserve this large repository of African-American history and artifacts it is appropriate that the Federal Government share in the cost of construction of this national repository for culture and history.

(b) DEFINITION.—In this section:

(1) CENTER.—The term "Center" relates to the Center for Historically Black Heritage at Florida A&M University.

(2) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Interior Acting through the director of the Park Service.

(c) CONSTRUCTION OF CENTER.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award a grant to the State of Florida to pay for the

Federal share of the costs design construction, furnishing and equipping the Center at Florida A&M University.

(d) GRANT REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In order to receive the grant awarded under subsection (c), Florida A&M University, shall submit to the Secretary a proposal.

(2) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of the costs described in subsection (c) shall be 50 percent.

(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATION.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Interior to carry out this section a total of \$3,800,000 fiscal year 1998 and preceding fiscal years. Funds appropriated pursuant to the authority of the preceding sentence should remain available until expended.

AMENDMENT NO. 1051

(Purpose: To provide for the relocation and expansion of the Haffenreffer Museum of Anthropology at Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island)

At the end of the bill, add the following:

SEC. . RELOCATION AND EXPANSION OF HAFFENREFFER MUSEUM OF ANTHROPOLOGY.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) MUSEUM.—The term "Museum" means the Haffenreffer Museum of Anthropology at Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island.

(2) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

(b) RELOCATION AND EXPANSION OF MUSEUM.—The Secretary shall make a grant to Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island, to pay the Federal share of the costs associated with the relocation and expansion of the Museum, including the design, construction, renovation, restoration, furnishing, and equipping of the Museum.

(c) GRANT REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—To receive a grant under subsection (b), the Museum shall submit to the Secretary a proposal for the use of the grant.

(2) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of the costs described in subsection (b) shall be 20 percent.

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$3,000,000, to remain available until expended.

Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, I am pleased that the Senate is today considering legislation to assist in the relocation and expansion of the Haffenreffer Museum of Anthropology at Brown University in Providence, RI.

In 1955, the family of Rudolf F. Haffenreffer bequeathed to Brown University the museum he had founded in Bristol, RI. The museum includes more than 100,000 objects from native peoples of the Americas, Africa, Asia, and the Pacific.

This is a teaching museum owned and supported by Brown University. It has a number of world-class holdings that attract scholars from all over the globe, and has been described by the American Association of Museums as a "superb medium- to small-sized facility with outstanding collections, excellent exhibits, and a superb program of public education and outreach."

While maintaining objects from around the world, the Haffenreffer Museum exhibits extensive archaeological materials from New England that are used to interpret prehistoric and his-

torical cultural developments in Rhode Island and surrounding States. This legislation authorizes \$3 million to preserve these culturally important collections and to provide expanded exhibition space that will make them more accessible to schoolchildren, scholars, students, and other visitors.

In 1995, Brown University acquired from the Resolution Trust Corporation [RTC] the historic Old Stone Bank building, built in 1854, along with the 1928 Federal-style residence known as the Benoni-Cooke House, both located in downtown Providence. The RTC took over both properties when the Old Stone Bank failed in 1993.

Prior to Brown's purchase of these sites, it was unclear how or whether they would be put to use. The funds authorized by this bill will contribute a modest portion of the estimated \$15 million Brown University will spend to relocate the Haffenreffer Museum from Bristol, RI, to the bank building and the Benoni-Cooke House, both of which are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Mr. President, this is indeed a win-win project being carried out by Brown University. We will renovate, preserve and make fine use of two historic architectural landmarks—while providing greater access to an extraordinary tool for cultural and historical education. This is a fine example of the type of assistance our Federal Government can provide to local communities to preserve and make available for future generations the significant developments of our past.

Mr. President, I encourage the support of colleagues.

AMENDMENT NO. 1052

At the end of the bill add the following new section:

SEC. XXX. ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH CENTER.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior shall award a grant to Juniata College for the construction of an environmental research facilities and structures at Raystown Lake, Pennsylvania.

(b) COORDINATION.—As a condition to receipt of the grant authorized in subsection (a), officials of Juniata College shall coordinate with the Baltimore District of the Army Corps of Engineers.

(c) APPROPRIATIONS AUTHORIZED.—There is authorized to be appropriated \$5,000,000 to carry out this section.

AMENDMENT NO. 1053

At the end of the bill add the following new section:

SEC. XXX. FORT PECK DAM INTERPRETIVE CENTER.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior shall design, construct, furnish and equip an historical cultural and paleontological interpretive center and museum to be located at Fort Peck Dam, Montana.

(b) COORDINATION.—In carrying out subsection (a) the Secretary of the Interior shall coordinate with officials of the Bureau of Reclamation, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Fort Peck Dam Interpretive Center and Museum.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section a total of \$10,000,000. Funds appropriated are available until expended.

The bill (S. 797), as amended, was deemed read a third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 797

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "John F. Kennedy Center Parking Improvement Act of 1997".

SEC. 2. PARKING GARAGE ADDITIONS AND SITE IMPROVEMENTS.

Section 3 of the John F. Kennedy Center Act (20 U.S.C. 76i) is amended—

(1) by striking the section heading and all that follows through "The Board" and inserting the following:

"SEC. 3. JOHN F. KENNEDY CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—The Board"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

"(b) PARKING GARAGE ADDITIONS AND SITE IMPROVEMENTS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Substantially in accordance with the plan entitled 'Site Master Plan—Drawing Number 1997-2 April 29, 1997,' and map number NCR 844/82571, the Board may design and construct—

"(A) an addition to the parking garage at each of the north and south ends of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts; and

"(B) site improvements and modifications.

"(2) AVAILABILITY.—The plan shall be on file and available for public inspection in the office of the Secretary of the Center.

"(3) LIMITATION ON USE OF APPROPRIATED FUNDS.—No appropriated funds may be used to pay the costs (including the repayment of obligations incurred to finance costs) of—

"(A) the design and construction of an addition to the parking garage authorized under paragraph (1)(A);

"(B) the design and construction of site improvements and modifications authorized under paragraph (1)(B) that the Board specifically designates will be financed using sources other than appropriated funds; or

"(C) any project to acquire large screen format equipment for an interpretive theater or to produce an interpretive film that the Board specifically designates will be financed using sources other than appropriated funds."

SEC. 3. PEDESTRIAN AND VEHICULAR ACCESS.

(a) DUTIES OF THE BOARD.—Section 4(a)(1) of the John F. Kennedy Center Act (20 U.S.C. 76j(a)(1)) is amended—

(1) by striking "and" at the end of subparagraph (G);

(2) by striking the period at the end of subparagraph (H) and inserting "; and"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

"(I) ensure that safe and convenient access to the site of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts is provided for pedestrians and vehicles."

(b) POWERS OF THE BOARD.—Section 5 of such Act (20 U.S.C. 76k) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(g) PEDESTRIAN AND VEHICULAR ACCESS.—Subject to approval of the Secretary of the Interior under section 4(a)(2)(F), the Board shall develop plans and carry out projects to improve pedestrian and vehicular access to the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts."

SEC. 4. DEFINITION OF BUILDING AND SITE.

Section 13 of the John F. Kennedy Center Act (20 U.S.C. 76s) and section 9(3) of the Act of October 24, 1951 (40 U.S.C. 193v), are each amended by inserting after "numbered 844/82563, and dated April 20, 1994" the following: "(as amended by the map entitled 'Transfer of John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts', numbered 844/82563a and dated May 22, 1997)".

SEC. 5. CONSTRUCTION OF A CENTER FOR PERFORMING ARTS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The United States has an enriched legacy of Hispanic influence in politics, government, economic development, and cultural expression.

(2) The Hispanic culture in what is now the United States can be traced to 1528 when a Spanish expedition from Cuba to Florida was shipwrecked on the Texas coast.

(3) The Hispanic culture in New Mexico can be traced to 1539 when a Spanish Franciscan Friar, Marcos de Niza, and his guide, Estevanico, traveled into present day New Mexico in search of the fabled city of Cibola and made contact with the people of Zuni.

(4) The Hispanic influence in New Mexico is particularly dominant and a part of daily living for all the citizens of New Mexico, who are a diverse composite of racial, ethnic, and cultural peoples. Don Juan de Oarte and the first New Mexican families established the first capital in the United States, San Juan de los Caballeros, in July of 1598.

(5) Based on the 1990 census, there are approximately 650,000 Hispanics in New Mexico, the majority having roots reaching back ten or more generations.

(6) There are an additional 200,000 Hispanics living outside of New Mexico with roots in New Mexico.

(7) The New Mexico Hispanic Cultural Center is a living tribute to the Hispanic experience and will provide all citizens of New Mexico, the Southwestern United States, the entire United States, and around the world, an opportunity to learn about, partake in, and enjoy the unique Hispanic culture, and the New Mexico Hispanic Cultural Center will assure that this 400-year old culture is preserved.

(8) The New Mexico Hispanic Cultural Center will teach, showcase, and share all facets of Hispanic culture, including literature, performing arts, visual arts, culinary arts, and language arts.

(9) The New Mexico Hispanic Cultural Center will promote a better cross-cultural understanding of the Hispanic culture and the contributions of individuals to the society in which we all live.

(10) In 1993, the legislature and Governor of New Mexico created the Hispanic Cultural Division as a division within the Office of Cultural Affairs. One of the principal responsibilities of the Hispanic Cultural Division is to oversee the planning, construction, and operation of the New Mexico Hispanic Cultural Center.

(11) The mission of the New Mexico Hispanic Cultural Center is to create a greater appreciation and understanding of Hispanic culture.

(12) The New Mexico Hispanic Cultural Center will serve as a local, regional, national, and international site for the study and advancement of Hispanic culture, expressing both the rich history and the forward-looking aspirations of Hispanics throughout the world.

(13) The New Mexico Hispanic Cultural Center will be a Hispanic arts and humanities showcase to display the works of national and international artists, and to provide a venue for educators, scholars, artists, children, elders, and the general public.

(14) The New Mexico Hispanic Cultural Center will provide a venue for presenting the historic and contemporary representations and achievements of the Hispanic culture.

(15) The New Mexico Hispanic Cultural Center will sponsor arts and humanities programs, including programs related to visual arts of all forms (including drama, dance, and traditional and contemporary music), re-

search, literary arts, genealogy, oral history, publications, and special events such as, fiestas, culinary arts demonstrations, film video productions, storytelling presentations and education programs.

(16) Phase I of the New Mexico Hispanic Cultural Center complex is scheduled to be completed by August of 1998 and is planned to consist of an art gallery with exhibition space and a museum, administrative offices, a restaurant, a ballroom, a gift shop, an amphitheater, a research and literary arts center, and other components.

(17) Phase II of the New Mexico Hispanic Cultural Center complex is planned to include a performing arts center (containing a 700-seat theater, a stage house, and a 300-seat film/video theater), a 150-seat black box theater, an art studio building, a culinary arts building, and a research and literary arts building.

(18) It is appropriate for the Federal Government to share in the cost of constructing the New Mexico Hispanic Cultural Center because Congress recognizes that the New Mexico Hispanic Cultural Center has the potential to be a premier facility for performing arts and a national repository for Hispanic arts and culture.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) CENTER.—The term "Center" means the Center for Performing Arts, within the complex known as the New Mexico Hispanic Cultural Center, which Center for the Performing Arts is a central facility in Phase II of the New Mexico Hispanic Cultural Center complex.

(2) HISPANIC CULTURAL DIVISION.—The term "Hispanic Cultural Division" means the Hispanic Cultural Division of the Office of Cultural Affairs of the State of New Mexico.

(3) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

(c) CONSTRUCTION OF CENTER.—The Secretary shall award a grant to New Mexico to pay for the Federal share of the costs of the design, construction, furnishing, and equipping of the Center for Performing Arts that will be located at a site to be determined by the Hispanic Cultural Division, within the complex known as the New Mexico Hispanic Cultural Center.

(d) GRANT REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In order to receive a grant awarded under subsection (c), New Mexico, acting through the Director of the Hispanic Cultural Division—

(A) shall submit to the Secretary, within 30 days of the date of enactment of this section, a copy of the New Mexico Hispanic Cultural Center Program document dated January 1996; and

(B) shall exercise due diligence to expeditiously execute, in a period not to exceed 90 days after the date of enactment of this section, the memorandum of understanding under paragraph (2) recognizing that time is of the essence for the construction of the Center because 1998 marks the 400th anniversary of the first permanent Spanish settlement in New Mexico.

(2) MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.—The memorandum of understanding described in paragraph (1) shall provide—

(A) the date of completion of the construction of the Center;

(B) that Antoine Predock, an internationally recognized architect, shall be the supervising architect for the construction of the Center;

(C) that the Director of the Hispanic Cultural Division shall award the contract for architectural engineering and design services in accordance with the New Mexico Procurement Code; and

(D) that the contract for the construction of the Center—

(i) shall be awarded pursuant to a competitive bidding process; and

(ii) shall be awarded not later than 3 months after the solicitation for bids for the construction of the Center.

(3) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of the costs described in subsection (c) shall be 50 percent.

(4) NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—The non-Federal share of the costs described in subsection (c) shall be in cash or in kind fairly evaluated, including plant, equipment, or services. The non-Federal share shall include any contribution received by New Mexico for the design, construction, furnishing, or equipping of Phase I or Phase II of the New Mexico Hispanic Cultural Center complex prior to the date of enactment of this section. The non-Federal share of the costs described in subsection (c) shall include the following:

(A) \$16,410,000 that was appropriated by the New Mexico legislature since January 1, 1993, for the planning, property acquisition, design, construction, furnishing, and equipping of the New Mexico Hispanic Cultural Center complex.

(B) \$116,000 that was appropriated by the New Mexico legislature for fiscal year 1995 for the startup and operating expenses of the New Mexico Hispanic Cultural Center.

(C) \$226,000 that was appropriated by the New Mexico legislature for fiscal year 1996 for the startup and operating expenses of the New Mexico Hispanic Cultural Center.

(D) \$442,000 that was appropriated by the New Mexico legislature for fiscal year 1997 for the startup and operating expenses of the New Mexico Hispanic Cultural Center.

(E) \$551,000 that was appropriated by the New Mexico legislature for fiscal year 1998 for the startup and operating expenses of the New Mexico Hispanic Cultural Center.

(F) A 10.9-acre lot with a historic 22,000 square foot building donated by the Mayor and City Council of Albuquerque, New Mexico, to New Mexico for the New Mexico Hispanic Cultural Center.

(G) 12 acres of "Bosque" land adjacent to the New Mexico Hispanic Cultural Center complex for use by the New Mexico Hispanic Cultural Center.

(H) The \$30,000 donation by the Sandia National Laboratories and Lockheed Martin Corporation to support the New Mexico Hispanic Cultural Center and the program activities of the New Mexico Hispanic Cultural Center.

(e) USE OF FUNDS FOR DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION, FURNISHING, AND EQUIPMENT.—The funds received under a grant awarded under subsection (c) shall be used only for the design, construction, management and inspection, furnishing, and equipment of the Center.

(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this section a total of \$17,800,000 for fiscal year 1998 and succeeding fiscal years. Funds appropriated pursuant to the authority of the preceding sentence shall remain available until expended.

SEC. 6. CONSTRUCTION OF A CENTER FOR REGIONAL BLACK CULTURE.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Currently 500,000 historically important artifacts of the Civil War era and the early days of the civil rights movement in the Southeast region of the United States are housed at Florida A&M University.

(2) To preserve this large repertory of African-American history and artifacts it is appropriate that the Federal Government share in the cost of construction of this national repository for culture and history.

(b) DEFINITION.—In this section:

(1) CENTER.—The term "Center" relates to the Center for Historically Black Heritage at Florida A&M University.

(2) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior Acting through the director of the Park Service.

(c) CONSTRUCTION OF CENTER.—The Secretary shall award a grant to the State of Florida to pay for the Federal share of the costs design construction, furnishing and equipping the Center at Florida A&M University.

(d) GRANT REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In order to receive the grant awarded under subsection (c), Florida A&M University, shall submit to the Secretary a proposal.

(2) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of the costs described in subsection (c) shall be 50 percent.

(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATION.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of the Interior to carry out this section a total of \$3,800,000 for fiscal year 1998 and preceding fiscal years. Funds appropriated pursuant to the authority of the preceding sentence should remain available until expended.

SEC. 7. RELOCATION AND EXPANSION OF HAFFENREFFER MUSEUM OF ANTHROPOLOGY.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) MUSEUM.—The term "Museum" means the Haffenreffer Museum of Anthropology at Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island.

(2) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

(b) RELOCATION AND EXPANSION OF MUSEUM.—The Secretary shall make a grant to Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island, to pay the Federal share of the costs associated with the relocation and expansion of the Museum, including the design, construction, renovation, restoration, furnishing, and equipping of the Museum.

(c) GRANT REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—To receive a grant under subsection (b), the Museum shall submit to the Secretary a proposal for the use of the grant.

(2) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of the costs described in subsection (b) shall be 20 percent.

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$3,000,000, to remain available until expended.

SEC. 8. ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH CENTER.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior shall award a grant to Juniata College for the construction of environmental research facilities and structures at Raystown Lake, Pennsylvania.

(b) COORDINATION.—As a condition to receipt of the grant authorized in subsection (a), officials of Juniata College shall coordinate with the Baltimore District of the Army Corps of Engineers.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated \$5,000,000 to carry out this section.

SEC. 9. FORT PECK DAM INTERPRETIVE CENTER.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior shall design, construct, furnish and equip an historical, cultural and paleontological interpretive center and museum to be located at Fort Peck Dam, Montana.

(b) COORDINATION.—In carrying out subsection (a), the Secretary of the Interior shall coordinate with officials of the Bureau of Reclamation, Bureau of Land Management, United States Army Corps of Engineers and the Fort Peck Dam Interpretive Center and Museum.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to

carry out this section a total of \$10,000,000. Funds appropriated are available until expended.

Mr. DOMENICI. I thank the Senate.

I yield the floor.

Mr. KERRY addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

(The remarks of Mr. KERRY pertaining to the introduction of S. 1124 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Several Senators addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

LIFTING OF TRAVEL BAN TO LEBANON

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise to speak today with respect to a development which has occurred by an act of omission rather than commission on the part of the Secretary of State.

As the President I am sure is aware, for approximately 10 years American citizens have had passport restrictions which have prevented them from being able to travel to the country of Lebanon. The way the process works is, at various intervals—most recently at 6-month intervals—this "travel ban," as it is referred to, was back before the Secretary of State for renewal, and it has continued to be renewed for additional 6-month periods for quite some time. The 6-month period expired as of the 1st of August. This Secretary of State decided, after much consideration of the merits of these issues, not to extend the travel ban further.

I want to rise today—I have had a chance to be on the floor in morning business prior to this—to both commend the Secretary of State for her difficult situation and to applaud her courage in making this decision. This was a very controversial issue. It is one that both this Secretary of State and her predecessors have had to look at hard and long because, obviously, there is a need to balance, on the one hand, the security interests of United States citizens who might travel to Lebanon and, on the other hand, both humanitarian as well as economic considerations of those who had a desire to make such trips.

I believe the Secretary of State made the right decision. For a variety of reasons, Americans need to be able to travel to Lebanon. They need to be able to travel there freely. First and foremost is the need for families to be able to reunify. Many American citizens of Lebanese ancestry have close relatives who are in Lebanon and are not able to visit them because of this travel ban.

For economic reasons it makes sense for the travel ban to have been lifted. The fact is that Lebanon is in a very successful rebuilding period, and that rebuilding process has included many foreign nations who have come to Lebanon's aid and many foreign companies

who have taken advantage of the opportunities to rebuild the phone and utilities and other systems of the country. American companies have not been able to do that. Mr. President, they have missed an opportunity to create jobs and to create opportunities here at home as well as in Lebanon. By lifting the ban that opportunity is now available again.

Another argument for lifting the ban which I found very compelling was the argument that it is important from the standpoint of the Middle East stability for the United States to be engaged in Lebanon. In recent years, Lebanon has found itself occupied by numerous foreign forces. During that timeframe, it has not been able to look to the West, and particularly to the United States, for help and assistance in the process of moving the direction of economic growth and democratic principles.

Having a greater United States role in Lebanon, I think, will make it easier for Lebanon to be become once again a fully independent and fully sovereign nation and to see all foreign forces leave that country. So for all of these reasons, the lifting of this ban comes at the right time. It is the right choice.

Arrayed against these, as I said, are units with security concerns. The fact is that there are many countries in the world today that are no safer to travel to than Lebanon but in which case there is no travel ban. There are travel advisories. The Secretary of State will be issuing that type of travel advisory to make sure that Americans understand the risks involved. Indeed, I would like to put on the record my own strong observation that there are risks to Americans to travel there. It is not yet the case that one can go to Lebanon without being aware of the mind flow, of the potential problems that might exist there, particularly in certain parts of the country, for American travelers.

At the same time we have numerous countries in the world where such risks exist. I believe a travel advisory is the proper way in which to address it rather than an outright travel ban.

For all of these reasons, Mr. President, as I say, I think the Secretary of State has done the right thing. I hope that Americans will once again get to know Lebanon and that the relationship that once existed between our countries, which was a very close and warm relationship, can be built once more.

I would also like to conclude by congratulating the Lebanese people. This travel ban being lifted is in no small measure a result of the efforts on the part of the Lebanese Government and the Lebanese people to address the security concerns which we have had. A variety of actions have already taken place. A number of further commitments were made in the process of discussing the renewal of this ban. I believe that Prime Minister Hariri and the Government of Lebanon are prepared to live up to those commitments