

very large volumes of confidential information.

Amendment two would shape that and limit it. In short, this amendment simply says income tax information should only be shared for a relevant purpose—for income tax purposes, period. It would treat States and other jurisdictions the way the Tax Code already treats the larger cities. This amendment represents a modest first step toward better protection for taxpayer privacy.

The third amendment requires the IRS to publish a reasonable disclosure to all taxpayers in the instruction booklets already accompanying the basic Federal income tax returns. This would simply be an explanation to the taxpayer in clear language, in conspicuous print, one page, in the front of the information booklet, the conditions under which the taxpayer's tax return information may be shared with any other party outside the IRS.

In other words, it puts the taxpayer on notice that here is the limit and this is information they simply did not know before. I firmly believe that virtually none of America's taxpayers realize just how public their private tax records are. The very least we owe them is to disclose up front the circumstances under which their information will be shared. This would also assure them of the extent, however limited, to which their privacy is protected. This disclosure also should result in increased compliance with State and local tax laws since taxpayers will be reminded up front as they prepare their Federal return that the same information may be shared for State or local compliance purposes. Surely, the IRS can do this for its taxpayers. Taxpayers who will send \$1.7 trillion this year to the Treasury of this country deserve to have a clear, one-page explanation of the extent to which their privacy is protected.

Let me repeat that. One page of information, that is all it takes, in the front of the information book that goes out to every taxpayer. I do not want the regulators downtown to decide that it takes an entirely new book with multiple pages saying blah-blah-blah, blah-blah-blah. We want the taxpayer to know the circumstances and those who can receive this very private and very confidential information. So that is what should happen, and I believe these are amendments Congress should accept as we move to reform the IRS code.

Mr. President, I urge adoption of amendment 2364, as modified, and I ask to set aside for the time being amendments 2365 and 2366.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection? Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 2364), as modified, was agreed to.

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, again, I applaud my chairman, BILL ROTH, for the leadership he has brought on this most significant of issues. As I say, it

is fun to be a part of rolling back 200 years of accumulation of assault on the American taxpayer that clearly this Senate is acting upon now in this major reform of the IRS. Of course, to our majority leader, and to all who have joined in the Finance Committee, it is especially important that we do this.

So I hope that the disclosures I am talking about, the limitations as they relate to privacy and the confidentiality of this information can become a part of that reform. And then, of course, the other, an intense study to understand how far we can go and how we can work with income-tax-collecting State agencies and cities to assure even greater confidentiality is so very important.

With those comments, I yield the floor. I note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. THOMAS. I ask unanimous consent to speak for 6 minutes as in morning business.

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

Mr. THOMAS. Thank you, Mr. President.

A SPECIAL MOTHER—DOROTHY B. ENZI

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I want to take some time while we are in a pause here to talk about something that all of us are aware of, and that is Mother's Day, which is on Sunday, but I also want to talk a little bit about a special mother, a lady from Sheridan, WY.

This lady was selected to be Mother of the Year in Wyoming a short time ago. Just last week, she participated in the National Mother of the Year event, American mothers event. She is a lady who has done all of the things that people want to do.

She had a long and happy marriage, a career with her husband in a small business, a leader in her church. She continues to be an elder of the Sunday school, superintendent of a Presbyterian Church, first woman president of the Sheridan County Chamber of Commerce, a scout leader, director of the National Miss Indian Pageant for 12 years, twice Worthy Matron of Eastern Star. Currently, she is serving on the boards of the Sheridan County Senior Center, Salvation Army, Lifelink and Camp Story. She is a busy, busy lady. She also has two children.

Her name is Dorothy Enzi, and one of her children is Senator MIKE ENZI from Wyoming, my associate, who went, by the way, last weekend to this national event.

I want to take a moment to recognize this lady for all that she does, not only because she is my friend's mother and my friend as well, but because this is the time to celebrate motherhood, a time to celebrate families, a time to celebrate things that we think are so important.

I was struck by the homey sort of poem that was written by her daughter, the other child of Dorothy Enzi. I am going to share it with you.

A WOMAN AHEAD OF HER TIME

(By Marilyn Koester)

Dorothy Enzi has always worked hard all her life

With a wholesome work ethic, whatever the strife.

A woman who was always ahead of her time
A 90's woman of each era—a role model of mine.

In the 40's a grocery store she did run
With her husband, yet still had time for her son.

Then I came along and she handled that too
This 90's woman of the 40's knew just what to do.

In the 50's she ran the Thermop Trailer Court

While Dad sold shoes on the road for his family's support.

Then to Sheridan they moved and worked side by side

At their very first shoe store—a real source of pride.

Mom always made time for Mike's and my needs

As Den Mother, Scout Leader, she did many deeds.

She always worked hard—often into the night

A 90's woman of the 50's she knew what was right.

In the 60's more shoe stores were opened elsewhere

And Mom worked just as hard as anyone there.

She was active in clubs and the Chamber as well

As their first woman President she served them quite swell.

Whatever the challenge, she took it in stride
But her family remained a great source of pride.

As we both entered college we knew what it took

The 90's woman of the 60's had written the book.

In the 70's Mom was still going strong
She and Dad worked hard and the hours were long.

But they took time to golf and oft headed south

When the winters up north got them down in the mouth.

Her kids were now grown and both married as well

Grandchildren now made her feel pretty swell.

She cuddled and coddled and to them she did tend

This 90's woman of the 70's came full circle again.

In the 80's the shoe stores were now changing hands

And Mom still was strong when alone she did stand.

Dad passed on to a place where Mom could not go

But she cherished the memories whene're she felt low.

She kept loving life and worked hard at all tasks

And volunteered time to all groups that did ask.

Still active and busy, not once standing still
This 90's woman of the 80's thought life was a thrill.

Now the 90's have come, and Mom still shows us how

You can work hard, enjoy life and do it all now.

Life's never dull if you give it your best
And God's blessed us with a Mother above all the rest.

On this great occasion Mike and I say
Congrats Mom, we love you, let's make this your day.

Mother of the Year we salute you and say
You're a woman ahead of your time to this day.

So I rise to salute Dorothy Enzi, and all the mothers in this country, and particularly the good bringing up that our good Senator from Wyoming has had from his mother.

Thank you, Mr. President.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. ROTH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE RESTRUCTURING AND REFORM ACT OF 1998

The Senate continued with the consideration of the bill.

Mr. ROTH. Mr. President, I point out that it is almost 5 minutes to 1, and we still have a great deal of territory to cover if we are going to complete this legislation today. And it is my intent to stay here until we do so.

The question of restructuring IRS is a matter of great importance. It is important that we get on with the job. So I want everyone in the Senate to know that it is my full intent to complete consideration of this bill today. That means we have to get on with the job. And we are sitting here waiting for amendments to be brought to the floor.

So I say to each of my colleagues, if you have any intention of bringing up an amendment, now is the time to do it, because time is moving rapidly and I know many of you want to get out of here this evening.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. INHOFE). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. DORGAN. I ask unanimous consent to speak for 4 minutes as in morning business.

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

MANAGED CARE

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, one of the issues that we think is very important and needs to be addressed by this Congress is the issue of managed care. A number of us have, every day the Senate has been in session recently, brought to the floor stories of what is happening in health care in this country and examples why a Patients' Bill of Rights, which we would like to see the Congress enact, would be beneficial to the American people.

Today I want to tell you about a man named Frank Wurzbacher of Alexandria, Kentucky. Fred received monthly injections of a drug called leupron as treatment for his prostate cancer. Under his retiree health plan, that treatment, which cost \$500 per injection, was fully covered.

When a different insurance company took over as the plan administrator, however, the new company notified Mr. Wurzbacher that his coverage for this treatment was reduced from 100 percent to only two-thirds of the total cost. In other words, rather than paying the full \$500 for the shot, the company would pay only \$320.

At the time, Mr. Wurzbacher was a 66-year old retiree. He didn't have the extra \$180 a month for the leupron injections, so he asked his physician what his alternatives were. The physician said the aggressiveness of the cancer suggested that the only other alternative was the removal of the patient's testicles. The surgery was approved. Mr. Wurzbacher had that surgery and then returned home from the hospital to find a letter from the insurance company notifying him that it had made a mistake and that his plan would, in fact, pay the full \$500 for the monthly leupron injection. But by then, of course, it was too late; the surgery had been done.

That should not have happened to Mr. Wurzbacher and would not happen if the Patients' Bill of Rights were law. Under the Patients' Bill of Rights, there would have been an appeal of the new plan administrator's decision and that appeal, perhaps, would have then disclosed that the coverage for leupron was in fact fully available. Mr. Wurzbacher would not have had to go through his operation. Of course, no one can turn back the clock, and Mr. Wurzbacher is just one more victim of decision-making by those who all too often see medical care as a function of dollars and cents and the bottom line, rather than as a function of saving someone's life.

The Patients' Bill of Rights simply says that those 160 million Americans who are now herded into managed care organizations for their health care have certain rights. One of those rights ought to be the right to be told all of your medical options for the treatment of your disease, not just the cheapest option.

You also ought to have a right to appeal an adverse decision that is made about your health care by your man-

aged care plan. Such an appeal may very well have prevented the kind of tragedy that was visited on Frank Wurzbacher of Alexandria, KY.

Mr. President, we hope very much that Republicans and Democrats together this year will agree that the issue of managed care and the issue of a Patients' Bill of Rights should be brought to the floor of the Senate and addressed not only in the Senate, but also by legislation enacted by Congress this year. We will continue to discuss on the floor of the Senate the stories of the problems people face, one by one across this country, with managed care when managed care organizations view health care as a function of someone's profit and loss statement.

Let me conclude by describing, as I have on previous occasions, an interesting front-page story in the New York Times about a woman who had suffered a severe brain injury and was being transported by ambulance to a hospital. She had the presence of mind, as her brain was swelling from this injury, to tell the ambulance driver she wanted to be transported to the hospital farthest away. She said this because she knew that the closer hospital, which was affiliated with her health care plan, had a reputation for treating emergency room care as a function of the bottom line. She wanted to go to an emergency room in which someone looked at her and did what needed to be done in every circumstance, against all odds, to save her life. She was fearful enough of going to a hospital where she would be viewed as a function of someone else's bottom line that she wanted to be transported to the hospital farther away.

That relates to this issue. Should health care that relates to a specific patient's condition be practiced in a doctor's office or a hospital, or should decisions about a patient's health care be made in an insurance office 2,400 miles away by some accountant? The American people understand what the answer to that question should be. The answer is embodied in a proposal called the Patients' Bill of Rights. That proposal has been introduced here in the Senate, and I hope very soon that we can bring a proposal of this type to the floor of the Senate and discuss these central questions about health care in this country.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. KERREY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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