their privacy. The impetus to computerize medical records for the sake of efficiency cannot be allowed to overrun our basic privacy. People deserve the assurance that their medical histories will not be the subject of public curiosity, commercial advantage or harmful disclosure. This computerization of medical information has raised the stakes in privacy protection. Congress created this threat. Now Congress needs to just say no to the idea of a cradle-to-grave medical dossier.

Health care computerization not only is inevitable, it can be a useful tool to improve health care. But trusting our medical records to this rapidly developing technology will only be supported by the American people if they are assured that their medical privacy is protected. Privacy is not the only victim here. Without privacy protections, many will be discouraged from seeking help or taking advantage of the access we are working so hard to protect in this very same law.

I ask that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The text of the bill follows:

S. 2352

*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 ''Patient Privacy Rights Act of 1998''.

**SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

Congress finds that—

(1) individuals have a right to confidentiality with respect to their personal health information and records;

(2) with respect to information about medical care and health status, the traditional right of confidentiality is at risk;

(3) an erosion of the right of confidentiality will reduce the willingness of patients to confide in physicians and other practitioners, thus jeopardizing quality health care;

(4) fear that confidentiality is being compromised will deter individuals from seeking medical treatment and stifle technological or medical research and development; and

(5) advancing technology should not lead to a loss of personal privacy.

**SEC. 3. PURPOSE.**

It is the purpose of this Act—

(1) to repeal the implementation of a ''standard unique health identifier for each individual'' as required under section 1173(b) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1320d-2(b)) as added by the amendment made by section 262(a) of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-191); and

(2) to guarantee that medical privacy protections are not undermined by federal law.

**SEC. 4. REPEAL OF FEDERAL UNIQUE HEALTH IDENTIFIER.**

Sections 1173(b) and 1177(a)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1320d–2(b); 42 U.S.C. 1320d–6(a)(1)) are repealed.●

## DR. BOB LEFTWICH

● Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I rise today to commend the exemplary efforts of Dr. Bob Leftwich, a school counselor in Ellijay, Georgia. Over the past years, Dr. Leftwich has worked with students in his area by talking to them about life and their futures. In his discussions, he has urged students to be the very best they can be and to make firm commitments to excellence.

Dr. Leftwich is a prime example of a hero in my book. He is a committed advocate for young people and the freedoms they can achieve through hard work and perseverance.

It is people like Bob, with the motivation he brings to our students, who will be remembered when these students are the leaders of our great nation. They will no doubt look back and remember the impact that this individual had on their lives. And hopefully they will follow his lead by getting involved with young people themselves.

Once again, Mr. President, I would like to thank Dr. Leftwich for his dedication to excellence. His work should serve as an encouragement to others to become more involved with the education of our nation's youth.●

## HEAD START

● Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, the Head Start program has successfully served hundreds of thousands of children over the past 33 years. These are children who otherwise would have been left behind. Instead, they received an enriching opportunity to get prepared for elementary school.

It is critical that we allow local Head Start providers to continue to focus on their mission of serving families and children first. They serve our most vulnerable populations. We need to make sure that we do not saddle Head Start with the additional responsibilities that some members have proposed. Responsibilities such as determining paternity, or enforcing welfare laws by verifying TANF requirements, are duties which are within the realm and expertise of social workers and other professionals. Requiring Head Start to handle these burdensome responsibilities would take their time, energy and focus away from serving families and children first.

We are finding that the quality of instruction and programs at Head Start continues to improve. We must continue to improve quality. One major concern is the authority given to private companies in this bill. While for-profits are partners with many Head Start grantees, their profit-making goals are not wholly consistent with the mission of serving the public good.

Mr. President, in June, 1995, several respected researchers from Yale University and other universities issued a report comparing the quality and cost outcomes between for-profit and non-profit centers. The research shows that non-profit centers on average have more teachers with Associates of Arts in Early Childhood Education degrees than for-profit centers.

Futhermore, for-profit centers on average had lower quality scores but higher costs per child than non-profit centers. Also, for-profit centers make very little use of volunteers from the community. I fear that for-profits are not about quality and community.

Mr. President, presently under 50 percent of the eligible population is served by the Head Start program. It is important that Head Start continues to expand and serve a greater number of children. However, during these times of welfare reform, it is also necessary that Head Start provide full-day, full-year programs for working families. In order to achieve both goals, it is important that expansion occurs cautiously.

Overall, the bill allows flexibility and focuses on school readiness and should be supported. Head Start is one of the most important investments we can make in our children.●

## TRIBUTE TO MR. EARL V. JONES, SR.

● Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Earl V. Jones, Sr., from Pittsburgh, PA, on his efforts to promote world peace.

Mr. Jones started his grassroots movement, Peace on Earth, to teach children about peace and understanding. The project has since expanded to include a sister city in Russia, the Siberian industrial town of Novokuznetak. Children in each of these cities write essays answering the question ''What Can Each of Us Do for Peace on Earth?''

Essay winners receive medals fashioned from metal produced in Pittsburgh and from Novokuznetak. Among the honorary medal recipients are President Clinton and Russian President Boris Yeltsin. Mr. Jones believes children will have an added incentive to compete in the contest when they know that two Presidents have the same medals that they can win. Furthermore, Mr. Jones included a third set of medals in his gift to the presidents which he hopes will be carried into outer space. He explains, ''If you're going to have peace on Earth, you better start up above and come down.''

Mr. President, I commend Earl Jones for his tireless work on the Peace on Earth campaign. I ask my colleagues to join me in extending the Senate's best wishes for continued success to Mr. Jones and his worthwhile project.●

## 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST WOMEN'S RIGHTS CONVENTION

● Mr. MOYNIHAN. Mr. President, last week marked the 150th anniversary of one of the most important events in our history.

In July, 1848 a revolution was taking place in a small brick chapel in a village in upstate New York. The first Women's Rights Convention was held at the Wesleyan Chapel in Seneca Falls on July 19 and 20 of that year. There, a small group ratified the ''Declaration of Sentiments,'' a document which may be considered the Magna Carta of the women's movement. The Declaration proclaimed that:

All men and women are created equal: That they are endowed by their Creator with