

they could not come into this Capitol, as I did when I was a law student here in Washington or when I first came here with my parents as a teenager. If we could not be here, the public could not come in and see us debate great matters and tiny matters, they could not see that.

Mr. President, at the time of the breakup of the Soviet Union, I remember so many who came here and met with all of us and asked, "How does your democracy work," and they told me—I heard this over and over again—that they would see the picture of our Capitol when they came to Washington, that was the thing they recognized before anything else. They said they saw it sitting up here.

I have been coming to this Capitol Building as a Senator for 24 years. I feel a thrill every time I come up here. I hope I always will because I know it represents democracy. These two brave officers, just like the hundreds of other men and women who guard these Halls, they keep it open. Let's hope they always will. Let us hope that we always have the courage to do that. Then the lives that every one of us would pray we could bring to the family, those lives would not be lost in vain.

Like some others in this body, I had the privilege to serve in law enforcement for years before coming here. I know how all of us felt in law enforcement at that time if one of our own was cut down. I think if you have not served in law enforcement it is almost impossible to explain to the American public how other law enforcement officials feel when they lose one of their own. I know how the men and women in the police force here on Capitol Hill feel, but also how they feel all over the Nation. This is a loss. This is a family, a fraternity, a sorority. It is something that binds all law enforcement people together.

I am joined with every single person who works on Capitol Hill in an expression of appreciation to them and to everybody who responded—all the police officers responded, medical personnel responded. I will take just 1 minute more to express my personal appreciation to Senator BILL FRIST for what he did. I spoke with Senator FRIST yesterday and told him how much his actions meant to me, to my wife, who is a registered nurse. She knows when something like this happens, if you are a medical personnel, you respond. But he responded not only with his great skill as a cardiac surgeon, he responded when there was gunfire erupting only moments before and there might have been more, with no thought to his safety, but thinking of only those who may have been injured.

Mr. President, it is a sad day. Let us say also it is a proud day to our country because this symbol of democracy will not be closed down by the actions of one deranged American, any more than it was in the 1980s when the bomb went off outside this Chamber at night just minutes after we recessed. I re-

member so well the next morning, every single one of us was in our seats. We were here to show we wouldn't stay home. And we will be here today, as will the President and the Vice President, all of the House and Senate leadership, and the Members, to show nothing closes us down.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

MEASURE READ THE FIRST
TIME—H.R. 4250

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, I understand that H.R. 4250, the Patient Protections Act, has arrived from the House and is now at the desk. I now ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4250) to provide new patient protections under group health plans.

Mr. CAMPBELL. I now ask for its second reading, and I object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The bill will be read the second time on the next legislative day.

TREASURY AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, I now ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. 2312, the Treasury-Postal appropriations bill.

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

The clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2312) making appropriations for the Treasury Department, the United States Postal Service, the Executive Office of the President, and certain Independent Agencies, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes.

The Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, I am pleased to lay before the Senate the committee recommendation for the Treasury Department, the Postal Service, the Executive Office of the President, and various independent agencies. The bill crafted by the Subcommittee on Treasury, Postal Service, and General Government contains a total of \$29,923,547,000 in new budget authority.

Of that amount, \$13,613,547,000 is in mandatory accounts, and \$3,250,000,000 is provided for much-needed funding for all Federal agencies to address the year 2000, or Y2K, computer problem,

contingent upon an emergency designation by the administration.

The committee recommendation is within the 302(b) allocations and strikes a delicate balance between congressional priorities, administrative initiatives, and agency needs. This would not have been possible without the hard work and cooperation from my friend and colleague, Senator KOHL, the subcommittee ranking member, and his staff. It was not easy to strike this balance while staying within our mutually agreed-upon fiscal constraints. As most of our colleagues are aware, approximately 80 percent of the accounts in this bill are for salaries and expenses, meeting those needs, and increasing our flexibility to fund new initiatives and congressional priorities.

The committee recommends a funding of \$11,555,000,137 for title I for the Department of Treasury. This is \$176.653 million more than the fiscal year 1998 enacted level. The committee has again placed a priority on promoting the Treasury's law enforcement, ensuring that they can hire, train, and retrain the best of Federal law enforcement, while at the same time support efforts by State and local law enforcement.

There are some provisions of title I that I would like to highlight for colleagues. This bill includes \$132 million for law enforcement initiatives through the violent crime reduction trust fund, known as the VCRTF; continuation and expansion of the Gang Resistance Education And Training Program, called the GREAT Program—to help our young people develop the skills to stay out of trouble; \$27 million to continue and expand the Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative—to allow Federal, State, and local law enforcement to stem the tide of illegal firearms trafficking to the youth of this country. It includes doubling a staff level for the Customs Service antichild pornography efforts; full funding for Southwest border technology enhancements and staffing; additional funding for the IRS for much-needed customer service initiatives.

In title II, the committee recommends an appropriation of \$71.195 million for the U.S. Postal Service. Under the provisions of this bill, the Postal Service is required to provide free mailing for overseas voters and the blind, maintain 6-day delivery and rural delivery, as well as prohibited from consolidating or closing small and rural post offices.

Title III is the Executive Office of the President and funds appropriated to the President. The total recommendation for title III is \$3,838,441,000. This includes the White House Office, the Office of Management and Budget, the Office of the National Drug Control Policy, the Federal drug control programs, and funding for the National Antidrug Media Campaign.