

and second time by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Ms. COLLINS:

S. 1063. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for a special rule for long existing home health agencies with partial fiscal year 1994 cost reports in calculating the per beneficiary limits under the interim payment system for such agencies; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. THURMOND:

S. 1064. A bill to provide for the location of the National Museum of the United States Army; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. DODD:

S. 1065. A bill to authorize negotiation for the accession of Chile to the North American Free Trade Agreement, to provide for Fast Track Consideration and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. ROBERTS (for himself, Mr. MURKOWSKI, Mr. GRAMS, Mr. HAGEL, and Mr. CRAIG):

S. 1066. A bill to amend the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 to encourage the use of and research into agricultural best practices to improve the environment, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER (for himself, Mr. CHAFEE, Mr. DEWINE, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. MOYNIHAN, Mr. KERREY, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. INOUE, Mr. BREAUX, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. TORRICELLI):

S. 1067. A bill to promote the adoption of children with special needs; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KERRY (for himself, Mr. BOND, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mr. WELLSTONE, Mr. TORRICELLI, Mr. MOYNIHAN, Mr. JOHNSON, Ms. LANDRIEU, and Mr. LEVIN):

S. 1068. A bill to provide for health, education, and welfare of children under 6 years of age; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. WELLSTONE (for himself, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 1069. A bill to provide economic security and safety for battered women, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BOND (for himself, Mr. ENZI, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. BURNS, Mr. VOINOVICH, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. ASHCROFT, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. LOTT, Mr. NICKLES, Mr. HUTCHINSON, Mr. MACK, Mr. COVERDELL, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. KYL, Mr. FITZGERALD, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. GREGG, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. HELMS, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. CHAFEE, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. BROWNBACK):

S. 1070. A bill to require the Secretary of Labor to wait for completion of a National Academy of Sciences study before promulgating a standard, regulation or guideline on ergonomics; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CRAPO (for himself and Mr. CRAIG):

S. 1071. A bill to designate the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory as the Center of Excellence for Environmental Stewardship of the Department of Energy Land, and establish the Natural Resources Institute within the Center; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. DEWINE (for himself, Mr. HELMS, and Mr. VOINOVICH):

S. 1072. A bill to make certain technical and other corrections relating to the Centennial of Flight Commemoration Act (36 U.S.C. 143 note; 112 Stat. 3486 et seq.); to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. ASHCROFT (for himself, Mr. INOUE, Mr. BURNS, Mr. GRASSLEY,

Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ENZI, and Mr. HAGEL):

S. 1073. A bill to amend the Trade Act of 1974 to ensure that United States industry is consulted with respect to all aspects of the WTO dispute settlement process; to the Committee on Finance.

#### SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. HUTCHINSON (for himself, Mr. WELLSTONE, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. KYL, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. JEFFORDS, and Mr. BROWNBACK):

S. Res. 103. A resolution concerning the tenth anniversary of the Tiananmen Square massacre of June 4, 1989, in the People's Republic of China; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Ms. COLLINS:

S. 1063. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for a special rule for long existing home health agencies with partial fiscal year 1994 cost reports in calculating the per beneficiary limits under the interim payment system for such agencies; to the Committee on Finance.

#### MEDICARE HOME HEALTH TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS LEGISLATION

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce legislation that would make a technical correction to a provision of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 that is causing great unfairness to long-established home health agencies and their patients. It would provide for a special rule for long-existing home health agencies that have been classified as "new" home health agencies for purposes of the Interim Payment System (IPS) simply because they happened to change the ending date of their fiscal year, and, as a consequence, do not have a full 12-month cost reporting period in federal fiscal year 1994.

Under the complicated formula for the Medicare Interim Payment System for home health agencies, Medicare determines a limit for most established agencies using a formula that recognizes the agency's historical costs and blends them, in a proportion of 75 percent to 25 percent, with regional norms. For new home health agencies without a historic record of cost reports, the per-beneficiary limit is set at the national median.

In defining the difference between new and existing agencies, the Administration focused on fiscal year 1994 and established a general rule that the national median per-beneficiary limit would apply to "new providers and providers without a 12-month reporting period ending in fiscal year 1994." Congress did, however, specifically exclude from the "new" category any home health agency that had changed its name or corporate structure.

Nevertheless, one of the home health agencies in my State—Hancock County HomeCare—has been classified as a "new" home health agency, even though it has been serving the people of rural Down East Maine for more than 60 years. I am sure that there are other long-standing home health agencies across the country that have found themselves in a similar situation as a consequence of this provision.

Hancock County HomeCare is a division of Blue Hill Memorial Hospital, a charitable, tax-exempt hospital. Hancock County HomeCare emerged as a result of a merger of the hospital with the Four Town Nursing Service and Bar Harbor Public Health Nursing, both non-profit home health agencies that have provided uninterrupted service to residents of Hancock County, Maine for more than 60 years. The unified agency, which provides skilled home nursing and therapies to residents of 36 towns, has been part of Blue Hill Memorial Hospital since 1981.

Despite its 60-year history of service to the community, Hancock County HomeCare has been classified as a "new" agency simply because it happened to change the ending date of its fiscal year during 1994, when Blue Hill Memorial and its affiliate changed theirs. Solely because it changed its fiscal year from a period ending June 30 to a period ending March 31, this 60-year old agency is being treated as a new agency by HCFA. Given the care taken by Congress to exclude name changes and corporate structure changes from the definition of a "new" agency, I simply do not believe that it was our intent to visit radically different treatment upon an agency that simply changed its financial reporting practices, but otherwise has a continuous history of operation and is fully able to provide 12 months of reliable data in accordance with Medicare cost reporting requirements.

I believe that the statute gives the Health Care Financing Administration sufficient discretion to deal with this situation administratively. Unfortunately, however, HCFA does not agree with that interpretation and insists that further legislative action is necessary if Hancock County HomeCare is to be considered an "old" agency for purposes of the Interim Payment System.

The legislation that I am introducing today to clarify the law was prepared with technical assistance from HCFA. Essentially, the bill would provide for a special rule for home care agencies that were in existence and had an active Medicare provider number prior to fiscal year 1980, but which had less than a 12-month cost reporting period in fiscal year 1994 because the agency changed the end date of its cost reporting period in that year. For these agencies, Medicare could, upon the request of the agency, use the agency's partial-year cost report from fiscal year 1994 to