

know it. At a time when we are identifying more and more individuals with HIV, our country is destroying the very networks of care that will help educate and care for these individuals. We need testing, but we also need so much more.

That is why I propose that we try again—and this time, get it right. That we try to find a way to build on our networks of care, and provide the services that our entire Nation needs to win the war on HIV/AIDS.

Today, I join Senator LAUTENBERG in offering a proposal that would provide a 1-year reauthorization of the Ryan White CARE Act under current law. It would provide a 3.7 percent increase in authorization levels through 2007, while preventing funding from reverting back to the Treasury. This bill would provide a 1-year extension of the names-based reporting requirement set to go into effect beginning October 1, 2006. In addition, it would provide \$30 million under Title II for States who have an “unmet need” and “no title I entities.” This proposal would help all States across the country without doing any harm. Instead of 5 years of a detrimental reauthorization, I support another year to get it right.

I believe America can do better, and today I am standing up for the HIV/AIDS community across the country. Today is a day to make our country's budget reflect our values by expanding funding for this important program. I call on my colleagues to save the Ryan White CARE Act. Wait to implement formula changes that could destroy existing networks of care, and instead, work out a solution that addresses the needs of the entire country. Please join me in supporting this legislation.

Mrs. CLINTON. Mr. President, I rise today to express my strong support for the Ryan White CARE Act. The programs funded through this law have, for more than 15 years, enabled hundreds of thousands of people living with HIV and AIDS to access essential care and treatment services.

Yet the reauthorization proposals currently under consideration by both the House and the Senate would unfairly shift funding from the hardest-hit areas of the epidemic, devastating the ability of providers and organizations to offer life-extending services. The more than 100,000 people living with HIV and AIDS in New York would be adversely affected by the millions of dollars in cuts they would face if these reauthorizations were to go through.

I understand that the White House and the Republican leadership are pressuring many of my colleagues, particularly those from code-based States, that if they don't reauthorize the bill this year, they will face cuts in funding next year. But approving a fundamentally flawed bill under pressure is not the right thing to do. We should be working to strengthen the CARE Act for everyone, not decimate it.

Today, I, along with my colleagues from New Jersey, Illinois, and Florida,

will be introducing legislation that provides for a 1-year extension of programs funded by the Ryan White CARE Act, to give us more time to address the concerns of many that were raised during this reauthorization process. It will increase authorization levels across titles by 3.7 percent, and will set up a grant program to address unmet need in States that do not receive title I funding, in order to address the need in rural areas where HIV incidence has increased. It will also delay the switch from code-based to names-based reporting for 1 year, in order to give us time to address many of the issues that these States are facing in making this switch.

I believe in the reauthorization of the CARE Act, but I believe in reauthorizing the CARE Act the right way—in a way that will help, not hurt, all of the people living with HIV and AIDS in this country. Our bill will help that process, and I would urge all of my colleagues to support it.

By Mrs. CLINTON (for herself, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. INOUE, Mr. KERRY, Mr. JEFFORDS, and Mr. CHAFEE):

S. 3945. A bill to provide for the provisions by hospitals of emergency contraceptives to women, and post-exposure prophylaxis for sexually transmitted disease to individuals, who are survivors of sexual assault; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mrs. CLINTON. Mr. President, I am proud to introduce the Compassionate Assistance for Rape Emergencies Act, a bill that will help sexual assault survivors across the country get the medical care they need and deserve.

It is hard to argue against this commonsense legislation. Rape—by definition—could never result in an intended pregnancy. Emergency contraception is a valuable tool that can prevent unintended pregnancy. This bill makes emergency contraception available for survivors of sexual assault at any hospital receiving public funds.

Every 2 minutes, a woman is sexually assaulted in the United States, and each year, 25,000 to 32,000 women become pregnant as a result of rape or incest. According to a study published in the American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology, 50 percent of those pregnancies end in abortion.

By providing access to emergency contraception, up to 95 percent of those unintended pregnancies could be prevented if emergency contraception is administered within the first 24 to 72 hours. In addition, emergency contraception could also give desperately needed peace of mind to women in crisis.

I am proud that for 3 years, this has already been law in New York State. Survivors of sexual assault and rape receive information and access to emergency contraception at every hospital

in the State. As a result, victims are getting better care than they ever have before in New York. This bill will allow women nationwide to benefit from the same standard of care New Yorkers receive.

In New York City, women are benefiting from Mayor Bloomberg's significant initiative to expand access to emergency contraception and family planning services and improve maternal and infant outcomes. I applaud this focus on increasing awareness about emergency contraception—to all women—so that we can work together at decreasing the rate of unintended pregnancy in this country.

The FDA recently made EC available over the counter for women 18 years of age and older. Despite the ideologically driven agenda against this drug, the research has been consistently clear—this drug is safe and effective for preventing pregnancy. The FDA's own scientific advisory committees and more than 70 major medical organizations, including the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Medical Association recommended EC be made available without a prescription. If pharmacies stock this drug for any citizen of age, surely hospitals should provide women in crisis with the information necessary to evaluate this option for themselves.

Women deserve access to EC. For millions of women, it represents peace of mind. For survivors of rape and sexual assault, it offers hope for healing and a tomorrow free of painful reminders of the past. Let us recommit ourselves to the fight to better protect and serve our Nation's sexual assault survivors.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 585—COMMENDING THE NEW ORLEANS SAINTS OF THE NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE FOR WINNING THEIR MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL GAME ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2006 BY A SCORE OF 23 TO 3

Ms. LANDRIEU submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

S. RES. 585

Whereas the City of New Orleans and the State of Louisiana and the Gulf Coast were severely impacted by Hurricane Katrina on August 29, 2005 and the subsequent levee breaks which occurred;

Whereas southwestern Louisiana and the State of Louisiana were severely impacted by Hurricane Rita on September 24, 2005;

Whereas the New Orleans Saints and the Louisiana Superdome have always been special symbols of pride to the City of New Orleans and to the State of Louisiana;

Whereas, due to the leadership and hard work of the men and women who rebuilt the Superdome, as well as to the partnership of the National Football League, the State of Louisiana and the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Louisiana Superdome

was able to reopen on Monday, September 25, 2006—13 months since the last New Orleans Saints home game was played there;

Whereas the return of the New Orleans Saints to the Louisiana Superdome serves as a symbol of hope for the great rebuilding of the City of New Orleans, the State of Louisiana and the Gulf Coast region;

Whereas the City of New Orleans and the State of Louisiana showed its pride and support for the New Orleans Saints with an attendance of 70,003 fans at the September 25, 2006 game;

Whereas the New Orleans Saints won their first game in the Louisiana Superdome since Hurricane Katrina and Rita by defeating the Atlanta Falcons, 23 to 3;

Whereas with the win over the Atlanta Falcons on Monday, September 25, 2006, the New Orleans Saints improve their record for the 2006-2007 season to a total of 3 wins and 0 losses, matching its win total from the 2005-2006 season and is one of just six National Football League teams with a record of 3 wins and 0 losses; Whereas Head Coach Sean Payton led the New Orleans Saints to win their first three games of the 2006-2007 season and showed his appreciation to the City of New Orleans by giving the game ball to the city;

Whereas wide receiver Devery Henderson scored a touchdown on an 11 yard run in the game;

Whereas cornerback Curtis Deloach scored a touchdown following the blocked punt by Steve Gleason;

Whereas place kicker John Karney kicked three field goals in the game;

Whereas the New Orleans Saints defense held the Atlanta Falcons to 229 total yards in the game and had 5 sacks on the quarterback;

Whereas quarterback Drew Brees completed 20 of 28 pass attempts for a total of 191 yards in the game;

Whereas running back Deuce McAllister had 81 rushing yards and running back Reggie Bush had 53 rushing yards in the game;

Whereas the entire team and organization should be commended for the work together over the past 13 months;

Whereas the New Orleans Saints have demonstrated their excellence in athletics and strength and has shown their commitment to the City of New Orleans and to the State of Louisiana through their hard work and sportsmanship; and

Whereas with the triumphant return of the New Orleans Saints, the City of New Orleans and the State of Louisiana have proven to be open for business and ready to continue the recovery of the city, state and region: Now, therefore be it

Resolved, That the Senate commends the New Orleans Saints of the National Football League for (1) winning their Monday, September 25, 2006 National Football League game with the Atlanta Falcons, by a score of 23 to 3. (2) And we commend League Commissioner Paul Tagliabue for demonstrating exemplary leadership and commitment to the City of New Orleans.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I came to the floor today to speak about something we can actually all agree on, something that has lifted the spirits of New Orleans and the region, and Louisiana, and the gulf coast, and that is the extraordinary victory of the New Orleans Saints against the Atlanta Falcons last night, in the super game, the first game in over 13 months and surely a game that will go down in history for many reasons.

At this time I would submit a resolution to the desk in honor of the New

Orleans Saints in behalf of myself and others.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The resolution will be received and appropriately referred.

Ms. LANDRIEU. I will read the resolution, if I could, because it expresses so many of the feelings of so many throughout New Orleans and the gulf coast:

Whereas the City of New Orleans and the State of Louisiana and the Gulf Coast were severely impacted by Hurricane Katrina on August 29, 2005 and the subsequent levee breaks which occurred;

Whereas southwestern Louisiana and the State of Louisiana were severely impacted by Hurricane Rita on September 24, 2005;

Whereas the New Orleans Saints and the Louisiana Superdome have always been special symbols of pride to the City of New Orleans and to the State of Louisiana;

Whereas, due to the leadership and hard work of the men and women who rebuilt the Superdome, as well as to the partnership of the National Football League, the State of Louisiana and the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Louisiana Superdome was able to reopen on Monday, September 25, 2006—13 months since the last New Orleans Saints home game was played there;

Whereas the return of the New Orleans Saints to the Louisiana Superdome serves as a symbol of hope for the great rebuilding of the City of New Orleans, the State of Louisiana and the Gulf Coast region;

Whereas the City of New Orleans and the State of Louisiana showed its pride and support for the New Orleans Saints with an attendance of 70,003 fans at the September 25, 2006 game;

Whereas the New Orleans Saints won their first game in the Louisiana Superdome since Hurricanes Katrina and Rita by defeating the Atlanta Falcons, 23 to 3;

Whereas with the win over the Atlanta Falcons on Monday, September 25, 2006, the New Orleans Saints improve their record for the 2006-2007 season to a total of 3 wins and 0 losses, matching its win total from the 2005-2006 season and is one of just six National Football League teams with a record of 3 wins and 0 losses; Whereas Head Coach Sean Payton led the New Orleans Saints to win their first three games of the 2006-2007 season and showed his appreciation to the City of New Orleans by giving the game ball to the city;

Whereas wide receiver Devery Henderson scored a touchdown on an 11 yard run in the game;

Whereas cornerback Curtis Deloach scored a touchdown following the blocked punt by Steve Gleason;

Whereas place kicker John Karney kicked three field goals in the game;

Whereas the New Orleans Saints defense held the Atlanta Falcons to 229 total yards in the game and had 5 sacks on the quarterback;

Whereas quarterback Drew Brees completed 20 of 28 pass attempts for a total of 191 yards in the game;

Whereas running back Deuce McAllister had 81 rushing yards and running back Reggie Bush had 53 rushing yards in the game;

Whereas the entire team and organization should be commended for the work together over the past 13 months;

Whereas the New Orleans Saints have demonstrated their excellence in athletics and strength and has shown their commitment to the City of New Orleans and to the State of Louisiana through their hard work and sportsmanship; and

Whereas with the triumphant return of the New Orleans Saints, the City of New Orleans and the State of Louisiana have proven to be open for business and ready to continue the recovery of the city, state and region: Now, therefore be it

Resolved, That the Senate commends the New Orleans Saints of the National Football League for (1) winning their Monday, September 25, 2006 National Football League game with the Atlanta Falcons, by a score of 23 to 3. (2) and we commend League Commissioner Paul Tagliabue for demonstrating exemplary leadership and commitment to the City of New Orleans.

Mr. President, I thought it was important to read the words of this resolution which will go in the RECORD today. I am certain there were millions and millions of people all over America who watched that special football game last night because, as you know, it was more than a football game. It was a symbol of hope and recovery for a great American city in a great region of this country.

I came to the floor today to share this resolution and to also thank my colleagues, as Senator LOTT from Mississippi has done earlier this morning, to thank them for coming together in such an extraordinary and bipartisan way throughout this year to pass not one, not two, not three, but four supplemental requests that are helping to send money to this stricken region of the country.

Even when there were some problems and some hurdles in the executive branch, this Congress came together across party lines, led in large measure by the appropriators in this Chamber, to say: Yes, this region deserves investment; yes, we need to fix FEMA; yes, we need to reform the Corps of Engineers; yes, we need to build levees; and, yes, we need to restore the wetlands that protect this great coast of which New Orleans and Houston and Gulfport and Beaumont and Lake Charles and Lafayette and Baton Rouge are such important cities in this region—America's only energy coast.

Last night, the Saints did us proud. They came home and not just won the game, but it was, of course, more than a game. For the Saints managers, for the dome director, for the commissioners of the dome stadium who

helped get their magnificent building ready after such a tragedy of last year, we thank them.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the roster of the

Saints players, the names of the coaches and the assistant coaches and their managers, the names of the contractors, and as many of the workers as we can get.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS TEAM ROSTER

| No. | Last, first | Pos | Ht | Wt | Age | Exp | College |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|----------------------|
| Active Players: | | | | | | | |
| 9 | Brees, Drew | QB | 6-0 | 209 | 27 | 6 | Purdue |
| 70 | Brown, Jammal | T | 6-6 | 313 | 25 | 2 | Oklahoma |
| 29 | Bullocks, Josh | S | 6-1 | 207 | 23 | 2 | Nebraska |
| 25 | Bush, Reggie | RB | 6-0 | 203 | 21 | R | Southern California |
| 80 | Campbell, Mark | TE | 6-6 | 260 | 30 | 9 | Michigan |
| 3 | Carney, John | K | 5-11 | 185 | 42 | 17 | Notre Dame |
| 54 | Clark, Danny | LB | 6-2 | 245 | 29 | 7 | Illinois |
| 12 | Colston, Marques | WR | 6-4 | 231 | 23 | R | Hofstra |
| 85 | Conwell, Ernie | TE | 6-2 | 255 | 34 | 11 | Washington |
| 18 | Copper, Terrance | WR | 6-0 | 207 | 24 | 3 | East Carolina |
| 21 | Craft, Jason | CB | 5-10 | 187 | 30 | 8 | Colorado State |
| 39 | DeLoatch, Curtis | CB | 6-2 | 210 | 24 | 3 | North Carolina A&T |
| 73 | Evans, Jahri | G | 6-4 | 318 | 23 | R | Bloomsburg |
| 52 | Faine, Jeff | C | 6-3 | 291 | 25 | 4 | Notre Dame |
| 11 | Fife, Jason | QB | 6-4 | 225 | 24 | 1 | Oregon |
| 56 | Fincher, Alfred | LB | 6-1 | 238 | 23 | 2 | Connecticut |
| 55 | Fujita, Scott | LB | 6-5 | 250 | 27 | 5 | California |
| 37 | Gleason, Steve | S | 5-11 | 212 | 29 | 6 | Washington State |
| 76 | Goodwin, Jonathan | OL | 6-3 | 318 | 27 | 5 | Michigan |
| 94 | Grant, Charles | DE | 6-3 | 290 | 28 | 5 | Georgia |
| 28 | Groce, DeJuan | CB | 5-10 | 192 | 26 | 4 | Nebraska |
| 41 | Harper, Roman | S | 6-1 | 200 | 23 | R | Alabama |
| 19 | Henderson, Devery | WR | 5-11 | 200 | 24 | 3 | Louisiana State |
| 61 | Holland, Montrae | G | 6-2 | 322 | 26 | 4 | Florida State |
| 87 | Horn, Joe | WR | 6-1 | 213 | 34 | 11 | Itawamba (Miss.) JC |
| 47 | Houser, Kevin | LS | 6-2 | 252 | 29 | 7 | Ohio State |
| 89 | Jones, Jamal | WR | 5-11 | 205 | 25 | 1 | North Carolina A&T |
| 44 | Karney, Mike | FB | 5-11 | 258 | 25 | 3 | Arizona State |
| 96 | Lake, Antwan | DT | 6-4 | 308 | 27 | 4 | West Virginia |
| 82 | Lawrie, Nate | TE | 6-7 | 256 | 24 | 2 | Yale |
| 77 | Leisle, Rodney | DT | 6-3 | 315 | 25 | 3 | UCLA |
| 10 | Martin, Jamie | QB | 6-2 | 205 | 36 | 12 | Weber State |
| 26 | McAllister, Deuce | RB | 6-1 | 232 | 27 | 6 | Mississippi |
| 36 | McIntyre, Corey | RB | 6-0 | 244 | 27 | 2 | West Virginia |
| 34 | McKenzie, Mike | CB | 6-0 | 194 | 30 | 8 | Memphis |
| 51 | Melton, Terrence | LB | 6-1 | 235 | 29 | 3 | Rice |
| 16 | Moore, Lance | WR | 5-9 | 177 | 23 | 1 | Toledo |
| 67 | Nesbit, Jamar | G | 6-4 | 328 | 29 | 8 | South Carolina |
| 93 | Ninkovich, Rob | DE | 6-2 | 252 | 22 | R | Purdue |
| 79 | Petitti, Rob | T | 6-6 | 327 | 24 | 2 | Pittsburgh |
| 24 | Scott, Bryan | S | 6-1 | 219 | 25 | 4 | Penn State |
| 58 | Shanle, Scott | LB | 6-2 | 245 | 26 | 4 | Nebraska |
| 50 | Simoneau, Mark | LB | 6-0 | 245 | 29 | 7 | Kansas State |
| 91 | Smith, Will | DE | 6-3 | 282 | 25 | 3 | Ohio State |
| 27 | Stecker, Aaron | RB | 5-10 | 213 | 30 | 7 | Western Illinois |
| 78 | Stinchcomb, Jon | T | 6-5 | 315 | 27 | 4 | Georgia |
| 23 | Stoutmire, Omar | S | 5-11 | 205 | 32 | 10 | Fresno State |
| 64 | Strief, Zach | T | 6-7 | 349 | 23 | R | Northwestern |
| 22 | Thomas, Fred | CB | 5-9 | 185 | 33 | 11 | Tennessee-Martin |
| 99 | Thomas, Hollis | DT | 6-0 | 306 | 32 | 11 | Northern Illinois |
| 7 | Weatherford, Steve | P | 6-3 | 215 | 23 | R | Illinois |
| 98 | Whitehead, Willie | DE | 6-3 | 300 | 33 | 8 | Auburn |
| 66 | Young, Brian | DT | 6-2 | 298 | 29 | 7 | Texas-El Paso |
| Reserve/Injured: | | | | | | | |
| 50 | Allen, James | LB | 6-2 | 245 | 26 | 5 | Oregon State |
| 17 | Berger, Mitch | P | 6-4 | 228 | 34 | 12 | Colorado |
| 74 | Hoffmann, Augie | G | 6-2 | 315 | 25 | 2 | Boston College |
| 13 | Johnson, Bethel | WR | 5-11 | 200 | 27 | 4 | Texas A&M |
| 33 | Joseph, Keith | RB | 6-2 | 249 | 24 | 1 | Texas A&M |
| 75 | Mayberry, Jermane | G | 6-4 | 325 | 33 | 11 | Texas A&M-Kingsville |
| 1 | McPherson, Adrian | QB | 6-3 | 218 | 23 | 2 | Florida State |
| 54 | Polley, Tommy | LB | 6-3 | 230 | 28 | 6 | Florida State |
| 63 | Setterstrom, Chad | T | 6-3 | 310 | 26 | 1 | Northern Iowa |
| 79 | Verdon, Jimmy | DE | 6-3 | 280 | 24 | 2 | Arizona State |
| Reserve/Physically Unable to Perform: | | | | | | | |
| 84 | Lewis, Michael | WR | 5-8 | 173 | 34 | 6 | None |

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS COACHING STAFF

Sean Payton, Head Coach; John Bonamego, Special Teams Coordinator; Gary Gibbs, Defensive Coordinator; Doug Marrone, Offensive Coordinator/Offensive Line; Joe Vitt, Assistant, Head Coach/Linebackers; George Henshaw, Senior Offensive Assistant/Running Backs; Dennis Allen, Assistant Defensive Line; Adam Bailey, Assistant Strength and Conditioning; Pete Carmichael, Jr., Quarterbacks; Dan Dalrymple, Head Strength and Conditioning; Tom Hayes, Defensive Backs; Marion Hobby, Defensive Line; Curtis Johnson, Wide Receivers; Terry Malone, Tight Ends; Greg McMahon, Assistant Special Teams; John Morton, Offensive Asst./Passing Game; Tony Oden, Defensive Assistant/Secondary; Joe Alley, Coaching Assistant; Josh Constant, Coaching Assistant; Carter Sheridan, Coaching Assistant; and Adam Zimmer, Coaching Assistant.

LOUISIANA SUPERDOME COMMISSION

LOUISIANA STADIUM AND EXPOSITION DISTRICT
 Tim Coulon, Chairman; Rosemary Patterson, Board of Commissioners; Robert Bruno, Board of Commissioners; Sara A. Roberts, Board of Commissioners; Craig E. Saporito, Board of Commissioners; Clyde Simien, Board of Commissioners; C.S. Gordon, Jr., Board of Commissioners.

SPECTACOR MANAGEMENT GROUP—THE MANAGING COMPANY OF THE SUPERDOME EMPLOYEES & TITLES

Lloyd Adams, purchasing coordinator; Cathy Allen, executive administrative assistant; Mark Arata, box office manager; Jim Baker, parking manager; Amy Bardalas, assistant human resources manager; Farrow Bouton, director of event services; Adam Bourgeois, accounting; Brian Brocato, building superintendent; Nelly Calix, administrative coordinator of event services; Brodie Cannon, production technician; Jennifer Cooke, director of corporate and convention sales; Chris Cunningham, network adminis-

trator; Bill Curl, media and public relations coordinator; Amanda Deeb, sales and scheduling coordinator; Alan Dolese, operations manager; Laurie Ducros, event coordinator; Cynthia Edwards, staffing coordinator supervisor; Dave Gendusa, millwright, painter leadman; Roylene Givens, assistant parking manager; John Greenlee, assistant box office manager; Raymond Griffin; Desiree Jones, housekeeping manager; Maria Jones, employment and staffing supervisor; Tamika Kirton, box office supervisor; Elizabeth Mancuso, administrative assistant; Glenn Menard, general manager; Karen Miller, assistant accounting manager; Angel Novoh, accounting coordinator; Mike Pizzolato, HVAC PLBG leadman; Susan Pollet, accounting manager; Lacey Pounds, prem seat and suite sales coordinator; Celeste Saltalamachia, human resource manager; Mike Schilling, arena assistant general manager; Thomas Sigel, security captain; Robert Spizale, chief engineer; Ashton Stephens, electrician leadman; Dave Stewart, regional

manager of technology; Tim Suire, event coordinator; Doug Thornton, SMG regional vice president; Toby Valadie, production manager; Benny Vanderklis, security manager; Danny Vincens, Superdome assistant general manager; David Weidler, senior directors finance and administration; Lisa Wharton, security staffing supervisor; Chad Wilken, assistant operations manager.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, it demonstrates that the people of the city of New Orleans are fighting to come back, to fight some obstacles that were thrown our way. Despite so much of the criticism that came from some places, we are determined to rebuild.

The spirit of our city and the spirit of this region is strong, and the Saints represented that last night. They came roaring into the dome, as the Saints go marching in with our musicians and our artists and the great spirit of its people to say: We will not allow this city to die or this region to die. We are going to continue to fight hard, to build partnerships, to reform what needs to be reformed, to fix what needs to be fixed, and to build this region, every single neighborhood, every single town, and to do it smarter and better.

The Saints came marching in. They brought a lot of hope to everyone. This resolution will commend them for their extraordinary work as we go into the difficult rebuilding in the years ahead.

SENATE RESOLUTION 586—CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF ACHIEVEMENTS OF MEDICAL CODERS, AND ENCOURAGING THE MEDICAL CODING COMMUNITY TO CONTINUE PROVIDING ACCURATE MEDICAL CLAIMS AND STATISTICAL REPORTING TO THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES AND TO THE WORLD

Mr. HATCH submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 586

Whereas, in 1966, the Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) was developed by the American Medical Association (AMA) to assist with the accurate reporting of physician procedures and services, and has since grown to include 8,568 codes and descriptions;

Whereas, in 1977, when the 9th revision to the World Health Organization's International Classification of Diseases (ICD-9) was published, the United States National Center for Health Statistics modified the statistical study with clinical information and provided a way to classify diagnostic and procedural data to create a clinical picture of each patient to improve the quality of health care;

Whereas, in 1977, the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA), now the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), was established for the coordination of the Medicare and Medicaid programs and its responsibilities has since included coordinating the annual update to ICD-9-CM Volume 3 procedure codes;

Whereas Congress passed the Medicare Catastrophic Coverage Act of 1988 (Public Law 100-360), and mandated the reporting of ICD-

9-CM codes on each part B claim submitted by physicians and that mandate has since extended to parts A, C, and D of the Medicare program;

Whereas the Health Information Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-191) requires every health care provider who does business electronically to use the same code sets, including Current Procedural Terminology, ICD-9-CM, and other code sets involving medical supplies, dental services, and drugs;

Whereas, since 1998 and the publication of the first medical practice compliance plans, the Office of Inspector General (OIG) of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has recognized medical coding as an essential element in the fight against health care fraud and abuse;

Whereas, in 2003, the Department of Health and Human Services delegated authority under the Health Information Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to maintain and distribute the Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) that is used primarily to identify products, supplies, and services not included in the Current Procedural Terminology codes, such as ambulance services and durable medical equipment, prosthetics, orthotics, and supplies (DMEPOS) when used outside a physician's office;

Whereas the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003 (Public Law 108-173) included a provision to update ICD-9-CM codes affecting new technology and procedures twice each year;

Whereas, in 2006, the Department of Labor forecasted above average job growth for medical coders through 2012 because of rapid growth in the number of medical tests, treatments, and procedures that will be increasingly scrutinized by third-party payers, regulators, courts, and consumers; and

Whereas medical coders have a tradition of working in collaboration with the Federal Government to improve the overall health of all people of the United States through the accuracy of claims reporting: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the historical, clinical, and public health achievements of medical coders and celebrates the milestones achieved in the 40-year history of medical coding;

(2) recognizes the great impact that medical coders have on improving the quality of health care of people in the United States and around the world; and

(3) congratulates medical coders for their dedication and trusts that the profession will continue to offer its guidance relative to medical coding and its effect on accurate patient information to improve the public health of future generations.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I am pleased to submit today a resolution to celebrate 40 years of achievements of medical coders, and to encourage the medical coding community to continue providing accurate medical claims and statistical reporting to the people of the United States and to the world.

There are about 80,000 professional medical coders employed in the United States, and that number is expected to continue to grow due to the increasing number of medical tests, treatments and procedures, and the consequent scrutiny to provide the best quality health care in a market driven economy. Medical coders are a diverse group of women and men dedicated to "running the numbers" of health care.

They translate the information that a physician documents during a patient visit into numerical codes that are used for both payment and statistical purposes.

Medical coders are sentries of our Nation's health. They communicate regularly with physicians and other health care professionals to clarify diagnoses or to obtain additional information in the assignment of alphanumeric codes. They are knowledgeable of medical terminology, anatomy, physiology, and the code sets necessary to serve effectively in their professional role within the health care community. They are team players committed to ethical and sound medical documentation and reimbursement practices.

Medical coders work in a variety of health care environments. Nearly 40 percent of all coding jobs are in hospitals. Others work in the offices of physicians, nursing care facilities, outpatient care centers, and home health care services. Insurance firms that offer health plans employ coders to tabulate and analyze health information. Medical coders in public health departments supervise data collection from health care institutions and assist in research. The Department of Defense policy requires accurate and prompt documentation of and coding of medical encounters within the Military Health System to assist, Military Treatment Facility operations. The compliance plan for third-party payers of the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Inspector General acknowledges the specialized training of medical coders required due to the greater legal exposure related to coding medical services. Coders also stand as the frontline against the potential fraud and abuse of the Medicare and Medicaid programs while assuring that the physicians, hospitals, and clinics receive accurate compensation for the services provided.

The abilities coders possess to collect data about diagnoses and procedures figure prominently within my own interests for quality health care. Medical coders also provide us with the data we need for making tough choices in health care policy.

It is my hope that this resolution will help advance the recognition of professional medical coders and the attention given to their commendable work. It recognizes contributions to the national health care system and it reminds us of medical coders' dedication to the value of hard work in the interest of a national priority—quality health care for everyone. I applaud that contribution and am hopeful that my colleagues in the Senate will join me by passing this resolution.