

centers program under section 330 of such Act, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2851. An act to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, the Public Health Service Act, and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that dependent students who take a medically necessary leave of absence do not lose health insurance coverage, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6092. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 101 Tallapoosa Street in Bremen, Georgia, as the "Sergeant Paul Saylor Post Office Building".

H.R. 6370. An act to transfer excess Federal property administered by the Coast Guard to the Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians.

The enrolled bills were subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 1:27 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 1382. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the establishment of an Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Registry.

S. 1810. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to increase the provision of scientifically sound information and support services to patients receiving a positive test diagnosis for Down syndrome or other prenatally and postnatally diagnosed conditions.

S. 2932. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the poison center national toll-free number, national media campaign, and grant program to provide assistance for poison prevention, sustain the funding of poison centers, and enhance the public health of people of the United States.

S. 3009. An act to designate the Federal Bureau of Investigation building under construction in Omaha, Nebraska, as the "J. James Exon Federal Bureau of Investigation Building".

H.R. 4120. An act to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide for more effective prosecution of cases involving child pornography, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5975. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 101 West Main Street in Waterville, New York, as the "Cpl. John P. Sigsbee Post Office".

H.R. 6437. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 200 North Texas Avenue in Odessa, Texas; as the "Corporal Alfred Mac Wilson Post Office".

The enrolled bills were subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

At 3:18 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Zapata, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1283. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for arthritis research and public health, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6999. An act to restructure the Coast Guard Integrated Deepwater Program, and for other purposes.

H.R. 7112. An act to impose sanctions with respect to Iran, to provide for the divestment of assets in Iran by State and local governments and other entities, and to identify lo-

cations of concern with respect to transshipment, reexportation, or diversion of certain sensitive items to Iran.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following bills, without amendment:

S. 2482. An act to repeal the provision of title 46, United States Code, requiring a license for employment in the business of salvaging the coast of Florida.

S. 2982. An act to amend the Runaway and Homeless appropriations, and for other purposes.

S. 3560. An act to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide additional funds for the qualifying individual (QI) program, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House concurrent resolutions, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 239. Concurrent resolution recognizing and acknowledging the important role of adoption, and commending all parties involved, including birthparents, who carry out an adoption plan, and adoptive families, adopted children.

H. Con. Res. 405. Concurrent resolution recognizing the first full week of April as "National Workplace Wellness Week".

H. Con. Res. 416. Concurrent resolution commending Barter Theatre on the occasion of its 75th anniversary.

The message also announced that the House agrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 3068) to prohibit the award of contracts to provide guard services under the contract security guard program of the Federal Protective Service to a business concern that is owned, controlled, or operated by an individual who has been convicted of a felony.

The message further announced that the House agrees to the amendment of the Senate to the resolution (H.J. Res. 62) to honor the achievements and contributions of the Native Americans to the United States, and for other purposes.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 3646. A bill to authorize and expedite lease sales within the outer Continental Shelf, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-8068. A communication from the Deputy Secretary of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of an amendment to the list of payment-in-kind projects required by U.S. Army Europe; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-8069. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Installations and Environment), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the notification of the initiation of a public-private competition for the laundry/dry cleaning function being performed by twenty-one civilian employees located at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, South Carolina; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-8070. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Addition of Certain Persons to the Entity List; Removal of General Order from the Export Administration Regulations (EAR)" (RIN0694-AE46) received on September 25, 2008; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-8071. A communication from the Assistant to the Board, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Transactions Between Member Banks and Their Affiliates: Exemption for Certain Securities Financing Transactions Between a Member Bank and an Affiliate" (Docket No. R-1330)(12 CFR Part 223)) received on September 25, 2008; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-8072. A communication from the Acting Secretary, Division of Corporation Finance, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Foreign Issuer Reporting Enhancements" (RIN3235-AK03) received on September 25, 2008; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-8073. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Division of Corporation Finance, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Commission Guidance and Revisions to the Cross-Border Tender Offer, Exchange Offer, Rights Offerings, and Business Combination Rules and Beneficial Ownership Reporting Rules for Certain Foreign Institutions" (RIN3235-AK10) received on September 25, 2008; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-8074. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Navajo Electrification Demonstration Program; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-8075. A communication from the Attorney, Office of Assistant General Counsel for Legislation and Regulatory Law, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Coordination of Federal Authorizations for Electric Transmission Facilities" (RIN1901-AB18) received on September 25, 2008; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-8076. A communication from the Acting Chief of Regulatory Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Minerals Management: Adjustment of Cost Recovery Fees" (RIN1004-AE01) received on September 25, 2008; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-8077. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the actions taken by the Department in response to the program recommendations of the Khartoum, Sudan Accountability Review Board; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-8078. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the review and determination of International Atomic Energy Agency activities in countries described in Section 307(a) of the Foreign Assistance Act; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-8079. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the proposed transfer of major defense equipment from the Government of Turkey to Lockheed Martin

Aeronautics with an original acquisition cost of \$100,000,000 (Transmittal No. RSAT-06-08); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-8080. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Employment Standards, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the fiscal year 2005 operations of the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-8081. A communication from the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the cost of response and recovery efforts for FEMA-3289-EM in the State of Louisiana; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-8082. A communication from the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Letter Report: Audit of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3G for Fiscal Years 2006 Through 2008, as of March 31, 2008"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-8083. A communication from the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Letter Report: Audit of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2B for Fiscal Years 2006 Through 2008, as of March 31, 2008"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-8084. A communication from the Secretary of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Department's strategic plan for fiscal years 2008-2013; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-8085. A communication from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 17-503, "St. Martin Apartments Tax Exemption Temporary Act of 2008" received on September 25, 2008; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-8086. A communication from the Acting Director, Strategic Human Resources Policy, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National Security Personnel System" (RIN3206-AL62) received on September 25, 2008; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-8087. A communication from the Deputy Administrator, Small Business Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the designation of an acting officer for the position of Administrator, received on September 25, 2008; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

EC-8088. A communication from the Director of Regulation Policy and Management, Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Schedule of Rating Disabilities; Evaluation of Residuals of Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)" received on September 25, 2008; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-8089. A communication from Director of Agency Management and Budget, Veterans Employment and Training, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Annual Report From Federal Contractors" (RIN1293-AA12) received September 25, 2008; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-8090. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 777-200, -200LR, -300, and -300ER Series Airplanes Approved for Extended-range

Twin-engine Operational Performance Standards (ETOPS)" ((RIN2120-AA64)(Docket No. FAA-2008-0673)) received on September 25, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-8091. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Cessna Aircraft Company 172, 175, 180, 182, 185, 206, 207, 208, 210, and 303 Series Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64)(Docket No. FAA-2008-0471)) received on September 25, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-8092. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus A318, A319, A320, and A321 Series Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64)(Docket No. FAA-2007-0081)) received on September 25, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-8093. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; McDonnell Douglas Model DC-10-10, DC-10-10F, DC-10-15, and MD-10-10F Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64)(Docket No. FAA-2008-0015)) received on September 25, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-8094. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; De Havilland Support Limited Model Beagle B.121 Series 1, 2, and 3 Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64)(Docket No. FAA-2007-0248)) received on September 25, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-8095. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments" (14 CFR Part 97)(Docket No. 30604) received on September 25, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-8096. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information, National Telecommunications and Information Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Household Eligibility and Application Process of the Coupon Program for Individuals Residing in Nursing Homes, Intermediate Care Facilities, Assisted Living Facilities and Households that Utilize Post Office Boxes" (RIN0660-AA17) received on September 25, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-8097. A communication from the Secretary of the Federal Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Telemarketing Sales Rule" (RIN3084-AA98) received on September 25, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-8098. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Summer Flounder Fishery; Commercial Quota Harvested for the State of New York" (RIN0648-XK19) received on September 25, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-8099. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Deep-Water Species Fishery by Amendment 80 Vessels Subject to Sideboard Limits in the Gulf of Alaska" (RIN0648-XK43) received on September 25, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-8100. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Shallow-Water Species by Vessels Using Trawl Gear in the Gulf of Alaska" (RIN0648-XK44) received on September 25, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-8101. A communication from the Secretary of the Federal Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Telemarketing Sales Rule Fees" (RIN3084-AA98) received on September 25, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-8102. A communication from the Chief of Regulations and Administrative Law, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone Regulations (including 2 regulations beginning with USCG-2008-0264)" (RIN1625-AA00) received on September 25, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-8103. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "2007 Annual Report to Congress on Transportation Security"; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-8104. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Taxation of fringe benefits" (Rev. Rul. 2008-48)(26 CFR 1.61-21) received on September 25, 2008; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-8105. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule relative to the treatment of taxpayers accepting certain settlements of potential legal claims relating to auction rate securities ((Rev. Proc. 2008-58)(26 CFR 601.601)) received on September 25, 2008; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-8106. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Tax-exempt Money Market Funds—Temporary Treasury Program to Support Money Market Funds—No Violation of Restrictions Against Federal Guarantees of Tax-exempt Bonds Under Section 149(b)" (Notice 2008-81) received on September 25, 2008; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-8107. A communication from the Program Manager of the Office of the Actuary, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicare Program; Medicare Part B Monthly Actuarial Rates, Premium Rate, and Annual Deductible Beginning January 1, 2009" (RIN0938-AP00) received on September 25, 2008; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-8108. A communication from the Program Manager of the Office of the Actuary, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services,

Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicare Program; Inpatient Hospital Deductible and Hospital and Extended Care Services Coinsurance Amounts for Calendar Year 2009" (RIN0938-AP03) received on September 25, 2008; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-8109. A communication from the Program Manager of the Office of the Actuary, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicare Program; Part A Premium for Calendar Year 2009 for the Uninsured Aged and for Certain Disabled Individuals Who Have Exhausted Other Entitlement" (RIN0938-AP04) received on September 25, 2008; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-8110. A communication from the Program Manager of the Office of Child Support Enforcement, Administration for Children and Families, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "State Parent Locator Service; Safeguarding Child Support Information" (RIN0970-AC01) received on September 25, 2008; to the Committee on Finance.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. KYL (for himself and Mr. LEAHY):

S. 3641. A bill to authorize funding for the National Crime Victim Law Institute to provide support for victims of crime under Crime Victims Legal Assistance Programs as a part of the Victims of Crime Act of 1984; considered and passed.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. CORKER, Mr. KERRY, and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. 3642. A bill to enhance the capacity of the United States Government to fully implement the Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act of 2005 and to improve access to safe drinking water and sanitation throughout the world; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. KERRY, and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. 3643. A bill to enhance the capacity of the United States to undertake global development activities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. LANDRIEU (for herself, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. COCHRAN):

S. 3644. A bill to require the Secretary of Agriculture to provide crop disaster assistance to agricultural producers that suffered qualifying quantity or quality losses for the 2008 crop year due to a natural disaster; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. HATCH:

S. 3645. A bill to amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the Magna Water District water reuse and groundwater recharge project, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. DEMINT:

S. 3646. A bill to authorize and expedite lease sales within the outer Continental Shelf, and for other purposes; read the first time.

By Ms. LANDRIEU:

S. 3647. A bill to assist the State of Louisiana in flood protection and coastal res-

toration projects, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. KERRY (for himself and Mr. SMITH):

S. Res. 690. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate concerning the conflict between Russia and Georgia; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. HATCH (for himself, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. LEVIN, and Mr. CASEY):

S. Res. 691. A resolution designating Thursday, November 20, 2008, as "Feed America Day"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. REID (for Mr. BIDEN (for himself, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. DODD, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. COLEMAN, Mr. CASEY, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. KERRY, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. OBAMA, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. TESTER, Mr. INHOFE, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mr. STEVENS):

S. Res. 692. A resolution designating the week of November 9 through November 15, 2008, as "National Veterans Awareness Week" to emphasize the need to develop educational programs regarding the contributions of veterans to the country; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. LAUTENBERG (for himself, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. OBAMA, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. CASEY, and Mr. BAYH):

S. Res. 693. A resolution recognizing the month of November 2008 as "National Homeless Youth Awareness Month"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. DOMENICI (for himself, Mr. DODD, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. INHOFE, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. ENZI, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. CORNYN, and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. Res. 694. A resolution designating the week beginning October 19, 2008, as "National Character Counts Week"; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 3530

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 3530, a bill to establish the Stephanie Tubbs Jones Gift of Life Medal for organ donors and the family of organ donors.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. KYL (for himself and Mr. LEAHY):

S. 3641. A bill to authorize funding for the National Crime Victim Law Institute to provide support for victims of crime under Crime Victims Legal Assistance Programs as a part of the Victims of Crime Act of 1984; considered and passed.

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 3641

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. REAUTHORIZATION.

Section 103(b) of the Justice for All Act of 2004 (Public Law 108-405; 118 Stat. 2264) is amended in paragraphs (1) through (5) by striking "2006, 2007, 2008, and 2009" each place it appears and inserting "2010, 2011, 2012, and 2013".

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. CORKER, Mr. KERRY, and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. 3642. A bill to enhance the capacity of the United States Government to fully implement the Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act of 2005 and to improve access to safe drinking water and sanitation throughout the world; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Mr. DURBIN. My predecessor and friend, the late Senator Paul Simon, championed the cause of water for the poor. Ten years ago he wrote an important and foretelling book, *Tapped Out*, in which he described the world's looming clean water crisis.

Senator Simon was ahead of the curve. He identified this challenge long before many others, and urged the U.S. to lead on it. It is my privilege to carry forward his vision in the United States Senate today.

I take this responsibility seriously—not only to honor my friend and mentor from Illinois—but more importantly to further this country's leadership in making access to clean water and sanitation possible for people in every part of the world.

In 2005, Congress passed the Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act to elevate the position of safe water and sanitation efforts in U.S. foreign assistance.

We have made progress since then. Last year alone, the U.S. helped provide nearly 2 million people with access to a better source of drinking water for the first time. And we helped more than 1.5 million people access better sanitation.

These are encouraging results, but our impact could be much greater. Our current efforts are hindered by limited resources and lack of overall strategy and coordination.

To strengthen U.S. leadership in this area, I am pleased to join with Senators CORKER, KERRY and MURRAY, and Representatives BLUMENAUER and PAYNE to introduce new legislation that builds and improves upon the 2005 act.

The Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Enhancement Act of 2008 will increase capacity at USAID and the State Department to implement clean water and sanitation efforts.

It will strengthen local capacity by adding a corps of water experts to USAID missions and by training local water and sanitation managers.