

Whereas many Americans still face serious and life-threatening health problems, both acute and chronic;

Whereas neurodegenerative diseases of the elderly, such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease threaten to destroy the lives of millions of Americans, overwhelm the Nation's health care system, and bankrupt the Medicare and Medicaid programs;

Whereas 4 million Americans are currently infected with the hepatitis C virus, an insidious liver condition that can lead to inflammation, cirrhosis, and cancer as well as liver failure;

Whereas 250,000 Americans are now suffering from AIDS and hundreds of thousands more with HIV infection;

Whereas cancer remains a comprehensive threat to any tissue or organ of the body at any age, and remains a top cause of morbidity and mortality;

Whereas the extent of psychiatric and neurological diseases poses considerable challenges in understanding the workings of the brain and nervous system;

Whereas recent advances in the treatment of HIV illustrate the promise research holds for even more effective, accessible, and affordable treatments for persons with HIV;

Whereas infants and children are the hope of our future, yet they continue to be the most vulnerable and under served members of our society;

Whereas approximately one out of every six American men will develop prostate cancer and over 49,200 men will die from prostate cancer each year;

Whereas diabetes, both insulin and non-insulin forms, afflict 15.7 million Americans and places them at risk for acute and chronic complications, including blindness, kidney failure, atherosclerosis and nerve degeneration;

Whereas the emerging understanding of the principles of biometrics have been applied to the development of hard tissue such as bone and teeth as well as soft tissue, and this field of study holds great promise for the design of new classes of biomaterials, pharmaceuticals, diagnostic and analytical reagents;

Whereas research sponsored by the National Institutes of Health will map and sequence the entire human genome by 2005, leading to a new era of molecular medicine that will provide unprecedented opportunities for the prevention, diagnoses, treatment, and cure of diseases that currently plague society;

Whereas the fundamental way science is conducted is changing at a revolutionary pace, demanding a far greater investment in emerging new technologies, research training programs, and in developing new skills among scientific investigators; and

Whereas most Americans show overwhelming support for an increased Federal investment in biomedical research: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This resolution may be cited as the "Biomedical Revitalization Resolution of 1998".

#### SEC. 2. SENSE OF THE SENATE.

It is the sense of the Senate that funding for the National Institutes of Health should be increased by \$2,000,000,000 in fiscal year 2000 and that the budget resolution appropriately reflect sufficient funds to achieve this objective.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I have sought recognition today for the pur-

pose of submitting a resolution calling for the Budget Committee to add \$2 billion in the health account for the National Institutes of Health in fiscal year 2000. I am convinced that National Institutes of Health are the crown jewel of the Federal Government and they have made tremendous progress in conducting research into the causes and cures for disease. My vision for America in the 21st Century is to find the cure for cancer, for Alzheimer's, for Parkinson's, for the severe mental illnesses, for diabetes, for osteoporosis, and for heart cardiovascular disease. All of this is within our reach if we make the proper allocation of our resources.

As Chairman of the Appropriations subcommittee for Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies, I am firmly committed to prioritizing our resources in order to provide maximum funding for biomedical research. Funding for the National Institutes of Health has been increased steadily during my tenure in the Senate, regardless of who was chairing the subcommittee. Although the budgets were always tight and frequently had cuts called for by the administration, when the chairman was Senator Weicker, when the chairman was Lawton Chiles, when the chairman was TOM HARKIN, or more recently under my chairmanship, we have increased the funding tremendously. And the National Institutes of Health has responded with extraordinary advances in research. Now the work has to be pushed forward to see exactly what can be accomplished in the next century.

On May 21, 1997, the Senate passed a Sense of the Senate resolution submitted by our distinguished colleague, Senator MACK, which stated that funding for the National Institutes of Health should be doubled over five years. Regrettably, even though that resolution was passed by an overwhelming vote of 98 to nothing, when the budget resolution was returned, the appropriate health account had a reduction of \$100 million. That led to the introduction of an amendment to the budget resolution by Senator HARKIN and myself, Senator HARKIN being my distinguished colleague and ranking member of the subcommittee which I chair. We sought to add in \$1.1 billion to carry out the expressed sense of the Senate. Our amendment, however, was defeated 63-37. While the Senate had expressed its druthers on a resolution, when it came to the dollars they simply were not there.

During debate on the fiscal year 1999 Budget Resolution, Senator HARKIN and I again introduced an amendment which called for a funding increase for the National Institutes of Health of \$2 billion and provided sufficient resources in the budget to accomplish

this. While we gained more support on this vote than in the previous year, unfortunately our amendment was again defeated, this time by a vote of 57-41.

In order to provide the necessary resources for biomedical research, Senator HARKIN have worked closely together to find these vital funds. In the past few years, Senator HARKIN and I have consolidated and eliminated 135 programs to enable us to save \$1.5 billion. It's pretty hard to eliminate a program in Washington, DC but we have been able to do that. We used the \$1.5 billion to provide to the National Institutes of Health, guaranteed student loans, and many other important programs. Last year, Senator HARKIN and I again went to work with our subcommittee and we were able, by making economies and establishing priorities, to add an additional \$2 billion to the NIH account, the largest increase in history. We, however, still have a long way to go if we are to meet our goal of doubling the funding over five years.

Our investment has resulted in tremendous advances in medical research. A new generation of AIDS drugs are reducing the presence of the AIDS virus in HIV affected persons to nearly undetectable levels. Death rates from cancer have begun a steady decline. Human genome research has yielded dramatic developments in uncovering genes associated with a host of diseases, such as breast and prostate cancer, Alzheimer's disease, cystic fibrosis, and schizophrenia.

I personally have been the beneficiary of the tremendous advances of the National Institutes of Health. Two decades ago, there was no such thing as an MRI. That device detected a problem for me. And other advances led to good results for me. I know millions of people have benefited from the research and the investment which we have made in the National Institutes of Health. But that takes money, and that is why this resolution is being offered—to call upon the Budget Committee to add in \$2 billion so we can carry forward the important work of the National Institutes of Health.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 20—TO RE-NAME THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND HUMAN RESOURCES THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. JEFFORDS (for himself and Mr. KENNEDY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 20

*Resolved,* That the Committee on Labor and Human Resources is hereby redesignated as the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.