Under current tax rules, most state and local governments may undertake an advance refunding of bonded indebtedness only one time and are thus unable to take full advantage of periods when market interest rates are low. This legislation would allow every state and local government an additional opportunity to refinance bonded indebtedness issued to finance essential governmental projects.

Furthermore, this legislation would give state and local governments flexibility skin to that of a homeowner who refinances a mortgage to reduce monthly payments and thereby increase income. The federal government should not expect state and local governments to shoulder the burden of financing local infrastructure, and then deny them the flexibility to handle their own affairs in the most efficient and cost-effective manner. The change will help continue shifting power and control to local government where it belongs.

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

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

S. 1446

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

SECTION 1. ADDITIONAL ADVANCE REFUNDINGS OF CERTAIN GOVERNMENTAL BONDS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 149(d)(3)(A)(i) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to advance refundings of other bonds) is amended—

(1) by striking “or” at the end of subclause (I),

(2) by adding “or” at the end of subclause (II), and

(3) by inserting after subclause (II) the following:

“(III) the 2nd advance refunding of the original bond if the original bond was issued after 1985 or the 3rd advance refunding of the original bond if the original bond was issued before 1986, if, in either case, the original bond was issued as part of an issue 90 percent or more of the net proceeds of which were used to finance governmental facilities used for 1 or more essential governmental functions (within the meaning of section 141(c)(2)).”;

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to refunding bonds issued on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 37

At the request of Mr. Grassley, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. Leahy) was added as a cosponsor of S. 37, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to repeal the restriction on payment for certain hospital discharges to post-acute care imposed by section 1407 of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997.

At the request of Ms. Snowe, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. Frist) was added as a cosponsor of S. 71, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish a presumption of service-connection for certain veterans with Hepatitis C, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Lugar, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. Burns) was added as a cosponsor of S. 75, a bill to repeal the Federal estate and gift taxes and the tax on generation-skipping transfers.

At the request of Mr. Lugar, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. Burns) was added as a cosponsor of S. 76, a bill to phase-out and repeal the Federal estate and gift taxes and the tax on generation-skipping transfers.

At the request of Mr. Lugar, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. Burns) was added as a cosponsor of S. 77, a bill to increase the unified estate and gift tax credit to exempt small businesses and farmers from estate taxes.

At the request of Mr. Lugar, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. Burns) was added as a cosponsor of S. 78, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the gift tax exclusion to $25,000.

S. 309

At the request of Mr. Burns, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. Lincoln), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. Dodd), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. McConnell), and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. Daschle) were added as cosponsors of S. 88, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to exempt disabled individuals from being required to enroll with a managed care entity under the medicare program.

S. 407

At the request of Mr. Grassley, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. Burns) was added as a cosponsor of S. 407, a bill to reduce gun trafficking by prohibiting bulk purchases of handguns.

At the request of Mr. Kennedy, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. Leahy) was added as a cosponsor of S. 409, a bill to authorize qualified organizations to provide technical assistance and capacity building services to microenterprise development organizations and programs and to disadvantage entrepreneurs using funds from the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Grassley, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. Burns) was added as a cosponsor of S. 471, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to eliminate the 60-month limit on student loan interest deductions.

At the request of Mr. Grassley, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. Boxer) was added as a cosponsor of S. 472, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide certain Medicare beneficiaries with an exemption to the financial limitations imposed on physical, speech-language pathology, and occupational therapy services under part B of the medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 484

At the request of Mr. Campell, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. Bingaman) was added as a cosponsor of S. 484, a bill to provide for the granting of refugee status in the United States to nationals of certain foreign countries in which American Vietnam War POW/MIA's may be present, if those nationals assist in the return to the United States of those POW/MIA's alive.

S. 662

At the request of Mr. Chafee, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. Bryan), and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. Byrd) were added as cosponsors of S. 662, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide medical assistance for certain women screened and found to have breast or cervical cancer under a federally funded screening program.
At the request of Mr. CHAFFEE, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BAYH), and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. BIDEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 664, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a credit against income tax to individuals who rehabilitate historic homes or who are the first purchasers of rehabilitated historic homes for use as a principal residence.

At the request of Mr. BURNS, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. BROWNBACK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 800, a bill to promote and enhance public safety through the use of 9-1-1 as the universal emergency assistance number, further deployment of wireless 9-1-1 service, support of States in upgrading 9-1-1 capabilities and related functions, encouragement of construction and operation of seamless, ubiquitous, and reliable networks for personal wireless services, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 861, a bill to designate certain Federal land in the State of Utah as wilderness, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. GRAMM, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPAO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 915, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to expand and make permanent the Medicare subvention demonstration project for military retirees and dependents.

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 956, a bill to establish programs to provide a patient term restoration review procedure for certain drug products.

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. EDWARDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1200, a bill to require equitable coverage of prescription contraceptives and devices, and contraceptive services under health plans.

At the request of Mr. MUKLESKI, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUYE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1203, a bill to amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to extend authorizations of appropriations for programs under the Act through fiscal year 2004, to establish an innovation Family Caregiver Support Program, to modernize aging programs and services, to address the need to engage in life course planning, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. BENNETT, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. ALLARD) and the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1211, a bill to amend the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Act to authorize additional measures to carry out the control of salinity upstream of Imperial Dam in a cost-effective manner.

At the request of Mr. GORTON, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. THOMAS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1266, a bill to allow a State to cover educational leave to improve the academic achievement of all its students.

At the request of Mr. NICKLES, the names of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. FRIST) and the Senator from Utah (Mr. BOND) were added as cosponsors of S. 1272, a bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to promote pain management and palliative care without permitting assisted suicide and euthanasia, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. COCHRAN, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. AKAKA) was added as a cosponsor of Senate Concurrent Resolution 99, a resolution designating November 20, 1999, as "National Survivors for Prevention of Suicide Day."

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of Senate Resolution 118, a resolution designating December 12, 1999, as "National Children’s Memorial Day."

At the request of Mr. MURPHY, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. AKAKA) was added as a cosponsor of Senate Concurrent Resolution 128, a resolution designating March 2000, as "Arts Education Month."

Whereas the Black Bears of the University of Maine defeated the Wildcats of the University of New Hampshire by a score of 3 to 0 in overtime in Anaheim, California, on April 3, 1999, to win the 1999 NCAA hockey championship;