

743,000 poor children in my state, who were uninsured or on Medicaid, received these vaccines. This number is down by approximately 32,000 children in comparison to the 1997 immunization figures for California's poor children. California received \$80.3 million in 1999 from the Federal Government to provide vaccines.

Mr. President, what can be so basic to public health than immunization against disease? Do we really want our children to get polio, measles, mumps, chicken pox, rubella, and whooping cough—diseases for which we have effective vaccines, diseases which we have practically eradicated by widespread immunization? Every parent knows that vaccines are fundamental to children's good health.

Congress recognized the importance of immunizations in creating the program, with many Congressional leaders at the time arguing that childhood immunization is one of the most cost-effective steps we can take to keep our children healthy. It makes no sense to me to withhold them from children who (1) have been getting them when they were uninsured and (2) have no other way to get them once they become insured.

According to an Annie E. Casey Foundation report, 28 percent of California's two-year old children are not immunized. Add to that the fact that we have one of the highest uninsured rates in the country. Our uninsured rate for non-elderly adults is 24 percent, the third highest in the U.S., while the national uninsured rate is 17 percent. As for children, 1.85 million or 19 percent of our children are without health insurance, compared to 15 percent nationally, according to UCLA's Center for Health Policy Research. Clearly, there is a need.

In creating the new children's health insurance program in California, the state chose to set up a program under which the state contracts with private insurers, rather than providing eligible children care through Medicaid (Medi-Cal in California). Unfortunately, HHS has interpreted this form of "health insurance" as making them "insured," as defined in the vaccines law, and thus ineligible for the federal vaccines. I disagree.

It is my view that in creating the federal vaccines program, Congress made eligible for these vaccines children who are receiving Medicaid, children who are uninsured, and native American children. I believe that in defining the term "insured" at that time Congress clearly meant private health insurance plans. Children enrolled in California's new Healthy Families program are participating in a federal-state, subsidized insurance plan. Healthy Families is a state-operated program. Families apply to the state for participation. They are not insured by a private, commercial plan, as tra-

ditionally defined or as defined in the Vaccine for Children's law (42 U.S.C. sec. 1396s(b)(2)(B)). On February 23, the California Medical Association wrote to HHS Secretary Donna Shalala, "As they are participants in a federal and state-subsidized health program, these individuals are not "insured" for the purposes of 42 U.S.C. sec. 1396s(b)(B)."

The California Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board, which is administering the new program with the Department of Health Services, wrote to HHS on February 5, "It is imperative that states like California, who have implemented the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) using private health insurance, be given the same support and eligibility for the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program at no cost as states which have chosen to expand their Medicaid program." The San Francisco Chronicle editorialized on March 10, 1998, "More than half a million California children should not be deprived of vaccinations or health insurance because of a technicality . . ." calling the denial of vaccines "a game of semantics."

Children's health should not be a "game of semantics." Proper childhood immunizations are fundamental to a lifetime of good health. I urge my colleagues to join me in enacting this bill into law, to help me keep our children healthy.●

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 121

At the request of Mr. FEINGOLD, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 121, a bill to amend certain Federal civil rights statutes to prevent the involuntary application of arbitration to claims that arise from unlawful employment discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, age, or disability, and for other purposes.

S. 459

At the request of Mr. BREAUX, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. COVERDELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 459, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the State ceiling on private activity bonds.

S. 514

At the request of Mr. COCHRAN, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. COVERDELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 514, a bill to improve the National Writing Project.

S. 774

At the request of Mr. BREAUX, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 774, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the deduction for meal and entertainment expenses of small businesses.

S. 777

At the request of Mr. FITZGERALD, the name of the Senator from South

Dakota (Mr. DASCHLE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 777, a bill to require the Department of Agriculture to establish an electronic filing and retrieval system to enable the public to file all required paperwork electronically with the Department and to have access to public information on farm programs, quarterly trade, economic, and production reports, and other similar information.

S. 791

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 791, a bill to amend the Small Business Act with respect to the women's business center program.

S. 824

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 824, a bill to improve educational systems and facilities to better educate students throughout the United States.

S. 915

At the request of Mr. GRAMM, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. HELMS) 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

S. 935

At the request of Mr. LUGAR, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BAYH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 935, a bill to amend the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 to authorize research to promote the conversion of biomass into biobased industrial products, and for other purposes.

S. 1020

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. BENNETT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1020, a bill to amend chapter 1 of title 9, United States Code, to provide for greater fairness in the arbitration process relating to motor vehicle franchise contracts.

S. 1044

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. ROBB) were added as cosponsors of S. 1044, a bill to require coverage for colorectal cancer screenings.

S. 1053

At the request of Mr. BOND, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. BENNETT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1053, a bill to amend the Clean Air Act to incorporate certain provisions of the transportation conformity regulations, as in effect on March 1, 1999.

S. 1142

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SPECTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1142, a bill to protect the

right of a member of a health maintenance organization to receive continuing care at a facility selected by that member, and for other purposes.

S. 1215

At the request of Mr. DODD, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SANTORUM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1215, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish headstones or markers for marked graves of, or to otherwise commemorate, certain individuals.

S. 1272

At the request of Mr. NICKLES, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. FITZGERALD) was added as a cosponsor 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.

S. 1277

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. DEWINE), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1277, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to establish a new prospective payment system for Federally-qualified health centers and rural health clinics.

S. 1327

At the request of Mr. CHAFEE, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1327, a bill to amend part E of title IV of the Social Security Act to provide States with more funding and greater flexibility in carrying out programs designed to help children make the transition from foster care to self-sufficiency, and for other purposes.

S. 1419

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the names of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SPECTER), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. HELMS) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1419, a bill to amend title 36, United States Code, to designate May as "National Military Appreciation Month."

S. 1452

At the request of Mr. SHELBY, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SANTORUM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1452, a bill to modernize the requirements under the National Manufactured Housing Construction and Safety Standards of 1974 and to establish a balanced consensus process for the development, revision, and interpretation of Federal construction and safety standards for manufactured homes.

S. 1473

At the request of Mr. ROBB, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs.

BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1473, a bill to amend section 2007 of the Social Security Act to provide grant funding for additional Empowerment Zones, Enterprise Communities, and Strategic Planning Communities, and for other purposes.

S. 1539

At the request of Mr. DODD, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. WELLSTONE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1539, a bill to provide for the acquisition, construction, and improvement of child care facilities or equipment, and for other purposes.

S. 1571

At the request of Mr. JEFFORDS, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1571, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for permanent eligibility of former members of the Selected Reserve for veterans housing loans.

S. 1589

At the request of Mr. CAMPBELL, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1589, a bill to amend the American Indian Trust Fund Management Reform Act of 1994.

S. 1644

At the request of Mr. ABRAHAM, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KYL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1644, a bill to provide additional measures for the prevention and punishment of alien smuggling, and for other purposes.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 26

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) was added as a cosponsor of Senate Joint Resolution 26, A joint resolution expressing the sense of Congress with respect to the courtmartial conviction of the late Rear Admiral Charles Butler McVay, III, and calling upon the President to award a Presidential Unit Citation to the final crew of the U.S.S. *Indianapolis*.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 32

At the request of Mr. CONRAD, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. ROBB) was added as a cosponsor of Senate Concurrent Resolution 32, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress regarding the guaranteed coverage of chiropractic services under the Medicare+Choice program.

SENATE RESOLUTION 87

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) was added as a cosponsor of Senate Resolution 87, a resolution commemorating the 60th Anniversary of the International Visitors Program.

SENATE RESOLUTION 108

At the request of Mr. BREAUX, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID) was added as a cosponsor of Senate Resolution 108, a resolution designating the month of March each year

as "National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month."

SENATE RESOLUTION 133

At the request of Mr. ABRAHAM, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of Senate Resolution 133, a resolution supporting religious tolerance toward Muslims.

AMENDMENT NO. 1572

At the request of Mr. TORRICELLI, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CLELAND), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) were added as cosponsors of Amendment No. 1572 proposed to H.R. 2466, a bill making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, HISTORIC PRESERVATION, AND RECREATION

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a hearing has been scheduled before the Subcommittee on National Parks, Historic Preservation, and Recreation of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. The purpose of this hearing is to receive testimony on S. 167, a bill to extend the authorization for the Upper Delaware Citizens Advisory Council and to authorize construction and operation of a visitor center for the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River, New York and Pennsylvania; S. 311, a bill to authorize the Disabled Veterans' LIFE Memorial Foundation to establish a memorial in the District of Columbia or its environs, and for other purposes; S. 497, a bill to redesignate Great Kills Park in the Gateway National Recreation Area as "World War II Veterans Park at Great Kills"; H.R. 592, an Act to designate a portion of Gateway National Recreation Area as "World War Veterans Park at Miller Field"; S. 919, a bill to amend the Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley National Heritage Corridor Act of 1994 to expand the boundaries of the Corridor; H.R. 1619, an Act to amend the Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley National Heritage Corridor Act of 1994 to expand the boundaries of the Corridor; S. 1296, a bill to designate portions of the lower Delaware River and associated tributaries as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System; S. 1366, a bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to construct and operate a visitor center for the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River on land owned by New York State, and for other purposes; and S. 1569, a bill to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate segments of the Taunton