Whereas, we need to meet our Social Security promises to existing and future retirees; and

Whereas, the number of retirees will almost double by the year 2030; or

Whereas, The United States Junior Chamber of Commerce has conducted surveys at seventy-five Social Security Town Hall Meetings in forty different states; and

Whereas, The United States Junior Chamber of Commerce has testified before congress to address these concerns; and

Whereas, as a result of The United States Junior Chamber of Commerce's Social Security Town Hall Report, an overwhelming majority approved the establishment of individual retirement accounts; and

Whereas, The U.S. Congress has introduced legislation for the establishment and maintenance of individual retirement accounts; and

Whereas, The United States Junior Chamber of Commerce has invested considerable time and resources in the solvency of the Social Security System; and

Whereas, The United States Junior Chamber of Commerce sees the need to get the average young American involved in the interest of their government; and

Whereas, The United States Junior Chamber of Commerce should actively promote getting out the vote to secure these aims: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the United States Junior Chamber of Commerce Executive Board of Directors:

recognizes that Social Security is in need of immediate revision;

recognizes that the future of Social Security is a vital concern for young people and future generations in the United States;

recognizes the need for capitalization of the social security system;

recognizes the need for personal retirement accounts;

recognizes that a percentage of budget surpluses should go towards the solvency of Social Security;

recognizes a need for a national ''Get Out the Vote'' campaign;

gives authority to the USJCC staff to pursue a course to reform Social Security in local Junior Chamber communities and at the national level and organize a ''Get Out the Vote'' campaign.

JAYCEES WANT SOCIAL SECURITY SAVED

(By Mike Marshall)

Within the last year, Republicans and Democrats have expressed the necessity to take legislative action to strengthen Social Security. President Clinton, during his 1998 State of the Union address, announced plans for a series of public forums to be held across the country. He plans to hold a conference on Social Security in Washington, D.C., this December and then ask Congress to pass reforms in 1999. Senator Bob Kerrey, Nebraska Democrat, is urging President Clinton and congressional Republicans to begin ''eating our national spinach'' and reform government entitlements. Politicians are listening to their constituents and are coming to the conclusion that Americans want Social Security to be saved.

Members of The United States Junior Chamber of Commerce (Jaycees) completed a series of Social Security town hall meetings across America in 1997. They made some remarkable findings. Americans attending these town hall meetings indicated they want the Social Security system in this country reformed. With more than 1,400 town hall participants surveyed, 79 percent believe that the Social Security program will need radical or major changes to survive.

The Jaycee surveys also indicate that 76 percent of the town hall participants believe that they should be allowed to place their Social Security contributions into a personal retirement account. This coincides with a survey recently released by the Democratic Leadership Council which indicated that 75 percent of registered voters—regardless of political party—said they strongly or somewhat support letting workers take a third of the Social Security payroll taxes they now pay and invest them into private retirement accounts.

The Junior Chamber of Commerce believes any changes to Social Security should be judged on whether the current hallmarks are maintained and remain dependable, universal, and available to the disabled as well as all elderly. In addition, we recognize the need for capitalization of the Social Security system. Americans need to have ownership in the system and politicians must have reduced access to the money they are taxing for our retirement savings. Some type of Personal Savings Retirement Accounts combined with the current system appear to be the best solution.

Some organizations would have you believe that Social Security can be saved with just a few adjustments. For 60 years, with little notice or fanfare, the government has been making adjustments to the system. If it was as simple as a slight adjustment, we would not have elected officials risking their political lives by addressing the need for dramatic, system-saving changes.

Now is the time honest debate and real reform. We are asking Congress and the President to leave a legacy of leadership behind them for this country. They must act to save the Social Security system for the elderly, the disabled, and current and future retirees. All Americans must take an active role on this issue, listen to all aides of the debate, and then call their elected officials and urge them to take action.

The United States Junior Chamber of Commerce is a volunteer, non-partisan, community service organization comprised of more than 100,000 men and women ages 21 to 39. 1–800–JAYCEES.●

SUPPORT OUR TEACHING HOSPITALS

● Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I rise today to express my strong support for this country's teaching hospitals.

These institutions provide the critical experiences of internship and residency by which raw medical school graduates, who have learned the science of medicine, are converted into seasoned physicians who have learned the art and practice of medicine. We are all going to face illness at one time or another in our lives, and we want to make sure that there will be well-educated, conscientious, and compassionate physicians to care for us during those periods. The critical role of the teaching hospitals in molding the doctors of the future cannot be overestimated.

These teaching hospitals also serve as key participants in the medical research advances from which we all benefit enormously. We tend to forget that medicine is a relatively young science. Antibiotics, which we all take for granted, have been in use for only about 50 years. Heart bypass surgery and kidney transplants, procedures so commonplace that we hardly give them a second thought, were virtually unheard of 40 years ago. These and other medical advances have led to a tremendous increase in life expectancy in this country over the past 100 years. Yet all of these innovations would have been virtually impossible without the ongoing participation of teaching hospitals in programs of medical research and development.

Finally, these teaching hospitals provide a tremendous service to our communities. For many of the most vulnerable among us, the teaching hospitals represent their major, and often only, source of medical care. The homeless, the indigent, the elderly, the new arrivals to our country: for many in these groups, there would be no medical care at all if not for the care provided by the teaching hospitals, such as Christiana Care in my home state of Delaware.

So we should all agree that teaching hospitals are an absolutely essential resource for our society; we don't want to go back to 19th century medicine, we want to move ahead to 21st century medicine.

But there is a problem: the teaching hospitals' financial underpinning has become very precarious, and a number of the most reknowned teaching hospitals in this country are now losing money each year. We have come somewhat late to the unsurprising realization that the time and resources which the teaching hospitals devote to the education of future physicians, the research we need for better and healthier lives, and the care of the indigent and working poor, costs a lot of money.

These costs are going up every year for our teaching hospitals: new technology costs money, dedicated employees must be paid a living wage, and so forth. But the income of teaching hospitals is not coming close to matching these cost increases. Health insurance companies are reducing their payments to health care providers, including teaching hospitals. Teaching hospitals, with their obligatory high costs, are not able to compete financially for contracts to take care of HMO patients. A significant percentage of teaching hospital costs has been paid in the past by Medicare, but as Medicare finds itself facing future insolvency, its payment to teaching hospitals for training interns and residents has also declined. We in Congress contributed to the decline in teaching hospitals' income with several provisions in the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, particularly the reductions in payments for indirect medical education and disproportionate share hospitals.

Everybody who gets health care in this country benefits from the work of

teaching hospitals, but in the face of the financial straits that have overwhelmed our health care system, nobody wants to pay for them.

Mr. President, it is absolutely essential that this country's teaching hospitals remain vital and viable. Medicare may no longer be in a position to continue paying a disproportionately large share of teaching hospital expenses. In the long run, we must carefully reevaluate the funding mechanism for teaching hospitals to ensure their stability; if we all benefit from them, then perhaps we should all pay part of their costs.

These long-term changes are important, but we in the Senate must also be concerned about the here and now. Teaching hospitals that are currently losing money may not be able to wait for the ''long run''; they need help in the next few months. Senator DASCHLE has just introduced the Medicare Beneficiary Access to Care Act, which contains provisions that would benefit the teaching hospitals and their patients, and I understand that the Senate Finance Committee is currently working on proposals to address some unintended consequences of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, including those that have impacted on teaching hospitals.

But time is of the essence, and the key word is urgency. Next year may be too late. The Senate is working furiously to pass the necessary appropriations bills in the few legislative days we have remaining this session, but I implore my colleagues not to move to adjournment until we take action to make sure that the teaching hospitals will still be around next session. The teaching hospitals spend 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, working to make sure we live long and healthy lives, and it's time for us to return the favor. If we don't have enough time this session to complete the necessary major surgery on the payment system for teaching hospitals, the least we can do is set aside the few hours or days it would take to administer a little life-saving financial CPR.●

IN RECOGNITION OF ''NATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER APPRECIATION DAY''

● Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, October 17, 1999 is ''National Sunday School Teacher Appreciation Day'' and I want to take this opportunity to honor the 15 million American men and women who serve as Sunday school teachers. They are surely one of our nation's most valuable resources.

Since 1993, ''National Sunday School Teacher Appreciation Day'' has helped foster an increased awareness of the vital role Sunday school plays in the life of the local church and community. By marking this day, churches have an opportunity to nominate the cream of the crop of their Sunday school teachers for national recognition. An integral part of this campaign is the search for the ''Henrietta Mears Sunday School Teacher of the Year.'' This award was established in honor of Dr. Henrietta Mears, a famous Christian educator who influenced the lives of such Christian leaders as Dr. Billy Graham, and many more.

Through their work, Sunday school teachers offer a wealth of information and guidance to America's youth. In the wake of incidents at Columbine High School and, more recently, at the Wedgewood Baptist Church in Texas, the importance of these volunteers, who help shepherd their communities through difficult times, only increases in value. Through community-based programs—and especially those deeply rooted in faith, such as Sunday School—our nation and my state of Minnesota can help bring out the best in our children as they go through the ever-more challenging task of growing up in our society.

Sunday school teachers have had an enormous influence on countless Minnesotans, including myself. I personally recall my Sunday school teachers as men and women of great character who I respected and admired, and who helped shape my moral fiber. As I look back on my own experience, and those of my friends and relatives, it is with considerable appreciation I make this statement today. The service given by the men and women who every week give up their Sunday mornings to help educate and mold our children is certainly service given from the heart.

In conclusion, Mr. President, I personally thank all Sunday school teachers in my state of Minnesota and across the country for the tremendous work they do for not only our youth, but for all families and our society as a whole.●

COMMENDATION FOR THE IRISH EISENHOWER EXCHANGE FELLOWS

● Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, today I would like to call to your attention a very special anniversary which is taking place in my home state. Ten years ago, a group of emerging leaders from Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, hosted by the Eisenhower Exchange Fellowships, met in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to launch an exciting experiment in international cooperation.

The Eisenhower Exchange Fellowships is a private, non-profit, non-partisan organization created in 1953 by a group of prominent American citizens to honor then-President Dwight D. Eisenhower for his contribution to humanity as a soldier, statesman and world leader. Eisenhower Exchange Fellowships seeks to foster international understanding and productivity through the exchange of information, ideas and perspectives among emerging leaders throughout the world. The Eisenhower network numbers 1300 Fellows from 100 countries. Currently two Eisenhower Fellows are heads of government; over 90 Fellows have served at the cabinet level or above. More than 220 have become CEOs.

The Eisenhower Exchange Fellowships brought this group of fourteen Irish Fellows, consisting of seven Fellows from the North and seven from the South, to the United States for a two-month program. They came from all types of professional backgrounds, working in business, government, religion and law. They came from many perspectives and diverse political and personal beliefs. Through the auspices of the Eisenhower Exchange Fellowships, they met on common ground in Philadelphia in 1989, and they've been meeting and working together ever since.

They decided to commemorate the tenth anniversary of their Single Area program by returning to Philadelphia. There they will gather to look back on the last ten years and look forward to the next millennium. These Irish Eisenhower Fellows are to be commended for the contributions they have made to their region and to greater international understanding in the past decade—and they think of Philadelphia as their second home.

In the spirit of Dwight D. Eisenhower, in whose honor the organization was founded, the Irish Fellows work together in a pragmatic way to ensure understanding, respect, and reconciliation. Building bridges across cultural and political divides, they have played and continue to play important roles in the peace negotiations. They have made important contributions to economic growth, to the social welfare of their communities, and to more effective and efficient public administration. They have worked effectively towards a more dynamic economy, seeing the importance for their region to play a role in an evolving Europe and in the world.

By continuing to find outstanding new Eisenhower Fellows from a number of professional fields, they help to promote awareness and the exchange of ideas between Irish emerging leaders and their American counterparts. By sponsoring USA Eisenhower Fellows and bringing them to Ireland, they expand the horizons of emerging young U.S. leaders. In both these activities, they strengthen the bonds between our countries.

In the spirit of fellowship and unflagging curiosity about the world, they come together every nine months to confer on topical issues, to plan for future Eisenhower Fellowships, and to renew and strengthen their friendships, which cross national borders and historical differences. They serve, in effect, as a model alumni organization,