

S. 405

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

SECTION 1. COMMERCIAL OPERATION OF SUPERSONIC TRANSPORT CATEGORY AIRCRAFT.

The Secretary of Transportation shall prohibit the commercial operation of civil supersonic transport category aircraft to or from an airport in the United States—

(1) if the Secretary determines that the European Union has adopted Common Position (EC) No. 66/98 as a final regulation, unless

(2) the Secretary also determines that such aircraft comply with Stage 3 noise levels.●

By Mr. MURKOWSKI (for himself, Mr. LOTT, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. CAMPBELL, and Mr. INOUE):

S. 406. A bill to amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to make permanent the demonstration program that allows for direct billing of medicare, medicaid, and other third party payors, and to expand the eligibility under such program to other tribes and tribal organizations.

ALASKA NATIVE AND AMERICAN INDIAN DIRECT REIMBURSEMENT ACT OF 1999

● Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, today I rise on behalf of myself and the Majority Leader Mr. LOTT, Senator BAUCUS, Senator COCHRAN, Senator INHOFE, Senator CAMPBELL, and Senator INOUE, to introduce legislation to permanently authorize and expand the Medicare and Medicaid direct collections demonstration program under section 405 of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act.

This Act will end much of the red tape and bureaucracy for IHS facilities involved with Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement, and will mean more Medicaid and Medicare dollars to Native health facilities to use for improving health care.

Our bill will allow Native hospitals to collect Medicare and Medicaid fund directly from the Health Care Financing Administration instead of having to go through the maze of regulations mandated by IHS.

This bill is an expansion of a current demonstration project that includes Bristol Bay Health Corporation of Dillingham, Alaska; the Southeast Alaska Regional Health Corporation of Sitka, Alaska; the Mississippi Choctaw Health Center of Philadelphia, Mississippi; and the Choctaw Tribe of Durant, Oklahoma. All of the participants in the demonstration program—as well as the Department of Health and Human Service and the Indian Health Services report that the program is a great success. HHS Secretary Donna Shalala stated in a letter to Senator JOHN MCCAIN on July 23, 1996, that the program has:

Dramatically increased collections for Medicare and Medicaid services, which in turn has provided badly-needed revenues for Indian and Alaska Native health care:

Significantly reduced the turn-around time between billing and the receipt of payment for Medicare and Medicaid services; and,

Increased the administrative efficiency of the participating health facilities by empowering them to track their own Medicare and Medicaid billings and collections.

In her letter, Secretary Shalala also mentions that the Southeast Alaska Regional Health Corporation has been able to make “great strides in upgrading the health facilities” as a result of increased collections brought on by its participation in the demonstration program.

In 1998, when the demonstration program was about to expire, Congress extended it through FY 2001. This extension has allowed the participants to continue their direct billing and collection efforts and has provided Congress with additional time to consider whether to permanently authorize the program.

It is time to recognize the benefits of the demonstration program by enacting legislation that would permanently authorize it and expand it to other eligible tribal participants.●

By Mr. LAUTENBERG (for himself, Mr. TORRICELLI, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. ROBB, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KERRY, and Ms. MIKULSKI):

S. 407. A bill to reduce gun trafficking by prohibiting bulk purchases of handguns; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

THE STOP GUN TRAFFICKING ACT

● Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I rise to introduce legislation that will reduce the murder and mayhem on our streets by making it harder for criminals to run guns between states. I am pleased to be joined in this effort by Senators TORRICELLI, SCHUMER, FEINSTEIN, ROBB, SARBANES, KENNEDY, KERRY, and MIKULSKI.

Gun traffickers continue to supply an illegal gun market by buying large quantities of guns in states with lax gun laws and then reselling them on the streets—often in cities and states with strict gun laws. If these traffickers cannot legally buy a gun themselves, or if they do not want to have their name turn up if the gun is later found at a crime scene, they find others to make the purchases for them. The trafficker pays a straw purchaser, in money or drugs, to buy 25, 50 or more handguns at a time. The trafficker then resells the guns to those who otherwise could not buy them—such as convicted felons, drug addicts, or children.

The Stop Gun Trafficking Act would prohibit any person from purchasing, and any licensed dealer from selling to an individual, more than one handgun

a month. This sensible limit on handgun purchases should substantially reduce gun running, while not creating an unreasonable obstacle to legitimate sportsmen and collectors. Under the law, individuals would still be able to purchase up to twelve handguns per year and hundreds of weapons during a lifetime. It is hard to imagine why anyone would need more handguns.

Last year, I introduced similar legislation. In order to make my colleagues more aware of the deadly problem of gun trafficking, I sponsored a forum on the issue. The testimony I heard at the forum has made me even more determined to pass this legislation and make it more difficult for gun traffickers to obtain and sell their deadly merchandise on our streets.

The witnesses at the forum included: Philadelphia Mayor Ed Rendell, who is also the chair of the Conference of Mayor's Task Force on Gun Violence; James and Sarah Brady; Captain R. Lewis Vass of the Virginia State Police, and Captain Thomas Bowers of the Maryland State Police.

We also heard from a panel of youth from right here in our nation's capital who live with gun violence every day in their communities. And what they had to say was terrifying. Guns were an everyday part of their lives. For these kids, D.C. does not stand for District of Columbia. It stands for Dodge City.

These young people told us that guns are easy to get in their neighborhoods and schools. They call it getting strapped. And if you do not get strapped you might not make it through the day, they said.

One young woman put it eloquently: “It's not fair,” she said. “Other kids get to go to college. We get to go to funerals. These people who sell guns are the real predators. They feed off our pain.”

We must shut these predators down. And we can shut these predators down by passing this legislation. We know this approach works because three states—Virginia, Maryland, South Carolina—have passed one-gun-a-month laws and the results have been dramatic. Gun-trafficking from these states has plunged.

At the forum, officers from the Virginia State Police testified that after Virginia passed its one-handgun-a-month limit in 1993, the number of crime guns traced back to Virginia from the Northeast dropped by nearly 40 percent. Prior to one-gun-a-month, Virginia had been among the leading suppliers of weapons to the so-called “Iron Pipeline” that feed the arms race on the streets of Northeastern cities. Furthermore, in 1995, the Virginia Crime Commission conducted a comprehensive study of the one-handgun-a-month limit to determine if the law had achieved its purpose. That study found, and I quote, “Virginia's one-gun-a-month statute . . . has had its intended effect of reducing Virginia's

status as a source state for gun trafficking."

Maryland and South Carolina witnessed similar results. In South Carolina, according to the same Crime Commission report: "Prior to the passage of the one-gun-a-month law, South Carolina was a leading source state for guns traced to New York City, accounting for 39% of guns recovered in criminal investigations. Following the implementation of the law, South Carolina virtually dropped off of the statistical list of source states for firearms trafficked to the northeast."

Maryland—the most recent state to pass a limit on handgun purchases—passed its law in 1996 and has already seen the benefits. According to testimony from the Maryland State Police: "In 1991 Maryland was nationally ranked second in terms of suppliers of crime guns to the City of New York. By 1997, one year after the passage of Maryland's one gun a month law, Maryland moved out of the top ten suppliers of crime guns to New York City."

So limits on gun sales are working in some regions. But we need a national law to prevent criminals from simply moving their operations from state-to-state.

Poll after poll shows that Americans, including gun-owning Americans, want tougher controls on guns. A 1996 University of Chicago study found that 80 percent of those polled support legislation limiting handgun sales to one a month.

I urge my colleagues to listen to the American people: stop turning a blind eye to the daily destruction caused by guns in America. I urge my colleagues to have the will to do something to help the youth of America live without the sound of gunshots in their lives. I ask my colleagues to support this common sense approach to keep handguns out of the hands of criminals.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a copy 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. 407

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Stop Gun Trafficking Act of 1999".

SEC. 2. PROHIBITION AGAINST MULTIPLE HANDGUN SALES OR PURCHASES.

(a) PROHIBITION.—Section 922 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting after subsection (y) the following:

"(z) PROHIBITION AGAINST MULTIPLE HANDGUN SALES OR PURCHASES.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—It shall be unlawful for any licensed dealer—

"(A) during any 30-day period, to sell 2 or more handguns to an individual who is not licensed under section 923; or

"(B) to sell a handgun to an individual who is not licensed under section 923 and who

purchased a handgun during the 30-day period ending on the date of the sale.

"(2) TIME LIMITATION.—It shall be unlawful for any individual who is not licensed under section 923 to purchase 2 or more handguns during any 30-day period.

"(3) EXCHANGES.—Paragraph (1) does not apply to an exchange of 1 handgun for 1 handgun."

(b) PENALTIES.—Section 924(a)(2) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking "or (o)" and inserting "(o), or (z)".

SEC. 3. INCREASED PENALTIES FOR MAKING KNOWINGLY FALSE STATEMENTS IN CONNECTION WITH FIREARMS.

Section 924(a)(3) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking "one year" and inserting "5 years".

SEC. 4. DEADLINES FOR DESTRUCTION OF RECORDS RELATED TO CERTAIN FIREARMS TRANSFERS.

(a) HANDGUN TRANSFERS SUBJECT TO THE WAITING PERIOD.—Section 922(s)(6)(B)(i) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking "20 business days" and inserting "35 calendar days".

(b) FIREARMS TRANSFERS SUBJECT TO INSTANT CHECK.—Section 922(t)(2)(C) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting "not later than 35 calendar days after the date the system provides the licensee with the number," before "destroy".

SEC. 5. REVISED DEFINITION.

Section 921(a)(21)(C) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting ", except that such term shall include any person who transfers more than 1 handgun in any 30-day period to a person who is not a licensed dealer" before the semicolon.●

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. REID, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. ROBB, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. SANTORUM, Mr. SARBANES, and Ms. SNOWE):

S. 409. A bill to authorize qualified organizations to provide technical assistance and capacity building services to microenterprise development organizations and programs and to disadvantaged entrepreneurs using funds from the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

THE PROGRAM FOR INVESTMENT IN MICRO-ENTREPRENEURS "PRIME" ACT OF 1999

● Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, it is a privilege to join with Senator DOMENICI in introducing the PRIME Act—the Program for Investment in Micro-Entrepreneurs. This important idea is part of President Clinton's budget for Fiscal Year 2000. It deserves bipartisan support and I look forward to working closely with Senator DOMENICI to achieve its passage early this year.

The nation's entrepreneurial spirit is thriving, fueled by the record-breaking economic growth and prosperity that we currently enjoy. But, many deserving entrepreneurs still face unfair challenges that limit their ability to turn innovative ideas into successful businesses that create new jobs. They need skills and technical training in the business basics needed to take their ideas to the next level—starting their own firms.

The PRIME Act will help entrepreneurs close the gap between worthwhile ideas and successful businesses. It will provide \$105 million over the next four years to build skills in record keeping, planning, management, marketing, and computer technology, and other basic business practices.

The Community Development Financial Institutions Fund in the Treasury Department is now the lead federal agency for micro-enterprise activities across the country, and the PRIME Act will enhance these efforts in several specific ways:

It will provide grants for micro-enterprise organizations across the country that assist disadvantaged and low-income entrepreneurs and provide them with essential training and education.

It will encourage the development of new micro-enterprise organizations, and expand existing ones to reach more entrepreneurs.

It will enhance research on innovative and successful ways of encouraging these new businesses and enabling them to succeed.

Under the Act, between \$15 and \$35 million in grants will be available each year to organizations that work with entrepreneurs. The President's fiscal year 2000 budget proposes \$15 million for the program. Local groups will leverage these funds with their own public and private resources to increase the overall assistance that will be available.

Massachusetts and New Mexico are already leaders in this effort. The business communities and local banks in our states have made significant investments in creating loan capital for micro-entrepreneurs to start their own businesses. Non-profit organizations working with micro-entrepreneurs on this effort have worked closely with us on this legislation. We look forward to working with them and with other members of Congress to give micro-entrepreneurs across the country the greater opportunity they deserve to realize their potential.

By investing in micro-entrepreneurs, we will be harnessing the spirit and ideas of large numbers of Americans and creating new opportunities for self-sufficiency. We'll be creating new small businesses that will strengthen local economies in communities across the country. And that in turn will help to keep our national economy strong as well. This is worthwhile legislation, and I urge the Senate to approve it.●

● Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I am pleased today to join with Senator KENNEDY and a group of bipartisan cosponsors to introduce the "Program for Investment in Micro-Entrepreneurs" or "PRIME Act of 1999."

Starting one's own business long has been viewed as a realization of the American dream. Right now, thousands of creative and hardworking men and

women across the country believe that they have a solid idea for building a new business. However, starting a small business takes more than a good idea, hard work, and luck to make it work—many of these men and women need help turning their ideas into a viable business enterprise.

These would-be small and micro entrepreneurs face overwhelming obstacles, due in part to the complexity of local, state, and Federal laws, and the difficulty of finding adequate sources of capital. Often, they have no experience dealing with the intricacies of marketing, feasibility studies, and bookkeeping practices. Entrepreneurs usually need basic technical assistance, training, and mentoring to be successful.

Under this bill, grants will be available through the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund, matched at least 50 percent in non-Federal funds, to help experienced non-profit organizations provide the assistance these new businesses so urgently require. Fifty percent of these grants will be awarded to applicants serving low-income clients and those serving equally both urban and rural areas.

From so many case studies and histories of successful businesses, we know that enthusiastic entrepreneurs can build and sustain their businesses when they have access to critical training and professional technical assistance at the outset of their endeavor.

During the past few years, I have had the pleasure of visiting countless new micro-level businesses in my State of New Mexico. A great majority of these businesses received assistance from the WESST Corp. organization, now located in five different sites throughout our State. This organization provides key technical assistance and training, as well as access to low interest revolving loans. But WESST Corp. also goes a step further in providing guidance and information about sound business practices to ensure that the creative ideas of micro-entrepreneurs become sound business endeavors.

Micro and small businesses are absolutely critical components of our national economic growth. They often embody the ingenuity and innovation central to the American spirit. Investment in the ideas of these enterprising Americans has long been recognized as a worthwhile endeavor. The Small Business Administration, for example, lends excellent support to entrepreneurs. The PRIME Act will establish a complementary program which enables intermediary organizations to serve more micro-level entrepreneurs who need specialized and hands-on assistance.

This is a good investment for the future, and will be rewarded many times over by the creation of businesses that can contribute to the growth of family, local and national economies. We all

can recall success stories about business that began with the inspired idea of a single person and eventually grew in to a major global corporation. In every story, the basic tenacity of a businessman, woman, or family allowed the fledgling business overcome initial obstacles and achieve great success. We have no way of knowing how many more such success stories will be told in the future. It is guaranteed, however, that there are thousands of such extraordinary entrepreneurs willing to provide the ideas and hard labor to make it happen, and with a little help, they can realize their dreams.

Senator KENNEDY and I came up with this concept in legislation we introduced during the 105th Congress, and I understand that the President has made room for it in his budget this year. I am pleased to join Senator KENNEDY in cosponsoring the PRIME Act again in this Congress. Owning one's own business remains a vital part of the American dream. Whatever we can do to continue this legacy and assist those who want to be self-reliant and successful entrepreneurs is an investment worth making. ●

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 4

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAIG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4, a bill to improve pay and retirement equity for members of the Armed Forces; and for other purposes.

S. 98

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES) were added as cosponsors of S. 98, a bill to authorize appropriations for the Surface Transportation Board for fiscal years 1999, 2000, 2001, and 2002, and for other purposes.

S. 101

At the request of Mr. LUGAR, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mr. GORTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 101, a bill to promote trade in United States agricultural commodities, livestock, and value-added products, and to prepare for future bilateral and multilateral trade negotiations.

S. 113

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 113, a bill to increase the criminal penalties for assaulting or threatening Federal judges, their family members, and other public servants, and for other purposes.

S. 170

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 170, a bill to permit revocation by members of the clergy of their exemption from Social Security coverage.

S. 246

At the request of Mr. HAGEL, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 246, a bill to protect private property rights guaranteed by the fifth amendment to the Constitution by requiring Federal agencies to prepare private property taking impact analyses and by allowing expanded access to Federal courts.

S. 247

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 247, a bill to amend title 17, United States Code, to reform the copyright law with respect to satellite retransmissions of broadcast signals, and for other purposes.

S. 270

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAIG) and the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. BUNNING) were added as cosponsors of S. 270, a bill to improve pay and retirement equity for members of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

S. 331

At the request of Mr. JEFFORDS, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 331, a bill to amend the Social Security Act to expand the availability of health care coverage for working individuals with disabilities, to establish a Ticket to Work and Self-Sufficiency Program in the Social Security Administration to provide such individuals with meaningful opportunities to work, and for other purposes.

S. 368

At the request of Mr. COCHRAN, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 368, a bill to authorize the minting and issuance of a commemorative coin in honor of the founding of Biloxi, Mississippi.

S. 387

At the request of Mr. MCCONNELL, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 387, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an exclusion from gross income for distributions from qualified State tuition programs which are used to pay education expenses.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 5

At the request of Mr. BROWNBACK, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN), the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VOINOVICH), the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON), and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. CAMPBELL) were added as cosponsors of Senate Concurrent Resolution 5, a concurrent resolution expressing congressional opposition to the unilateral declaration of a Palestinian state and urging the President to assert clearly