

quality of care, compared to such compliance for other medicare-participating medical centers that are not Veterans Affairs medical facilities.

“(iii) A comparison of the costs of participation of the demonstration sites in the program with the reimbursements provided for services of such sites.

“(iv) Any savings or costs to the medicare program under this title from the project.

“(v) Any change in access to care or quality of care for targeted medicare-eligible veterans participating in the project.

“(vi) Any effect of the project on the access to care and quality of care for targeted medicare-eligible veterans not participating in the project and other veterans not participating in the project.

“(vii) The provision of services under managed health care plans under subsection (g), including the circumstances (if any) under which the Secretary of Veterans Affairs uses reserves described in paragraph (3) of such subsection and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs' response to such circumstances (including the termination of managed health care plans requiring the use of such reserves).

“(viii) Any effect that the demonstration project has on the enrollment in Medicare+Choice plans offered by Medicare+Choice organizations under part C of this title in the established site areas.

“(ix) Any additional elements that the independent entity determines is appropriate to assess regarding the demonstration project.

“(C) ANNUAL REPORTS.—The independent entity conducting the evaluation under subparagraph (A) shall submit reports on such evaluation to the administering Secretaries and to the committees of jurisdiction in the Congress as follows:

“(i) INITIAL REPORT.—The entity shall submit the initial report not later than 12 months after the date on which the demonstration project begins operation.

“(ii) SECOND ANNUAL REPORT.—The entity shall submit the second annual report not later than 30 months after the date on which the demonstration project begins operation.

“(iii) FINAL REPORT.—The entity shall submit the final report not later than 3½ years after the date on which the demonstration project begins operation.

“(2) REPORT ON EXTENSION AND EXPANSION OF DEMONSTRATION PROJECT.—Not later than 3½ years after the date on which the demonstration project begins operation, the administering Secretaries shall submit to Congress a report containing—

“(A) their recommendation as to—

“(i) whether to extend the demonstration project or make the project permanent;

“(ii) whether to expand the project to cover additional demonstration sites and to increase the maximum amount of reimbursement (or the maximum amount of reimbursement permitted for managed health care plans under this section) under the project in any year; and

“(iii) whether the terms and conditions of the project should be continued (or modified) if the project is extended or expanded; and

“(B) a detailed description of any costs associated with their recommendation made pursuant to clauses (i) and (ii) of subparagraph (A).”.

WELLSTONE AMENDMENT NO. 27

Mr. WELLSTONE proposed an amendment to the bill, S. 4, supra; as follows:

On page 46, after line 16, add the following:

TITLE V—MISCELLANEOUS

SEC. 501. EXPANSION OF LIST OF DISEASES PRESUMED TO BE SERVICE-CONNECTED FOR RADIATION-EXPOSED VETERANS.

Section 1112(c)(2) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

- “(P) Lung cancer.
- “(Q) Bone cancer.
- “(R) Skin cancer.
- “(S) Colon cancer.
- “(T) Posterior subcapsular cataracts.
- “(U) Non-malignant thyroid nodular disease.
- “(V) Ovarian cancer.
- “(W) Parathyroid adenoma.
- “(X) Tumors of the brain and central nervous system.
- “(Y) Rectal cancer.”.

COVERDELL (AND MCCAIN) AMENDMENT NO. 28

Mr. WARNER (for Mr. COVERDELL for himself, Mr. MCCAIN, and Mr. LEVIN) proposed an amendment to the bill, S. 4, supra; as follows:

On page 28, between lines 8 and 9, insert the following:

SEC. 104. SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING USE OF EXTENSION OF TIME TO FILE TAX RETURNS FOR MEMBERS OF UNIFORMED SERVICES ON DUTY ABROAD.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Senate finds that—

(1) the Internal Revenue Service provides a 2-month extension of the deadline for filing tax returns for members of the uniformed services who are in an area outside the United States or the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico for a tour of duty which includes the date for filing tax returns;

(2) any taxpayer using this 2-month extension who owes additional tax must pay the tax on or before the regular filing deadline;

(3) those who use the 2-month extension and wait to pay the additional tax at the time of filing are charged interest from the regular filing deadline, and may also be required to pay a penalty; and

(4) it is fundamentally unfair to members of the uniformed services who make use of this extension to require them to pay penalties and interest on the additional tax owed.

(b) SENSE OF THE SENATE.—It is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the 2-month extension of the deadline for filing tax returns for certain members of the uniformed services provided in Internal Revenue Service regulations should be codified; and

(2) eligible members of the uniformed services should be able to make use of the extension without accumulating interest or penalties.

GRAHAM AMENDMENT NO. 29

Mr. GRAHAM proposed an amendment to the bill, S. 4, supra; as follows:

At the end add the following:

TITLE V—REVENUES

SEC. 501. EXTENSION OF HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE SUPERFUND TAXES.

(a) EXTENSION OF TAXES.—

(1) ENVIRONMENTAL TAX.—Section 59A(e) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended to read as follows:

“(e) APPLICATION OF TAX.—The tax imposed by this section shall apply to taxable years

beginning after December 31, 1986, and before January 1, 1996, and to taxable years beginning after June 30, 1999.”

(2) EXCISE TAXES.—Section 4611(e) of such Code is amended to read as follows:

“(e) APPLICATION OF HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE SUPERFUND FINANCING RATE.—The Hazardous Substance Superfund financing rate under this section shall apply after December 31, 1986, and before January 1, 1996, and after June 30, 1999.”

(b) EFFECTIVE DATES.—

(1) INCOME TAX.—The amendment made by subsection (a)(1) shall apply to taxable years beginning after June 30, 1999.

(2) EXCISE TAX.—The amendment made by subsection (a)(2) shall take effect on July 1, 1999.

SEC. 502. MODIFICATION TO FOREIGN TAX CREDIT CARRYBACK AND CARRYOVER PERIODS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 904(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to limitation on credit) is amended—

(1) by striking “in the second preceding taxable year,” and

(2) by striking “or fifth” and inserting “fifth, sixth, or seventh”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply to credits arising in taxable years beginning after December 31, 1998.

SEC. 503. EXTENSION OF OIL SPILL LIABILITY TAXES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 4611(f)(1) (relating to application of oil spill liability trust fund financing rate) is amended by striking “after December 31, 1989, and before January 1, 1995” and inserting “after the date of the enactment of the Soldiers', Sailors', Airmen's, and Marines' Bill of Rights Act of 1999 and before October 1, 2008”.

(b) INCREASE IN UNOBLIGATED BALANCE WHICH ENDS TAX.—Section 4611(f)(2) (relating to no tax if unobligated balance in fund exceeds \$1,000,000,000) is amended by striking “\$1,000,000,000” each place it appears in the text and heading thereof and inserting “\$5,000,000,000”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry be allowed to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, February 24, 1999. The purpose of this meeting will be for oversight of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Strategic Subcommittee of the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet on Wednesday, February 24, 1999, at 2:00 p.m. in open session, to receive testimony on National Missile Defense Programs and Policies, in Review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2000 and the Future Years Defense Program.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, February 24, 1999, to conduct a hearing on financial services legislation.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee be authorized to meet on Wednesday, February 24, 1999, at 2:30 p.m. on Coast Guard budget.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the full Committee on Environment and Public Works be granted permission to conduct a hearing to receive testimony from Carol M. Browner, Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, on the proposed FY 2000 EPA budget Wednesday, February 24, 9:00 a.m., Hearing Room (SD-406).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, the Finance Committee requests unanimous consent to conduct a hearing on Wednesday, February 24, 1999 beginning at 10:00 a.m. in room 215 Dirksen.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, February 24, 1999 at 11:00 a.m. to hold a hearing.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent on behalf of the Governmental Affairs Committee to meet on Wednesday, February 24, 1999, at 10:00 a.m. for a hearing on the Independent Counsel Act.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to meet for a hearing on Privacy Under a Microscope: Balancing the Needs of Research and Confidentiality during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, February 24, 1999, at 9:30 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, February 24, 1999, at 9:30 a.m. to conduct a Hearing on the President's Budget Request for FY 2000 for Indian programs. The hearing will be held in room 485 of the Russell Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, February 24, 1999, at 11:00 a.m. to hold a closed business meeting.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CLEAN AIR, WETLANDS, PRIVATE PROPERTY, AND NUCLEAR SAFETY

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Clean Air, Wetlands, Private Property, and Nuclear Safety be granted permission to conduct the afternoon session of a joint hearing with the Armed Services Subcommittee on Readiness on potential year 2000 issues Wednesday, February 24, 2:15 p.m., Hart Hearing Facility (SH-216).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on European Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, February 24, 1999 at 2:00 p.m. to hold a hearing.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, HISTORIC PRESERVATION, AND RECREATION

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on National Parks, Historic Preservation and Recreation of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be granted permission to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, February 24, for purposes of conducting a subcommittee hearing which is scheduled to begin at 2:00 p.m. The purpose of this oversight hearing is to consider the President's proposed budget for FY2000 for National Park Service programs and operations.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON PERSONNEL

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Personnel of the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet on Wednesday, February 24, 1999, at 2:00 p.m. in open session, to

receive testimony on Recruiting and Retention Policies within the Department of Defense and the Military Services in Review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2000 and the Future Years Defense Programs.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON READINESS AND MANAGEMENT SUPPORT

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support of the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, February 24, 1999, in open session, to review the National Security Ramifications of the Year 2000 Computer Problem.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO A TRUE AMERICAN HERO: MR. EDGAR NOLLNER

• Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Edgar Nollner Sr., a distinguished Alaskan and notable American hero who passed away recently at his home in Galena, Alaska at the age of 94.

While Edgar Nollner is not a household name, many Americans may recall his heroic story of courage, teamwork and selflessness.

In the winter of 1925, the Gold Rush town of Nome, Alaska was in the midst of a deadly diphtheria epidemic. Several cases of the contagious, bacterial disease had struck the small predominately Native population, some 1,400 of the towns residents.

On January 21, an emergency Morse code message was transmitted from Nome pleading for a supply of diphtheria antitoxin serum. Twenty pounds of serum was found at an Anchorage hospital, but territorial governor Scot Bone would not risk flying the precious viles of serum from Anchorage to Fairbanks due to hazardous weather conditions. In fact, it is noted that the governor said he was willing to let the pilots risk their lives, but he would not risk the serum. Officials then determined that the serum would be shipped to Nenana via railroad; the serum arrived in the interior Alaska town six days after the initial plea was sent. It was from Nenana that the infamous 674 mile Serum Run Relay began, a race not for glory or riches, but a race to save the residents of Nome.

Nome typically received most of its winter supplies by dog sled with deliveries taking a single musher 15 to 20 days to make a trip. Instead of a solo run, 20 dog-sled mushers, including Edgar Nollner, prepared to tackle the 70 degree below zero temperatures, frozen tundra and gale-force winds blowing up to 75 miles and hour. The