

“(1) shall be equal to the regular first-class rate of postage, plus a differential of not to exceed 25 percent;

“(2) shall be set by the Governors in accordance with such procedures as the Governors shall by regulation prescribe (in lieu of the procedures under chapter 36); and

“(3) shall be offered as an alternative to the regular first-class rate of postage.

“(c) The use of the special rate of postage established under this section shall be voluntary on the part of postal patrons.

“(d)(1) Amounts becoming available for highway-rail grade crossing safety under this section shall be paid by the Postal Service to the Department of Transportation for Operation Lifesaver. Payments under this section shall be made under such arrangements as the Postal Service shall by mutual agreement with the Department of Transportation establish in order to carry out the purposes of this section, except that, under those arrangements, payments to the Department of Transportation shall be made at least twice a year.

“(2) For purposes of this section, the term ‘amounts becoming available for highway-rail grade crossing safety under this section’ means—

“(A) the total amounts received by the Postal Service that the Postal Service would not have received but for the enactment of this section, reduced by

“(B) an amount sufficient to cover reasonable costs incurred by the Postal Service in carrying out this section, including those attributable to the printing, sale, and distribution of stamps under this section,

as determined by the Postal Service under regulations that it shall prescribe.

“(e) It is the sense of Congress that nothing in this section should—

“(1) directly or indirectly cause a net decrease in total funds received by the Department of Transportation for Operation Lifesaver below the level that would otherwise have been received but for the enactment of this section; or

“(2) affect regular first-class rates of postage or any other regular rates of postage.

“(f) Special postage stamps under this section shall be made available to the public beginning on such date as the Postal Service shall by regulation prescribe, but in no event later than 12 months after the date of the enactment of this section.

“(g) The Postmaster General shall include in each report rendered under section 2402 with respect to any period during any portion of which this section is in effect information, concerning the operation of this section, except that, at a minimum, each report shall include—

“(1) the total amount described in subsection (d)(2)(A) which was received by the Postal Service during the period covered by such report; and

“(2) of the amount under paragraph (1), how much (in the aggregate and by category) was required for the purposes described in subsection (d)(2)(B).

“(h) This section shall cease to be effective at the end of the 2-year period beginning on the date on which special postage stamps under this section are first made available to the public.”

(b) REPORT BY THE COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES.—Not later than 3 months (but not earlier than 6 months) before the end of the 2-year period referred to in section 414a(h) of title 39, United States Code (as amended by subsection (a)), the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report on the op-

eration of such section. Such report shall include—

(1) an evaluation of the effectiveness and the appropriateness of the authority provided by such section as a means of fund-raising; and

(2) a description of the monetary and other resources required of the Postal Service in carrying out such section.

(c) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) TABLE OF SECTIONS.—The table of sections for chapter 4 of title 39, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 414 and inserting the following:

“414. Special postage stamps for breast cancer research.

“414a. Special postage stamps for highway-rail grade crossing safety.”

(2) SECTION HEADING.—The heading for section 414 of title 39, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“§414. Special postage stamps for breast cancer research.”

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 223

At the request of Mr. LAUTENBERG, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 223, a bill to help communities modernize public school facilities, and for other purposes.

S. 327

At the request of Mr. HAGEL, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. KERREY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 327, a bill to exempt agricultural products, medicines, and medical products from U.S. economic sanctions.

S. 333

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 333, a bill to amend the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 to improve the farmland protection program.

S. 345

At the request of Mr. ALLARD, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 345, a bill to amend the Animal Welfare Act to remove the limitation that permits interstate movement of live birds, for the purpose of fighting, to States in which animal fighting is lawful.

S. 348

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 348, a bill to authorize and facilitate a program to enhance training, research and development, energy conservation and efficiency, and consumer education in the oilheat industry for the benefit of oilheat consumers and the public, and for other purposes.

S. 443

At the request of Mr. LAUTENBERG, the names of the Senator from New York (Mr. MOYNIHAN), the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the

Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) were added as cosponsors of S. 443, a bill to regulate the sale of firearms at gun shows.

S. 459

At the request of Mr. BREAUX, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) 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.

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. HELMS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 459, supra.

S. 470

At the request of Mr. CHAFEE, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VOINOVICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 470, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow tax-exempt private activity bonds to be issued for highway infrastructure construction.

S. 472

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CLELAND) 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. 531

At the request of Mr. ABRAHAM, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. JEFFORDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 531, a bill to authorize the President to award a gold medal on behalf of the Congress to Rosa Parks in recognition of her contributions to the Nation.

S. 565

At the request of Mr. COVERDELL, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAIG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 565, a bill to provide for the treatment of the actions of certain foreign narcotics traffickers as an unusual and extraordinary threat to the United States for purposes of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act.

S. 569

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 569, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude certain farm rental income from net earnings from self-employment if the taxpayer enters into a lease agreement relating to such income.

S. 596

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. WELLSTONE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 596, a bill to provide that the annual drug certification procedures under the Foreign Assistance Act

of 1961 not apply to certain countries with which the United States has bilateral agreements and other plans relating to counterdrug activities, and for other purposes.

S. 597

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. HELMS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 597, a bill to amend section 922 of chapter 44 of title 28, United States Code, to protect the right of citizens under the Second Amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

S. 617

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. THURMOND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 617, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage under the medicare program of insulin pumps as items of durable medical equipment.

S. 632

At the request of Mr. DEWINE, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 632, a bill to provide assistance for poison prevention and to stabilize the funding of regional poison control centers.

S. 636

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 636, a bill to amend title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act and part 7 of subtitle B of title I of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to establish standards for the health quality improvement of children in managed care plans and other health plans.

S. 660

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. AKAKA), and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 660, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage under part B of the medicare program of medical nutrition therapy services furnished by registered dietitians and nutrition professionals.

S. 668

At the request of Mr. SANTORUM, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. HELMS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 668, a bill to encourage States to incarcerate individuals convicted of murder, rape, or child molestation.

S. 676

At the request of Mr. CAMPBELL, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 676, a bill to locate and secure the return of Zachary Baumel, a citizen of the United States, and other Israeli soldiers missing in action.

S. 689

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. MOYNIHAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 689, a bill to authorize appropriations for the United States Customs Service for fiscal years 2000 and 2001, and for other purposes.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 14

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VOINOVICH) was added as a cosponsor of Senate Joint Resolution 14, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States authorizing Congress to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 53

At the request of Mr. DODD, his name was added as a cosponsor of Senate Resolution 53, a resolution to designate March 24, 1999, as "National School Violence Victims' Memorial Day."

SENATE RESOLUTION 54

At the request of Mr. FEINGOLD, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) was added as a cosponsor of Senate Resolution 54, a resolution condemning the escalating violence, the gross violation of human rights and attacks against civilians, and the attempt to overthrow a democratically elected government in Sierra Leone.

SENATE RESOLUTION 68

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. FEINGOLD) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. SMITH) were added as cosponsors of Senate Resolution 68, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the treatment of women and girls by the Taliban in Afghanistan.

SENATE RESOLUTION 71

At the request of Mr. ABRAHAM, the names of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. HAGEL) and the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) were added as cosponsors of Senate Resolution 71, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate rejecting a tax increase on investment income of certain associations.

SENATE RESOLUTION 74—EXPRESSING THE SUPPORT OF THE SENATE FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES WHO ARE ENGAGED IN MILITARY OPERATIONS AGAINST THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIA

Mr. LOTT (for himself, Mr. DASCHLE, and all other Senators) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 74

Whereas the President has authorized United States participation in NATO military operations against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia;

Whereas up to 22,000 members of the Armed Forces are presently involved in operations in and around the Balkans region with the active participation of NATO and other coalition forces; and

Whereas the Senate and the American people have the greatest pride in the members of the Armed Forces and strongly support them: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate supports the members of the United States Armed Forces who are engaged in military operations against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and recognizes their professionalism, dedication, patriotism, and courage.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED ON MARCH 23, 1999

EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 1999

BINGAMAN AMENDMENT NO. 125

Mr. STEVENS (for Mr. BINGAMAN) proposed an amendment to the bill (S. 544) making emergency supplemental appropriations and rescissions for recovery from natural disasters, and foreign assistance, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_ FINDINGS AND SENSE OF SENATE REGARDING SEQUENTIAL BILLING POLICY FOR HOME HEALTH PAYMENTS UNDER THE MEDICARE PROGRAM.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Senate finds the following:

(1) Section 4611 of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 included a provision that transfers financial responsibility for certain home health visits under the medicare program under title XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.) from part A to part B of such program.

(2) The sole intent of the transfer described in paragraph (1) was to extend the solvency of the Federal Hospital Insurance Trust Fund under section 1817 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1395i).

(3) The transfer described in paragraph (1) was supposed to be "seamless" so as not to disrupt the provision of home health services under the medicare program.

(4) The Health Care Financing Administration has imposed a sequential billing policy that prohibits home health agencies under the medicare program from submitting claims for reimbursement for home health services provided to a beneficiary unless all claims for reimbursement for home health services that were previously provided to such beneficiary have been completely resolved.

(5) The Health Care Financing Administration has also expanded medical reviews of claims for reimbursement submitted by home health agencies, resulting in a significant slowdown nationwide in the processing of such claims.

(6) The sequential billing policy described in paragraph (4), coupled with the slowdown in claims processing described in paragraph (5), has substantially increased the cash flow problems of home health agencies because payments are often delayed by at least 3 months.