

Arms offices in the Postal Square Building. Betty became the liaison between Postal Square and the Superintendent's office. She also formed the SAA Safety Office and did the FEMA coordination, the Federal Emergency Management Agency coordination, new Senator transition coordination planning, all maintenance coordination, and the multitude of necessary supporting operations for the Sergeant at Arms's employees. She served for five Sergeants at Arms.

The Senate and all its employees who serve our great institution owe Betty Bunch a debt of gratitude. I am very proud to have worked with her. I know my colleagues join me in wishing her a wonderful retirement.

FAIRNESS FOR LEGAL IMMIGRANTS ACT OF 1999

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I urge my Senate colleagues to support the Fairness for Legal Immigrants Act in order to restore the benefits unfairly eliminated by the 1996 welfare law.

In 1996, Congress passed a so-called welfare reform law that drastically restricted the ability of legal immigrants to participate in public assistance programs. For the first time in history, legal immigrants were cut off from most federal aid. The law barred them from food stamps, SSI, and other benefits. It banned them for 5 years from AFDC, Medicaid, and other programs and gave states the option to permanently ban them from these programs.

These provisions have had a devastating effect on immigrant families. Elderly and disabled immigrants were notified that they would be turned out of nursing homes or cut off from disability payments. Some even took their own lives, rather than burden their families. Far too many human tragedies have resulted from the law.

Fortunately, many Members of Congress realized that the provisions had gone too far, and we passed legislation in the past two years to restore benefits for many. The Balanced Budget Act of 1997 and the Agricultural Research Act of 1998 restored eligibility for Medicaid, SSI and Food Stamps for hundreds of thousands of legal immigrants.

Nevertheless, many immigrants who came here legally are still suffering from restrictive provisions that remain in effect. The Fairness for Legal Immigrants Act is needed to bring back this safety net for immigrants who fall on hard times, especially those who are in great need, such as pregnant women, children, the elderly, the disabled, the poor, and victims of abuse.

The Act will permit states to provide Medicaid to all eligible legal immigrant pregnant women and children. It will permit states to extend Medicaid to "medically needy" legal immigrants who are disabled but not on SSI. It will

permit states to cover legal immigrant children under CHIP, if they are also providing Medicaid coverage for legal immigrant children.

For legal immigrants who arrived before August 1996, the Act will restore SSI eligibility for those who are elderly and poor, but not disabled by SSI standards. It will also restore food stamp eligibility to all legal immigrants who have not yet had their eligibility restored, primarily parents of poor children.

For legal immigrants who arrived after August 1996, the Act will restore SSI eligibility for those who become disabled after reaching the United States. Finally, the Act will exempt post-August 1996 legal immigrants who are victims of domestic or elder abuse from the five-year ban on Medicaid and welfare assistance, and restore their eligibility for SSI and food stamps.

These reforms are essential in order to fulfill our obligation to those who legally entered our country. Many of them are family members of American citizens. They play by the rules, pay their taxes, and deserve a fair chance to become citizens and build new lives for themselves and their families in America.

I urge the Senate to support this important legislation, and I look forward to its early enactment.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES Q. CANNON

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to James Q. Cannon, a fellow Utahn who has served as a distinguished leader in the health care quality movement for over twenty-five years.

Those of us who know Jamie recognize his tireless efforts to ensure that the thousands of seniors, the underprivileged, and other vulnerable citizens receive the highest quality medical care possible.

As President and Chief Executive Officer of HealthInsight, a community-based quality improvement organization in Utah and Nevada, Mr. Cannon has dedicated his life's work to fostering collaboration and continuous learning among health care providers, policy makers, consumer, and business leaders.

These efforts have enabled physicians and other health care professionals to respond more effectively and humanely to the many needs of their patients and have helped the best in health care science and research to become part of the usual practice of medicine.

Jamie Cannon's vision and pioneer spirit have assisted in bringing hundreds of people together annually to learn, discuss, and implement community-wide health care quality improvement strategies. His commitment to improving the delivery of health care has been a driving force behind countless successful efforts in our commu-

nities to prevent unnecessary illness, to reduce complications associated with chronic disease, to improve care delivery processes and outcomes, to simplify health care administration, and to develop sound, supportive government policies.

Over the years, these successes have touched in one way or another, virtually all aspects and settings in health care—from government policy development to evaluations of program effectiveness, from pediatric care to end-of-life care, and from hospitals to physician offices.

In addition to his service to the people of Utah and Nevada, Jamie has led and supported initiatives to evaluate and improve the quality of medical care delivered to all Americans. He has served as a member of the board of directors of the American Health Quality Association, an association representing a national network of organizations and individuals striving to improve the health care delivered in every state in our nation.

Mr. Cannon has also chaired numerous committees and task forces at the national level, providing leadership and direction to other health business executives committed to improving the quality of clinical medicine.

In addition to providing a legacy of health care quality leadership regionally and nationally, Jamie has also influenced the lives of many others in the community. He is a devoted husband, father of ten children, son and brother. Throughout his life, Jamie has also given generously of his time to those in need through lay service in his church.

Jamie's genuine care and concern for others is apparent in every interaction. His boundless optimism and belief in human goodness engenders trust, rekindles hope, and nurtures vision in all those around him.

Mr. Cannon's leadership and service are respected and admired by his peers, employers, business associates, friends and neighbors, and family. I am proud to know Jamie. He deserves the recognition and appreciation of Congress, the Nation, and particularly the citizens of Utah and Nevada.

With honor and pride I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing and expressing appreciation to James Q. Cannon for his many contributions to quality health care in our country.

WORK INCENTIVES IMPROVEMENT ACT

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I rise today to highlight the concerns of some of my constituents who are participating in an adult basic education program conducted by the ARC of Northern Rhode Island.

Earlier in this session, John Mullaly, on behalf of his classmates, wrote to me to express his concerns regarding the use of the word "handicapped".