PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table:

POM-124. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the General Assembly of the State of Illinois relative to senior citizens; to the Committee on Finance.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 70

Whereas, The Balanced Budget Act of 1997 established a new reimbursement system for Medicare home health services effective for cost reporting periods beginning on or after October 1, 1997; and

Whereas, The Balanced Budget Act of 1997 created an interim payment system which is cost-based with reduced limits and is in effect until a prospective payment system is initiated with cost reporting periods beginning on or after October 1, 2000; and

Whereas, While the 105th Congress made strides to rectify the interim payment system, the real effect of the Omnibus Reconciliation Act of 1998 was to raise the per-beneficiary and per-visit limits, so the per-beneficiary and per-visit limits by less than 5% for the majority of home health agencies; and

Whereas, Health care provider programs, which is only 9% of the overall Medicare budget, is slashed, other programs will bear the burden, and, in many cases Medicare patients will be transferred to the Medicaid program; and

Whereas, If these patients are not served by home health agencies, they will drive up health care costs in other areas, including nursing homes, hospitals, and emergency care; and

Whereas, One out of every 10 Medicare beneficiaries received some form of home health care in 1996; and

Whereas, On average, a home care visit in 1996 cost between $40 and $140, while the cost of staying in a hospital per day is $2,071, and a skilled nursing facility, $443; and

Whereas, The average home health agency has seen a 39% reduction in Medicare revenue since the initiation of the interim payment system; and

Whereas, Fifty-eight, or 15%, of Illinois home health agencies have closed in the past year; and

Whereas, Rural home health agencies report revenues at least one-third lower than the same period last year; and

Whereas, Three-fourths of Illinois Home Care Council freestanding agency members (those not affiliated with a hospital or network) estimate that, unless something changes with the interim payment system, they will be closed within 6 months to a year; and

Whereas, The interim payment system is based on average costs, which creates strong incentives to avoid caring for patients with complex or long-term medical problems, forcing many Illinois home health agencies to choose between staying in business and serving highly complex, high visit volume patients; and

Whereas, Three prominent public policy research organizations, George Washington University, the Commonwealth Fund, and the Lewin Group, independently concluded that the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 is causing a crisis in the Medicare home health benefit; by (i) eliminating access to medically necessary home health care for most frail Medicare beneficiaries; (ii) rewarding higher cost and penalizing lower cost home health agencies by establishing radically different payment rates and adjust current patient mix or efficiency; and (iii) eliminating access to Medicare home health in rural areas; and

Resolved, That the prospective payment system is a system by which home health agencies are paid according to types and numbers of patients actually served which assures a predictable reimbursement rate and schedule, beneficial to both the federal government and home health agencies; therefore, be it

Resolved, by the Senate of the Ninety-First General Assembly of the State of Illinois, that we urge Congress to hold the Health Care Financing Authority accountable for the timely implementation of a fair prospective payment system; and be it further

Resolved, That we urge the federal government to rectify some of the damage wrought by the interim payment system by raising the per-beneficiary and per-visit limits, so that agencies can keep serving patients until the prospective payment system is implemented; and be it further

Resolved, That we urge Congress to require a representative of the federal government to meet with an Illinois Home Care Council member to discuss the questions and concerns raised by this resolution; and be it further

Resolved, That suitable copies of this resolution be delivered to the President pro tempore of the U.S. Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and of the other members of the Illinois Congressional delegation.

POM-125. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Michigan relative to the regulation of insurance matters by the states; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 26

Whereas, In 1994, the Michigan Legislature passed legislation (HB 5281) granting lending institutions the authority to sell all lines of insurance; and

Whereas, That legislation, which became 1994 PA 409, includes power and privilege to transact business and to offer insurance; and

Whereas, In a joint letter published November 7, 1994, HB 5281 was lauded and strongly supported by the Michigan Bankers Association, Michigan Association of Insurers, Michigan Association of Savings Institutions, Michigan Association of Life Underwriters, Michigan Chamber of Commerce, Michigan Consumer Federation, Michigan Association of Community Leasing Companies, Michigan Credit Unions, Michigan Retail Hardware Association, Michigan Financial Services Association, Michigan Association of Credit Unions, Michigan Retail Hardware Association, Greater Detroit Chamber of Commerce, Michigan Association of Professional Contractors Association (Michigan Chapter); and

Whereas, In 1995, the Rhode Island Legislature resoundingly passed legislation substantially similar to Michigan law, granting lending institutions the authority to sell insurance; and

Resolved, That we urge Congress to require a representative of the federal government to meet with an Illinois Home Care Council member to discuss the questions and concerns raised by this resolution; and be it further

Resolved, That suitable copies of this resolution be delivered to the President pro tempore of the U.S. Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and of the other members of the Illinois Congressional delegation.

POM-125. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Michigan relative to the regulation of insurance matters by the states; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.
Whereas, the Comptroller of the Currency is an appointed, federal bureaucrat who has a track record of promulgating regulations that serve to expand bank insurance powers. These new insurance activities, deemed to be in direct conflict with the fifty-four-year tradition of state regulation of insurance under McCarran-Ferguson and thereby raises vital questions of states' rights and the primacy of duly elected representatives to enact laws governing insurance activities within their state borders; and

Whereas, in 1997, United States Representative Marcy Kaptur, at the suggestion of World War II veteran Roger Durbin, introduced legislation to establish a memorial to honor those who contributed to the efforts of the United States during World War II and the entire nation's contribution to the war effort. The legislation failed, but the interest in having a site of patriotic significance to commemorate the sacrifice of service and subsequent legislation prevailed; and

Whereas, federal Public Law 103–32 authorizing a World War II Memorial in the District of Columbia or its environs was signed into law on May 25, 1993; and

Whereas, the Memorial Advisory Board was created to advise the American Battle Monuments Commission in site selection and design and to promote donations to support the memorial construction; and

Whereas, the memorial is to be designed by Freidrick St. Florian at the site of the historic Rainbow Pool on the National Mall was approved; and

Whereas, former Senator Bob Dole and Frederick W. Smith, CEO, Federal Express, were named as National Co-chairmen of the World War II Memorial Campaign; and

Whereas, news of the World War II Memorial is currently being spread throughout the country, to every city, town, church, synagogue, mosque, business, civic group, veterans' organization and every other organization that comprises a part of our American culture; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Honorable William J. Clinton, President of the United States; the President of the United States Senate; the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States; each Member of the Maine Congressional Delegation; and the American Legion, Department of Maine.

POM-126. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Maine relative to a World War II memorial; to the Governor on Energy and Natural Resources.

Joint Resolution Memorializing the President of the United States and the United States Congress to Support a World War II Memorial

We, your Memorialists, the Members of the One Hundred and Nineteenth Legislature of the State of Maine now assembled in the First Regular Session respectfully present and petition the President of the United States and the United States Congress, as follows:

Whereas, in 1997, United States Representative Marcy Kaptur, at the suggestion of World War II veteran Roger Durbin, introduced legislation to establish a memorial to honor those who contributed to the efforts of the United States during World War II and the entire nation's contribution to the war effort. The legislation failed, but the interest in having a site of patriotic significance to commemorate the sacrifice of service and subsequent legislation prevailed; and

Whereas, federal Public Law 103–32 authorizing a World War II Memorial in the District of Columbia or its environs was signed into law on May 25, 1993; and

Whereas, the Memorial Advisory Board was created to advise the American Battle Monuments Commission in site selection and design and to promote donations to support the memorial construction; and

Whereas, the memorial is to be designed by Freidrick St. Florian at the site of the historic Rainbow Pool on the National Mall was approved; and

Whereas, former Senator Bob Dole and Frederick W. Smith, CEO, Federal Express, were named as National Co-chairmen of the World War II Memorial Campaign; and

Whereas, news of the World War II Memorial is currently being spread throughout the country, to every city, town, church, synagogue, mosque, business, civic group, veterans' organization and every other organization that comprises a part of our American culture; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Honorable William J. Clinton, President of the United States; the President of the United States Senate; the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States; each Member of the Maine Congressional Delegation; and the American Legion, Department of Maine.
Resolved, that I Mina Bente Singko Na Liheslaturu Guahan does hereby, on behalf of the people of Guam, respectfully request the Congress of the United States to pass legislation to provide Guam with federal status as soon as possible so that Guam can strive to become a state of the United States of America.

Resolved, that I Mina Bente Singko Na Liheslaturu Guahan does hereby, on behalf of the people of Guam, respectfully request the Congress of the United States to pass legislation that will enable Guam to be governed by a territorial government headed by an elected governor with legislative body.

Resolved, that I Mina Bente Singko Na Liheslaturu Guahan does hereby, on behalf of the people of Guam, respectfully request the Congress of the United States to pass legislation that will make Guam an integral part of the United States for the purpose of ensuring its security and defense.

Resolved, that I Mina Bente Singko Na Liheslaturu Guahan does hereby, on behalf of the people of Guam, respectfully request the Congress of the United States to pass legislation that will provide Guam with full federal recognition and representation in Congress.

Resolved, that I Mina Bente Singko Na Liheslaturu Guahan does hereby, on behalf of the people of Guam, respectfully request the Congress of the United States to pass legislation that will provide Guam with representation in the United Nations.

Resolved, that I Mina Bente Singko Na Liheslaturu Guahan does hereby, on behalf of the people of Guam, respectfully request the Congress of the United States to pass legislation that will provide Guam with access to federal resources for the purpose of promoting economic development.

Resolved, that I Mina Bente Singko Na Liheslaturu Guahan does hereby, on behalf of the people of Guam, respectfully request the Congress of the United States to pass legislation that will provide Guam with representation in the United States Senate.

Resolved, that I Mina Bente Singko Na Liheslaturu Guahan does hereby, on behalf of the people of Guam, respectfully request the Congress of the United States to pass legislation that will provide Guam with representation in the United States House of Representatives.

Resolved, that I Mina Bente Singko Na Liheslaturu Guahan does hereby, on behalf of the people of Guam, respectfully request the Congress of the United States to pass legislation that will provide Guam with representation in the United States Supreme Court.

Resolved, that I Mina Bente Singko Na Liheslaturu Guahan does hereby, on behalf of the people of Guam, respectfully request the Congress of the United States to pass legislation that will provide Guam with representation in the United States Court of Appeals.

Resolved, that I Mina Bente Singko Na Liheslaturu Guahan does hereby, on behalf of the people of Guam, respectfully request the Congress of the United States to pass legislation that will provide Guam with representation in the United States District Court.

Resolved, that I Mina Bente Singko Na Liheslaturu Guahan does hereby, on behalf of the people of Guam, respectfully request the Congress of the United States to pass legislation that will provide Guam with representation in the United States Attorney General.

Resolved, that I Mina Bente Singko Na Liheslaturu Guahan does hereby, on behalf of the people of Guam, respectfully request the Congress of the United States to pass legislation that will provide Guam with representation in the United States Secretary of State.

Resolved, that I Mina Bente Singko Na Liheslaturu Guahan does hereby, on behalf of the people of Guam, respectfully request the Congress of the United States to pass legislation that will provide Guam with representation in the United States Secretary of Defense.

Resolved, that I Mina Bente Singko Na Liheslaturu Guahan does hereby, on behalf of the people of Guam, respectfully request the Congress of the United States to pass legislation that will provide Guam with representation in the United States Secretary of Interior.

Resolved, that I Mina Bente Singko Na Liheslaturu Guahan does hereby, on behalf of the people of Guam, respectfully request the Congress of the United States to pass legislation that will provide Guam with representation in the United States Secretary of Agriculture.

Resolved, that I Mina Bente Singko Na Liheslaturu Guahan does hereby, on behalf of the people of Guam, respectfully request the Congress of the United States to pass legislation that will provide Guam with representation in the United States Secretary of Commerce.

Resolved, that I Mina Bente Singko Na Liheslaturu Guahan does hereby, on behalf of the people of Guam, respectfully request the Congress of the United States to pass legislation that will provide Guam with representation in the United States Secretary of Labor.

Resolved, that I Mina Bente Singko Na Liheslaturu Guahan does hereby, on behalf of the people of Guam, respectfully request the Congress of the United States to pass legislation that will provide Guam with representation in the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services.

Resolved, that I Mina Bente Singko Na Liheslaturu Guahan does hereby, on behalf of the people of Guam, respectfully request the Congress of the United States to pass legislation that will provide Guam with representation in the United States Secretary of Education.

Resolved, that I Mina Bente Singko Na Liheslaturu Guahan does hereby, on behalf of the people of Guam, respectfully request the Congress of the United States to pass legislation that will provide Guam with representation in the United States Secretary of Transportation.

Resolved, that I Mina Bente Singko Na Liheslaturu Guahan does hereby, on behalf of the people of Guam, respectfully request the Congress of the United States to pass legislation that will provide Guam with representation in the United States Secretary of Energy.

Resolved, that I Mina Bente Singko Na Liheslaturu Guahan does hereby, on behalf of the people of Guam, respectfully request the Congress of the United States to pass legislation that will provide Guam with representation in the United States Secretary of Commerce.

Resolved, that I Mina Bente Singko Na Liheslaturu Guahan does hereby, on behalf of the people of Guam, respectfully request the Congress of the United States to pass legislation that will provide Guam with representation in the United States Secretary of Energy.

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Resolved, that I Mina Bente Singko Na Liheslaturu Guahan does hereby, on behalf of the people of Guam, respectfully request the Congress of the United States to pass legislation that will provide Guam with representation in the United States Secretary of Energy.

Resolved, that I Mina Bente Singko Na Liheslaturu Guahan does hereby, on behalf of the people of Guam, respectfully request the Congress of the United States to pass legislation that will provide Guam with representation in the United States Secretary of Commerce.

Resolved, that I Mina Bente Singko Na Liheslaturu Guahan does hereby, on behalf of the people of Guam, respectfully request the Congress of the United States to pass legislation that will provide Guam with representation in the United States Secretary of Energy.

Resolved, that I Mina Bente Singko Na Liheslaturu Guahan does hereby, on behalf of the people of Guam, respectfully request the Congress of the United States to pass legislation that will provide Guam with representation in the United States Secretary of Commerce.

Resolved, that I Mina Bente Singko Na Liheslaturu Guahan does hereby, on behalf of the people of Guam, respectfully request the Congress of the United States to pass legislation that will provide Guam with representation in the United States Secretary of Energy.

Resolved, that I Mina Bente Singko Na Liheslaturu Guahan does hereby, on behalf of the people of Guam, respectfully request the Congress of the United States to pass legislation that will provide Guam with representation in the United States Secretary of Commerce.

Resolved, that I Mina Bente Singko Na Liheslaturu Guahan does hereby, on behalf of the people of Guam, respectfully request the Congress of the United States to pass legislation that will provide Guam with representation in the United States Secretary of Energy.

Resolved, that I Mina Bente Singko Na Liheslaturu Guahan does hereby, on behalf of the people of Guam, respectfully request the Congress of the United States to pass legislation that will provide Guam with representation in the United States Secretary of Commerce.

Resolved, that I Mina Bente Singko Na Liheslaturu Guahan does hereby, on behalf of the people of Guam, respectfully request the Congress of the United States to pass legislation that will provide Guam with representation in the United States Secretary of Energy.

Resolved, that I Mina Bente Singko Na Liheslaturu Guahan does hereby, on behalf of the people of Guam, respectfully request the Congress of the United States to pass legislation that will provide Guam with representation in the United States Secretary of Commerce.

Resolved, that I Mina Bente Singko Na Liheslaturu Guahan does hereby, on behalf of the people of Guam, respectfully request the Congress of the United States to pass legislation that will provide Guam with representation in the United States Secretary of Energy.

Resolved, that I Mina Bente Singko Na Liheslaturu Guahan does hereby, on behalf of the people of Guam, respectfully request the Congress of the United States to pass legislation that will provide Guam with representation in the United States Secretary of Commerce.

Resolved, that I Mina Bente Singko Na Liheslaturu Guahan does hereby, on behalf of the people of Guam, respectfully request the Congress of the United States to pass legislation that will provide Guam with representation in the United States Secretary of Energy.

Resolved, that I Mina Bente Singko Na Liheslaturu Guahan does hereby, on behalf of the people of Guam, respectfully request the Congress of the United States to pass legislation that will provide Guam with representation in the United States Secretary of Commerce.

Resolved, that I Mina Bente Singko Na Liheslaturu Guahan does hereby, on behalf of the people of Guam, respectfully request the Congress of the United States to pass legislation that will provide Guam with representation in the United States Secretary of Energy.

Resolved, that I Mina Bente Singko Na Liheslaturu Guahan does hereby, on behalf of the people of Guam, respectfully request the Congress of the United States to pass legislation that will provide Guam with representation in the United States Secretary of Commerce.

Resolved, that I Mina Bente Singko Na Liheslaturu Guahan does hereby, on behalf of the people of Guam, respectfully request the Congress of the United States to pass legislation that will provide Guam with representation in the United States Secretary of Energy.
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—SENATE

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second time by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. GRAMS:

S. 1103. A bill to guarantee the right of individuals to receive full social security benefits under title II of the Social Security Act in full with an accurate annual cost-of-living adjustment; to the Committee on Finance.

S. 1102. A bill to reform Social Security by creating personalized retirement accounts,

and the members of Iowa’s congressional delegation.

Whereas, The Commonwealth has over 250,000 acres of abandoned mine lands, refuse banks and old mine shafts in 45 of Pennsylvania’s 67 counties, more than any other state in the nation; and

Whereas, The Department of Environmental Protection estimates it will cost more than $15 billion to reclaim and restore abandoned mine lands; and

Whereas, The Commonwealth now receives about $20 million a year from the Federal Government to do reclamation projects; and

Whereas, There is now a $1 billion balance in the Federal Abandoned Mine Reclamation Trust Fund that is set aside by law to take care of pollution and safety problems caused by old coal mines; and

Whereas, Pennsylvania is the fourth largest coal producing state in the nation, and coal operators contribute significantly to the fund by paying a special fee for each ton of coal they mine; and

Whereas, Pennsylvania is not seeking to rely solely on Federal moneys to address its abandoned mine reclamation needs and has undertaken a comprehensive program designed to maximize reclamation opportunities by increasing community involvement, making existing resources more productive, encouraging private and public participation in reclamation activities and reducing the cost of abandoned mine reclamation projects; and

Whereas, The Department of Environmental Protection and 39 county conservation districts through the Western and Eastern Pennsylvania Coalitions for Abandoned Mine Reclamation have worked as partners to improve the effectiveness of mine reclamation programs; and

Whereas, Pennsylvania has been working with the Interstate Mining Compact Commission, the National Association of Abandoned Mine Land Programs and other states to free more of these funds to clean up abandoned mine lands; and

Whereas, Making more funds available to states for abandoned mine reclamation should preserve the interest revenues now being lost to the United Mine Workers Combined Benefit Fund; and

Whereas, The Federal Office of Surface Mining, the United States Environmental Protection and Congress have not agreed to make more funds available to states for abandoned mine reclamation; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Senate of Pennsylvania urge the President of the United States, and Congress make the $1 billion of Federal mon-