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 Thursday, May 27, 1999, at 2 p.m. to hold a hearing.

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

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 “Reauthorization of the National Endowments of the Arts and Humanities” during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 27, 1999, at 10 a.m.

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

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Aging, Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, Subcommittee on Aging be authorized to meet for a hearing on “Older Americans Act” during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 27, 1999, at 2:30 p.m.

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

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on East Asia and Pacific Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 27, 1999, at 10 a.m. to hold a hearing.

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

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, and Drinking Water be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 27, 1999, at 10:30 a.m., Hearing Room (SD–106).

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

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Water and Power of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be granted permission to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 27, for purposes of conducting a Water and Power Subcommittee hearing which is scheduled to begin at 2 p.m. The purpose of this hearing is to receive testimony on S. 244, a bill to authorize the construction of the Lewis and Clark Rural Water System and to authorize assistance to the Lewis and Clark Rural Water System, Inc., for the planning and construction of the water supply system, and for other purposes; S. 223, a bill to amend Public Law 89–108 to increase authorization levels for State and Indian tribal, municipal, rural, and industrial water supplies, to meet current and future water quantity and quality needs of the Red River Valley, to deauthorize certain project features and irrigation service areas, to enhance natural resources and fish and wildlife habitat, and for other purposes; S. 769, a bill to provide a final settlement on certain debt owed by the city of Dickinson, North Dakota, for construction of the bascule gates on the Dickinson Dam; S. 1027, a bill to reauthorize the participation of the Bureau of Reclamation in the Deschutes Resources Conservancy; and H.R. 459, a bill to extend the deadline by which FERC shall issue a Power Act for FERC Project No. 9401, the Mt. Hope Waterpower Project.

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

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise to call to the attention of the Senate a letter of endorsement given to my bill, the New Millennium Classrooms Act, by a group of 11 senior executives of Silicon Valley’s leading technology and venture capital firms.

Mr. President, the New Millennium Classrooms Act, through tax-based incentives, would provide schools and companies the means by which partnerships can be created and computers, software, and related technological equipment can be brought to our schools.

Encouraging private investment and involvement, the New Millennium Classrooms Act achieves this important goal without unduly increasing Federal Government expenditures, creating yet another federal program or department and will keep control where it belongs—within the teachers, the parents, and the students.

Providing today’s children with high technological equipment and software will provide them with the necessary and invaluable computer skills needed to ensure their future success and our nation’s status as the technological and economic leader in the New Economy.

I ask that the letter from the Silicon Valley firms be printed in the RECORD.

The letter follows:

April 15, 1999.

Hon. Spencer Abraham, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

Dear Senator Abraham: As senior executives of the nation’s leading technology companies and venture capital firms, we write to commend you for your continued support of policies that will help to ensure our nation’s technological and economic leadership. Specifically, we thank you for introducing the New Millennium Classrooms Act (S. 542), an important step toward making computers, software and the Internet available to American schoolchildren.

By relying on market-based incentives, your legislation will increase the supply of computer technology available to children in grades K-12. We are particularly supportive of enhanced provisions to encourage the donation of computers and equipment to schools that serve underprivileged students, allowing all American children the opportunity to prepare for the New Economy on equal footing. Your legislation will allow the potential of our nation’s children to be fully realized in the 21st century, while maintaining fiscal responsibility.

Thank you for introducing this important legislation and for continuing your leadership on issues critical to the success of America’s New Economy.

Sincerely,

Wilfred Corrigan, CEO, LSI Logic, Corp.; Carl Feldbaum, President, Biotechnology Industry Organization; Dr. Dwight D. Decker, President, Conexant Systems; Michael Goldberg, CEO, OnCaret; Floyd Kramme, Partner, Keiser Perkins Caufield & Byers; Wilmot Roelandts, CEO, Xilinx; Scott Ryles, Manager, Director, Merrill Lynch; Ted Smith, Chairman, FlibeNet; Burt McMurtry, Partner, Technology Venture Investors; Michael Rowan, CEO, Kestrel Solutions, Dr. Henry Samueli, CTO & Co-Chairman, Broadcom.

LETTER FROM A NURSING HOME

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise today to share a letter I received from my constituent, Ms. Shirley Roney of Bonnie, Illinois. Ms. Roney shared with me a letter she wrote to President Clinton on behalf of her grandmother, Vanetta Allen. This “Letter from a Nursing Home” reminds us of some of the important issues many American families face every day.

Long-term care is a serious concern for many elderly and disabled Americans. Too many of our citizens face losing everything they have worked their whole lives for, just so they can pay for nursing home care. Medicare was not designed to provide coverage for long-term care, and long-term care insurance is often unavailable due to pre-existing medical conditions, or it is out of financial reach for seniors. We must continue to explore other options to assist those like Vanetta Allen who must rely on nursing home care.

This letter does not have all of the answers, but we will never have the answers if we lose sight of the struggles and simple dignity of people like Mrs. Allen.

I ask the letter be printed in the RECORD.

The letter follows:

March 30, 1999.

Dear President Clinton:

For the past four months my grandmother has been in a nursing home. This has been a very “troubling time.” I have spent the past four months...