

S. Res. 253. A resolution to express the sense of the Senate that the Federal investment in biomedical research should be increased by \$2,700,000,000 in fiscal year 2001; to the Committee on Appropriations.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Ms. SNOWE (for herself and Mr. HELMS):

S. 2037. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to extend the option to use rebased target amounts to all sole community hospitals; to the Committee on Finance.

#### SOLE COMMUNITY HOSPITAL FAIR PAYMENT ACT OF 2000

• Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Sole Community Hospital Fair Payment Act. This legislation will correct an unintended drafting error involving Medicare reimbursements for the Sole Community Hospital program, enacted last year as part of the Medicare, Medicaid, and SCHIP Balanced Budget Refinement Act (P.L. 106-113).

Medicare designates Sole Community Hospitals based on factors such as isolated location, weather or travel conditions, or the absence of other hospitals within a 35 road-mile radius. These hospitals are considered the only source of inpatient services that are reasonably available in a geographic area. Sole Community Hospitals are reimbursed for services on either a federal national standardized amount or on a hospital-specific target amount that is based on either updated FY 1982 or updated FY 1987 costs.

Last year, Congress passed legislation updating the federal rate reimbursement level to costs based on Fiscal Year 1996. A drafting error in the bill, however, unintentionally updated the reimbursements for hospitals that are paid on a specific rate—leaving out 327 hospitals across the country that Congress intended to help.

If this error had not been made America's rural hospitals would be expecting an additional \$600 million over five years. Without correction, the error could cost four hospitals just in my state approximately \$2.84 million annually that had been anticipated from this legislation. These hospitals—Mayo Regional Hospital in Dover-Foxcroft, Down East Community Hospital in Machias, Northern Maine Medical Center in Fort Kent, and Rumford Community Hospital in Rumford—are a vital part of their communities and had expected these additional funds.

Small hospitals across the country are facing an increasingly uncertain future, and we cannot afford to lose any more of our rural health care providers. This funding is critical to these small hospitals and the communities they serve. These facilities and the patients they serve should not be penalized for a mistake made by Congress. I

urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation and I urge the Senate to pass this technical correction bill immediately. ●

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 285

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 285, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to restore the link between the maximum amount of earnings by blind individuals permitted without demonstrating ability to engage in substantial gainful activity and the exempt amount permitted in determining excess earnings under the earnings test.

S. 290

At the request of Mr. ABRAHAM, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 290, a bill to establish an adoption awareness program, and for other purposes.

S. 345

At the request of Mr. ALLARD, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) 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. 861

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BAYH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 861, a bill to designate certain Federal land in the State of Utah as wilderness, and for other purposes.

S. 1020

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAIG) were added as cosponsors of S. 1020, a bill to amend chapter 1 of title 9, United States Code, to provide for greater fairness in the arbitration process relating to motor vehicle franchise contracts.

S. 1086

At the request of Mrs. HUTCHISON, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. FITZGERALD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1086, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to waive the income inclusion on a distribution from an individual retirement account to the extent that the distribution is contributed for charitable purposes.

S. 1109

At the request of Mr. MCCONNELL, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BAYH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1109, a bill to conserve global bear populations by prohibiting the importation, exportation, and interstate trade of bear viscera and items, products, or substances containing, or labeled or advertised as containing, bear viscera, and for other purposes.

S. 1446

At the request of Mr. LOTT, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SANTORUM) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. L. CHAFEE) were added as cosponsors of S. 1446, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow an additional advance refunding of bonds originally issued to finance governmental facilities used for essential governmental functions.

S. 1680

At the request of Mr. ASHCROFT, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. BYRD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1680, a bill to provide for the improvement of the processing of claims for veterans compensation and pensions, and for other purposes.

S. 1756

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. DOMENICI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1756, a bill to enhance the ability of the National Laboratories to meet Department of Energy missions and for other purposes.

S. 1941

At the request of Mr. DODD, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. BYRD) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1941, a bill to amend the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 to authorize the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to provide assistance to fire departments and fire prevention organizations for the purpose of protecting the public and firefighting personnel against fire and fire-related hazards.

S. 1946

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1946, a bill to amend the National Environmental Education Act to redesignate that Act as the "John H. Chafee Environmental Education Act," to establish the John H. Chafee Memorial Fellowship Program, to extend the programs under that Act, and for other purposes.

S. 2032

At the request of Mr. MOYNIHAN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2032, a bill to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to address the issue of mother-to-child transmission of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) in Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

S. CON. RES. 76

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 76, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress regarding a peaceful resolution of the conflict in the state of Chiapas, Mexico and for other purposes.

S. RES. 87

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from New Jersey