

such an outpatient prescription drug. In an attempt to save Mr. Russell's vision, his eye doctor recommended an alternative: an expensive eye surgery. For Mr. Russell, the surgery would not be as effective as the medication, but there was one big factor in its favor: Medicare would have no reluctance about paying for the surgery. So, as compared to surgery, the medication would be better and easier for Mr. Russell, and probably cheaper in the long run for the taxpayer, but under the current Medicare situation, this common sense solution is out-of-bounds. This situation must be changed.

So what's in this bill for consumers? The bill makes prescription drug coverage voluntary and available to all Medicare beneficiaries. There is no deductible required, and there is an out-of-pocket cap that puts an absolute maximum limit on how much one person will have to pay for drugs in any given year. Participants pay a monthly premium, and the government splits the cost of drugs 50/50 with the beneficiary (up to a gradually increasing limit). There is absolutely no question that this bill is an important improvement for the health of our seniors.

I think it is important to keep in mind what this bill is not. First, it is not perfect. The coverage for prescription drugs is not in parity with coverage for alternative medical treatments, such as surgery. This difference reflects cost constraints, but I am optimistic that this aspect can be addressed in future legislation.

Second, this bill is not for everyone. Individuals who have better coverage of prescription drugs than is afforded in this bill, perhaps through an employer-sponsored retiree health plan, can keep that coverage. In fact, employers will be offered subsidies to encourage them to maintain prescription drug coverage for their retirees.

Third, this bill is not a prelude to price controls on drugs. The legislation makes no mention of or need for price controls, and it is not our intention to propose or implement price controls. This bill deals primarily with access to pharmaceuticals, not their cost. The high cost of medications is a concern to many of us in this country, but that is a very complex problem that is not, and should not be, addressed in this bill.

Finally, this bill is not the comprehensive overhaul of the Medicare program that we all agree is needed. The 1965 program needs to be brought up to new millennium standards to make it easier for the program to keep up with rapid future advances in medical technology. The benefit package (including enhanced preventive measures), the financing of graduate medical education, the provider payment mechanisms; these are all items that must be addressed. But not in this bill. Seniors need help now with prescrip-

tion drugs, and they cannot wait the months or years that it will take to complete the needed comprehensive revision of Medicare.

Mr. President, I encourage all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to work together to enact this legislation and to make sure that our Medicare beneficiaries aren't relegated to a second class health care system.

Mr. ROBB. Mr. President, I wanted to say a few words about the Medicare Expansion for Needed Drugs, or MEND Act, which our leader, Senator DASCHLE introduced today. The MEND Act an important first step toward modernizing Medicare through the creation of a voluntary, affordable, universal prescription drug benefit.

While the bill has many elements that I support, I am also interested in looking at ways that we might create a prescription drug bill that distributes its benefits for senior citizens in a more targeted way. I am working with several of my colleagues on the Finance Committee to create such a bill, and hope to introduce it in the next two weeks. With it, we will have two strong options for giving our seniors the help they so desperately need with the skyrocketing costs of prescription drugs.

Mr. President, I applaud the minority leader for his determination in working to help our nation's seniors with the high cost of prescription drugs, and for his efforts in bringing this bill to the floor.

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 345

At the request of Mr. GREGG, his name 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. 515

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 515, a bill to amend the Packers and Stockyards Act of 1921, to make it unlawful for any stockyard owner, market agency, or dealer to transfer or market nonambulatory livestock, and for other purposes.

S. 662

At the request of Mr. L. CHAFEE, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. HELMS) and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 662, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide medical assistance for certain women screened and found to have breast or cervical cancer under a federally funded screening program.

S. 664

At the request of Mr. L. CHAFEE, the name of the Senator from Connecticut

(Mr. LIEBERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 664, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1976 to provide a credit against income tax individuals who rehabilitate historic homes or who are the first purchasers of rehabilitated historic homes for use as a principal residence.

S. 818

At the request of Mr. DEWINE, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 818, a bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to conduct a study of the mortality and adverse outcome rates of medicare patients related to the provision of anesthesia services.

S. 890

At the request of Mr. WELLSTONE, the names of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. KERREY) and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE) were added as cosponsors of S. 890, a bill to facilitate the naturalization of aliens who served with special guerrilla units of irregular forces in Laos.

S. 1053

At the request of Mr. BOND, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1053, a bill to amend the Clean Air Act to incorporate certain provisions of the transportation conformity regulations, as in effect on March 1, 1999.

S. 1155

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the names of the Senator from Montana (Mr. BAUCUS) and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) were added as cosponsors of S. 1155, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to provide for uniform food safety warning notification requirements, and for other purposes.

S. 1163

At the request of Mr. BENNETT, the names of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN), the Senator from Michigan (Mr. ABRAHAM), and the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1163, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for research and services with respect to lupus.

S. 1368

At the request of Mr. TORRICELLI, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1368, a bill to amend the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 and related laws to strengthen the protection of native biodiversity and ban clearcutting on Federal land, and to designate certain Federal land as ancient forests, roadless areas, watershed protection areas, special areas, and Federal boundary areas where logging and other intrusive activities are prohibited.

S. 1747

At the request of Mr. BENNETT, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mr. GORTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1747, a bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to exclude certain Internet communications from the definition of expenditure.

S. 1805

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1805, a bill to restore food stamp benefits to aliens, to provide States with flexibility in administering the food stamp vehicle allowance, to index the excess shelter expense deduction to inflation, to authorize additional appropriations to purchase and make available additional commodities under the emergency food assistance program, and for other purposes.

S. 1886

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. ROBB) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1886, a bill to amend the Clean Air Act to permit the Governor of a State to waive the oxygen content requirement for reformulated gasoline, to encourage development of voluntary standards to prevent and control releases of methyl tertiary butyl ether from underground storage tanks, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VOINOVICH) was withdrawn as a cosponsor of S. 1886, *supra*.

S. 1921

At the request of Mr. CAMPBELL, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. JEFFORDS) and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. AKAKA) were added as cosponsors of S. 1921, a bill to authorize the placement within the site of the Vietnam Veterans memorial of a plaque to honor Vietnam veterans who died after their service in the Vietnam war, but as a direct result of that service.

S. 1933

At the request of Mr. THOMPSON, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. DEWINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1933, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permit the consolidation of life insurance companies with other companies.

S. 2031

At the request of Mr. DODD, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2031, a bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to prohibit the issuance of a certificate for subminimum wages for individuals with impaired vision or blindness.

S. 2044

At the request of Mr. CAMPBELL, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. BRYAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2044, a bill to allow postal patrons to contribute to funding for domestic violence programs through the voluntary

purchase of specially issued postage stamps.

S. 2274

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2274, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act provide families and disabled children with the opportunity to purchase coverage under the medical program for such children.

S. 2299

At the request of Mr. L. CHAFEE, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2299, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to continue State Medicaid disproportionate share hospital (DSH) allotments for fiscal year 2001 at the levels for fiscal year 2000.

S. 2311

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2311, a bill to revise and extend the Ryan White CARE Act programs under title XXVI of the Public Health Service Act, to improve access to health care and the quality of health care under such programs, and to provide for the development of increased capacity to provide health care and related support services to individuals and families with HIV disease, and for other purposes.

S. 2320

At the request of Mr. JEFFORDS, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. L. CHAFEE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2320, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a refundable tax credit for health insurance costs, and for other purposes.

S. 2330

At the request of Mr. ROTH, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SANTORUM), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. BUNNING), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. THURMOND), and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) were added as cosponsors of S. 2330, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the excise tax on telephone and other communication services.

S. 2344

At the request of Mr. BROWNBACK, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mr. GORTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2344, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to treat payments under the Conservation Reserve Program as rentals from real estate.

S. 2386

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SPECTER), the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. DOMENICI), and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2386, a bill to extend the Stamp Out Breast Cancer Act.

S. 2394

At the request of Mr. MOYNIHAN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island

(Mr. L. CHAFEE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2394, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to stabilize indirect graduate medical education payments.

S. 2434

At the request of Mr. L. CHAFEE, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. DOMENICI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2434, a bill to provide that amounts allotted to a State under section 2401 of the Social Security Act for each of fiscal years 1998 and 1999 shall remain available through fiscal year 2002.

S. 2443

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2443, a bill to increase immunization funding and provide for immunization infrastructure and delivery activities.

S. 2460

At the request of Mr. FEINGOLD, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. MOYNIHAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2460, a bill to authorize the payment of rewards to individuals furnishing information relating to persons subject to indictment for serious violations of international humanitarian law in Rwanda, and for other purposes.

S. 2514

At the request of Mr. GRAMS, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. ASHCROFT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2514, a bill to improve benefits for members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces and their dependents.

S. 2526

At the request of Mr. CAMPBELL, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2526, a bill to amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to revise and extend such Act.

S. CON. RES. 100

At the request of Mr. HAGEL, the names of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. DASCHLE), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. L. CHAFEE), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SANTORUM), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. ASHCROFT), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS), and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY) were added as cosponsors of S. Con. Res. 100, a concurrent resolution expressing support of Congress for a National Moment of Remembrance to be observed at 3:00 p.m. eastern standard time on each Memorial Day.

S.J. RES. 44

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN), the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. JEFFORDS), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG), the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI), the Senator from Minnesota

(Mr. WELLSTONE), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BAYH), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CLELAND), and the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. KERREY) were added as cosponsors of S.J. Res. 44, a joint resolution supporting the Day of Honor 2000 to honor and recognize the service of minority veterans in the United States Armed Forces during World War II.

S. RES. 247

At the request of Mr. CAMPBELL, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. ABRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 247, a resolution commemorating and acknowledging the dedication and sacrifice made by the men and women who have lost their lives while serving as law enforcement officers.

#### AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED

#### EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES ACT

#### BOND AMENDMENT NO. 3145

(Ordered to lie on the table.)

Mr. BOND submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill (S. 2) to extend programs and activities under the Elementary and Secondary Act of 1965; as follows:

At the end of Title X—General Provisions, insert the following section:

#### SEC. . DIRECT CHECK PILOT PROGRAM.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This part may be cited as the “Direct Check for Education Pilot Program”.

(b) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

- (1) education should be a national priority but must remain a local responsibility;
- (2) the Federal Government’s competitive grant regulations and involvement often create barriers and obstacles to local creativity and reform;
- (3) parents, teachers, and local school districts must be allowed and empowered to set local education priorities; and
- (4) schools and education professionals must be accountable to the people and children served.

(c) DEFINITION.—

(1) COMPETITIVE GRANTS.—The term “competitive grants” means programs in which local school districts apply directly to the Department of Education and which funding is determined and distributed by the Department to local school districts. This does not include formula funds.

(d) DIRECT AWARDS TO LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES.—

(1) DIRECT AWARDS.—From amounts appropriated for competitive grant programs included in this Act and provided for under paragraph (3), the Secretary shall make direct awards to not more than 50 local educational agencies in amounts determined under paragraph (3) to enable the local educational agencies to support programs or activities, for kindergarten through grade 12 students, that the local educational agencies deem appropriate.

(A) Priority consideration shall be given by the Secretary to the first applicant from each State that is eligible. Sixty days after

the application deadline for this section as set by the Secretary, the Secretary may make funding available to multiple local educational agencies within a State as long as the total number of participating local educational agencies does not exceed fifty.

(2) FUNDING.—From amounts appropriated on an annual fiscal year basis for competitive grant programs included in this act, with the exclusion of Title II, the Secretary shall provide an amount from these funds available as determined under paragraph (3).

(3) DETERMINATION OF AMOUNT.—

(A) PER CHILD AMOUNT.—The Secretary, using the information provided under subsection (e), shall determine a per child amount for a year by dividing the total amount appropriated under subsection (d)(2) for the year, by the average daily attendance of kindergarten through grade 12 students in all States for the preceding year.

(B) LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY AWARD.—The Secretary, using the information provided under subsection (e), shall determine the amount provided to each local educational agency under this section for a year by multiplying—

- (i) the per child amount determined under subparagraph (A) for the year; by
- (ii) the average daily attendance of kindergarten through grade 12 students that are served by the local educational agency for the preceding year.

(e) CENSUS DETERMINATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Each local educational agency shall conduct a census to determine the average daily attendance of kindergarten through grade 12 students served by the local educational agency not later than December 1 of each year.

(2) SUBMISSION.—Each local educational agency shall submit the number described in paragraph (1) to the Secretary not later than March 1 of each year.

(f) PENALTY.—If the Secretary determines that a local educational agency has knowingly submitted false information under subsection (e) for the purpose of gaining additional funds under this section, then the local educational agency shall be fined an amount equal to twice the difference between the amount the local educational agency received under this section, and the correct amount the local educational agency would have received under this section if the agency had submitted accurate information under subsection (e).

(g) DISBURSAL.—The Secretary shall disburse the amount awarded to a local educational agency under this section for a fiscal year not later than July 1 of each year.

#### MILITARY CONSTRUCTION APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

#### ROBB AMENDMENT NO. 3146

(Ordered to lie on the table.)

Mr. ROBB submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him the bill (S. 2521) making appropriations for military construction, family housing, and base realignment and closure for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

#### OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, NAVY

Out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, there is appropriated

for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, for expenses, not otherwise provided for, necessary for the operation and maintenance of the Navy and the Marine Corps, as authorized by law, \$220,000,000: *Provided*, That the amount made available by this heading shall be available for ship depot maintenance; *Provided further*, That the entire amount made available by this heading is designated as an emergency requirement under section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901(b)(2)(A)).

● Mr. ROBB. Mr. President, tomorrow I intend to offer an amendment (No. 3146) to address our critical ship maintenance shortfalls in fiscal year 2000 as part of the military construction appropriations bill for fiscal year 2001. I am filing this amendment tonight.●

#### NOTICE OF HEARING

#### PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Governmental Affairs, will hold a hearing entitled “Phony IDs And Credentials On The Internet.” This Subcommittee hearing will focus on the widespread availability of false identification documents and credentials on the Internet and the criminal uses to which such identification is put.

The hearing will take place on Friday, May 19, 2000, at 9:00 a.m., in Room 342 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building. For further information, please contact Lee Blalack of the Subcommittee staff at 224-3721.

#### AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

#### COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the full Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, May 10, 2000, in executive session, to mark up the FY 2001 Defense authorization bill.

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

#### COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, May 10, 2000, at 2 p.m. to hold a hearing.

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

#### COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Governmental Affairs Committee be authorized to meet on Wednesday, May 10, 2000, at 9:30 a.m., for a hearing to consider the nominations of Anna Blackburne-Rigsby, Thomas Motley, and John Mott to be Associate Judges