

and conviction to her work. No problem has been too small or too big. If it concerned the people of North Dakota and our country, then Lucy would tackle it until it got resolved.

One of Lucy's passions has been Major League Baseball. For years she and her husband, Kent, have taken a weekend or two in February to catch a part of Spring training in Florida. It's true she has suffered over the years as an ardent New York Mets fan. But for years I have watched the autographed baseballs on her desk form a rising pyramid in their plastic cases. I had a sense where this stack was heading.

And now, not surprisingly, Lucy is going to leave my office this week to become the head of Government Relations for Major League Baseball. I am sad, but I am happy, too. America's national pastime is gaining a tireless advocate here in Washington. No one deserves this opportunity more than Lucy, and no one could do a better job.

Such passages are common here in Washington, but that does not make them any easier. I just wanted to take a few moments to express my appreciation to Lucy Calautti, on behalf of all the people of my state, for a job well done. We wish her well.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is now closed.

THE DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS, 2001

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now resume consideration of H.R. 4577, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4577) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes.

Pending:

McCain amendment No. 3610, to enhance protection of children using the Internet.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi is recognized.

AMENDMENT NO. 3625

(Purpose: To implement pilot programs for antimicrobial resistance monitoring and prevention)

Mr. COCHRAN. Madam President, I send an amendment to the desk and ask that it be stated.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Mississippi [Mr. COCHRAN], for himself, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mr. FRIST, proposes an amendment numbered 3625.

Mr. COCHRAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

On page 27, before the colon on line 4, insert the following: “, and of which \$25,000,000 shall be made available through such Centers for the establishment of partnerships between the Federal Government and academic institutions and State and local public health departments to carry out pilot programs for antimicrobial resistance detection, surveillance, education and prevention and to conduct research on resistance mechanisms and new or more effective antimicrobial compounds.”

Mr. COCHRAN. Madam President, I offer this amendment to H.R. 4577, the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education appropriations bill to implement pilot programs for antimicrobial resistance monitoring and prevention.

Antimicrobial resistance has become a worldwide problem. Emerging, drug-resistant infections threaten the health and stability of countries across the world. Diseases such as malaria and tuberculosis have become resistant to treatment in many countries, and we are beginning to see these drug-resistant infections reemerging in the United States.

Here in the U.S., resistance is developing in both large, urban areas and rural communities. We are seeing widespread resistance develop to common drugs such as Penicillin. Some microbes are even becoming resistant to our last line of therapy, Vancomycin. We are approaching the point where such common ailments as a sore throat or an ear infection could become life threatening. The problem is not limited to a certain line of microbes. We are seeing the development of resistance in all major groups of microorganisms—viruses, fungi, parasites, and bacteria.

We must address this problem on several levels. We must build our public health infrastructure for both surveillance of and response to resistance and outbreaks. We need to educate practitioners and patients in the responsible use of antimicrobials, and we need to continue to invest in research on the mechanisms of resistance and the development of new treatment.

This amendment begins to address the global threat posed by antimicrobial resistant infections. We must aggressively act over the course of the next several years to avert the situation of a half century ago when infectious diseases were the greatest threat to human health.

Specifically, this amendment provides \$25 million to be available through such centers as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for the establishment of partnerships between the Federal Government and academic institutions and State and local public health departments to carry out pilot programs for antimicrobial resistance detection, surveillance, education, and

prevention, and to conduct research on resistance mechanisms and new or more effective antimicrobial compounds.

For the information of the Senate, authorizing legislation is being introduced and referred to the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee. The purpose of the new legislation, which is being sponsored here in the Senate by the Senator from Tennessee, Dr. FRIST, and the Senator from Massachusetts, Mr. KENNEDY, will provide a framework of legislative authorization for activities and appropriations of dollars such as that reflected by this appropriations bill amendment. I also am pleased to have the cosponsorship on this specific amendment of Senator KENNEDY and Senator FRIST, as well.

I am hopeful the majority leader will be able to permit us to announce that a vote will occur on this amendment as the next order of business for the Senate. It will not likely occur today but probably tomorrow at sometime to be announced by the leader. I hope we will be able to make that announcement for the information of all Senators very soon.

The funding that is provided as an addition to that included in the bill for microbial research into resistance to diseases, viruses, and illnesses is a matter that is emerging as one of the most serious challenges we face in medical science today. I am hopeful the Senate will approve this amendment and increase the funding for this important area of inquiry.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to proceed as in morning business to discuss two related pieces of legislation for the Department of Education that I will introduce today.

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

(The remarks of Mr. COCHRAN pertaining to the introduction of S. 2788 and S. 2789 are printed in today's RECORD under “Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.”)

Mr. COCHRAN. Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. REID. Madam President, I send an amendment to the desk and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to setting aside the pending amendment?

Mr. COCHRAN. I object, Madam President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. COCHRAN. I will find out what is going on, and I may withdraw my objection. So I will reserve the right to