

to clinical trials, availability of needed drugs, protection of doctors who give patients their best possible advice, or women's ability to obtain gynecological services—too often, in all of these cases. HMOs and managed care plans treat the company's bottom line as more important than the patient's vital signs. These abuses have no place in American medicine. Every doctor knows it. Every patient knows it. And in their hearts, every member of Congress knows it.

Every American also knows that it is wrong for the current legal system to give immunity to health insurance companies and HMOs that kill or injure patients. No other industry in America has immunity from liability when it acts irresponsibly, and HMOs and health insurance companies shouldn't have it either.

The legislation we are offering today is bipartisan. Whether the issue is liability, the appeals process, or state flexibility, we have made significant modifications to respond to legitimate concerns, but we have preserved the basic principle that when serious illness strikes, every American deserves the protection they were promised.

President Bush campaigned on a pledge to pass an effective patients' bill of rights. We are ready to work with him to bring the American people the protection they deserve. Ending the current abuses should be a priority for the new Congress and the new Administration, and I am hopeful that we can work together to pass this legislation as soon as possible this year.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 29

At the request of Mr. BOND, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SANTORUM) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD) were added as cosponsors of S. 29, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a deduction for 100 percent of the health insurance costs of self-employed individuals.

S. 31

At the request of Mr. CAMPBELL, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 31, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to phase out the estate and gift taxes over a 10-year period.

S. 41

At the request of Mr. HAGEL, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 41, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the research credit and to increase the rates of the alternative incremental credit.

S. 88

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the names of the Senator from New

Hampshire (Mr. SMITH), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SANTORUM), and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) were added as cosponsors of S. 88, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an incentive to ensure that all Americans gain timely and equitable access to the Internet over current and future generations of broadband capability.

S. 124

At the request of Mr. BROWNBACK, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. BYRD) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. HELMS) were added as cosponsors of S. 124, a bill to exempt agreements relating to voluntary guidelines governing telecast material, movies, video games, Internet content, and music lyrics from the applicability of the antitrust laws, and for other purposes.

S. 126

At the request of Mr. CLELAND, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 126, a bill to authorize the President to present a gold medal on behalf of Congress to former President Jimmy Carter and his wife Rosalynn Carter in recognition of their service to the Nation.

S. 131

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. HUTCHINSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 131, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to modify the annual determination of the rate of the basic benefit of active duty educational assistance under the Montgomery GI Bill, and for other purposes.

S. 148

At the request of Mr. CRAIG, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 148, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the adoption credit, and for other purposes.

S. 161

At the request of Mr. WELLSTONE, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED), and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. CORZINE) were added as cosponsors of S. 161, a bill to establish the Violence Against Women Office within the Department of Justice.

S. 205

At the request of Mrs. HUTCHISON, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. ALLARD), the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KYL) were added as cosponsors of S. 205, 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. 208

At the request of Mr. FRIST, the names of the Senator from New York

(Mrs. CLINTON) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. CORZINE) were added as cosponsors of S. 208, a bill to reduce health care costs and promote improved health care by providing supplemental grants for additional preventive health services for women.

S. 214

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 214, a bill to elevate the position of Director of the Indian Health Service within the Department of Health and Human Services to Assistant Secretary for Indian Health, and for other purposes.

S. 225

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 225, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide incentives to public elementary and secondary school teachers by providing a tax credit for teaching expenses, professional development expenses, and student education loans.

S. 234

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. ALLARD), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON), and the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) were added as cosponsors of S. 234, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the excise tax on telephone and other communications services.

S. CON. RES. 6

At the request of Mr. TORRICELLI, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. CORZINE), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES) were added as cosponsors of S. Con. Res. 6, a concurrent resolution expressing the sympathy for the victims of the devastating earthquake that struck India on January 26, 2001, and support for ongoing aid efforts.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 8—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING SUBSIDIZED CANADIAN LUMBER EXPORTS

Ms. SNOWE (for herself, Mr. LOTT, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. HUTCHINSON, Mr. THURMOND, Mr. CRAPO, and Mr. CRAIG) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Finance:

S. CON. RES. 8

Whereas the Canadian provinces use government timber to subsidize lumber production and employment by providing timber to Canadian lumber companies through non-competitive, administered pricing arrangements for a fraction of the timber's market value;

Whereas unfair subsidy practices have resulted in shipments of lumber to the United

States to the point that subsidized Canadian lumber is being imported into the United States at record levels and now accounts for over one-third of the United States softwood lumber market;

Whereas highly subsidized Canadian lumber imported into the United States has resulted in lost sales for United States lumber companies, depressed United States lumber values, jeopardized thousands of United States jobs, and contributed to a collapse in lumber prices;

Whereas Canadian lumber subsidy practices have been identified by a variety of independent analyses;

Whereas United States Government officials in the Reagan, Bush, and Clinton Administrations, United States industry, timberland owners, and labor unions have called for an end to the subsidies and for fair trade; and

Whereas an agreement between the United States and Canada on lumber trade is scheduled to expire on March 31, 2001: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That the President, the United States Trade Representative, and the Secretary of Commerce should—

(1) make the problem of subsidized Canadian lumber imports a top trade priority to be addressed immediately;

(2) take every possible action to end Canadian lumber subsidy practices through open and competitive sales of timber and logs in Canada for fair market value, or if Canada will not agree to end the subsidies immediately, provide that the subsidies be offset in the United States; and

(3) if Canada does not agree to end subsidies for lumber—

(A) enforce vigorously, promptly, and fully the trade laws with respect to subsidized and dumped imports;

(B) explore all options to stop unfairly traded imports; and

(C) limit injury to the United States industry.

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I rise today to submit a Senate concurrent resolution that urges the administration to realize that an immediate trade priority should be to address the problem of subsidized Canadian softwood lumber imports. I am pleased to be joined in this effort by Senators LOTT, LINCOLN, COCHRAN, HUTCHINSON, THURMOND, CRAPO, and CRAIG.

The U.S.-Canada Softwood Lumber Agreement of 1996 will expire on March 31, 2001—just 53 short days from now—and there are no government-to-government negotiations taking place. We do not know just what will happen if the Agreement is allowed to expire with no alternative solution in place, but without restrictions, the subsidized lumber from Canada will flood over the border further impacting our U.S. sawmills. This to me is unacceptable.

It is safe to say that we who represent our respective states here in the Senate share the same goals for our constituents—economic growth and prosperity through secure businesses and jobs, a healthy environment, including the ability to purchase reasonably priced homes and lumber with which to remodel. I cannot stand by, however, and watch someone's dream become another's nightmare.

The United States has over four million forest landowners, with approximately 20,000 logging facilities, sawmills and planing mills, which employ over 700,000 employees. In the past year, lumber prices in the United States have plummeted by 33 percent while Canadian imports have grown to record levels. Approximately 3,500 mills have already closed, and I have heard from those with sawmills in Maine that are still open that they are close to laying off their hard-working employees and using their lumber to board up their businesses. Their message, as is mine, is for free trade that is also fair trade.

I would like to note that, the problem of the subsidized lumber is not coming from Maine's good neighbors to the North—those small sawmills of the Canadian Maritimes—as they do not have vast amounts of crown, or government-owned, forest, but also get their wood from private forests, and they do not fall under the current quotas of the Agreement. There are only four provinces that actually fall under the quota system, Quebec, Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia, and the large integrated sawmills—those that have both pulp and sawmill operations, are doing very well. On the other hand, the small sawmills in the Maritimes are hurting just as much as our sawmills in the United States. This is a trade problem that we must negotiate with Canada in the interests of the United States while they also work to solve their own inequities.

The U.S. timber prices for lumber are set by the market for both public and private forests, while the Canadian Government sets the price of timber from Quebec to British Columbia at a level that is one half to one-quarter the actual market value of timber. Some of the Canadian provinces with vast crown forests use government timber to subsidize lumber production and employment by providing timber to Canadian lumber companies through non-competitive, administered pricing arrangements for a fraction of the timber's market value.

These unfair subsidy practices have fueled shipments to the United States to the point that subsidized Canadian imports are at record levels and now control over one-third of the U.S. softwood lumber market. The highly subsidized Canadian lumber imports have gained sales volume from U.S. lumber companies, depressed U.S. timber values, and jeopardized thousands of U.S. jobs, and contributed to a collapse in lumber prices.

Canadian lumber subsidy practices have been identified by a variety of independent analyses. U.S. Government officials in the Reagan, Bush and Clinton administrations, the U.S. industry and timberland owners, and labor unions all have called for an end to the subsidies and for fair trade.

We are calling upon the President, the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, and the Secretary of Commerce to take every possible action to end Canadian lumber subsidy practices through open and competitive sales of timber and logs in Canada for fair market value, or if Canada will not agree to end the subsidies immediately, the subsidies must be offset pending some sort of reform.

In addition, if Canada will not reach an agreement to vigorously, promptly, and fully enforce the trade laws against subsidized and dumped imports and explore all options to stop unfairly traded imports, and to limit injury to the U.S. industry pending further action, the administration should be prepared to vigorously and fully enforce the trade laws against subsidized and dumped imports from Canada.

I hope that these efforts today will jump start the administration as soon as tomorrow to start working towards negotiations with Canada. There are no surprises here, as the issue has been around since the 1930s. There have been years of investigations, assessments, petitions, rulings, imposed duties, and a 1986 Memorandum of Understanding to address the inequities.

As a matter of fact, a major reason for bringing Canada to the negotiating table for the 1996 Agreement, along with a lawsuit by the Coalition for Fair Lumber Imports, was the implementing legislation for the GATT Uruguay Round Agreements. Congress approved the President's "statement of administrative action" that stated that lumber imports from Canada could be subject to countervailing duties under the Uruguay Round.

Every possible action must be taken immediately, to end Canadian lumber subsidy practices through open and competitive sales of timber and logs in Canada at fair market value. This trade must be both free and fair. I thank the Chair.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, February 7, 2001, to conduct a hearing on "Establishing an Effective, Modern Framework for Export Controls."

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, February 7, 2001, at 10:30 a.m., to hold a business meeting.