of S. 1030, a bill to improve health care in rural areas by amending title XVIII of the Social Security Act and the Public Health Service Act, and for other purposes.

S. 1044

At the request of Mr. SARBANES, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SANTORUM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1044, a bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to provide assistance for nutrient removal technologies to States in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

S. 1066

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. AKAKA) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. TORRICELLI) were added as cosponsors of S. 1066, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish procedures for determining payment amounts for new clinical diagnostic laboratory tests for which payment is made under the Medicare program.

S. 1083

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. CHAFEE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1083, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to exclude clinical social worker services from coverage under the Medicare skilled nursing facility prospective payment system.

S. 1084

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. GREGG) were added as cosponsors of S. 1084, a bill to prohibit the importation into the United States of diamonds unless the countries exporting the diamonds have in place a system of controls on rough diamonds, and for other purposes.

S. 1087

At the request of Mr. CONRAD, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1087, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a shorter recovery period of the depreciation of certain leasehold improvements.

S. 1256

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) and the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. FRIST) were added as cosponsors of S. 1256, a bill to provide for the reauthorizaton of the breast cancer research special postage stamp, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 138

At the request of Mr. BURNS, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. MILLER), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD), and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 138, a resolution designating the month of September as “National Prostate Cancer Awareness Month.”

S. CON. RES. 3

At the request of Mr. FEINGOLD, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. WELLSTONE) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 3, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that a commemorative postage stamp should be issued in honor of the U.S.S. Wisconsin and all those who served aboard her.

AMENDMENT NO. 132

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1132 intended to be posed to H.R. 2299, a bill making appropriations for the Department of Transportation and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. REID (for himself and Mr. ENSIGN):

S. 1257. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a theme study to identify sites and resources to commemorate and interpret the cold war; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the cold war was the longest war in United States history. Lasting 50 years, the cold war cost thousands of lives, trillions of dollars, changed the course of history, and left America the only superpower in the world. Because of the nuclear capabilities of our enemy it was the most dangerous conflict our country ever faced. The threat of mass destruction left a permanent mark on American life and politics. Those that won this war did so in obscurity. Those that gave their lives in the cold war have never been properly honored.

Today I introduce a bill that requires the Department of the Interior to conduct a study to identify sites and resources to commemorate heroes of the cold war and to interpret the cold war for future generations. My legislation directs the Secretary of the Interior to establish a “Cold War Advisory Committee” to oversee the inventory of cold war sites and resources for potential inclusion in the National Park System; as national historic landmarks; or other appropriate designations. The Advisory Committee will work closely with State and local governments and local historical organizations. The committee’s starting point will be a cold war study completed by the Secretary of Defense under the 1991 December Appropriations Act. Obvious cold war sites of significance include: Intercontinental ballistic missiles; flight training centers; communications and command centers, such as

Cheyenne Mountain, Colorado; nuclear weapons test sites, such as the Nevada test site, and strategic and tactical resources.

Perhaps no other State in the Union has played a more significant role than Nevada in winning the cold war. The Nevada Test Site is a high-technology engineering marvel where the United States developed, tested, and perfected a nuclear deterrent which is the cornerstone of America’s security and leadership among Nations. The Naval Air Station at Fallon is the Navy’s premiere tactical air warfare training facility. The Air Warfare Center at Nellis Air Force Base has the largest training range in the United States to ensure that America’s pilots will prevail in any armed conflict.

The Advisory Committee established under this legislation will develop an interpretive handbook on the cold war to tell the story of the cold war and its heroes.

I’d like to take a moment to relate a story of one group of cold war heroes.

On a snowy evening in November 17, 1955, a United States Air Force C-54 crashed near the summit of Mount Charleston in central Nevada. The doomed flight was carrying 15 scientific and technical personnel to secret Area 51 where the U-2 reconnaissance plane, of Francis Powers fame, was being developed under tight security. The men aboard the ill-fated C-54 helped build the plane which critics said could never be built. The critics were wrong, the U-2 is a vital part of our reconnaissance force to this day. The secrecy of the mission was so great that the families of the men who perished on Mount Charleston only recently learned about the true circumstances of the crash that took the lives of their loved ones. My legislation will provide $300,000 to identify historic landmarks like the crash at Mount Charleston. I’d like to thank Mr. Steve Birie of Las Vegas who brought to light the events surrounding the death of the fourteen men who perished on Mount Charleston nearly a half century ago, and for the efforts of State Senator Rawson who shepherded a resolution to commemorate these heroes.

A grateful nation owes its gratitude to the “Silent Heroes of the Cold War.” I urge my colleagues to support this long overdue tribute to the contribution and sacrifice of those cold war heroes for the cause of freedom.

By Mr. DORGAN (for himself, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. CONRAD, and Ms. LANDRIEU):

S. 1258. A bill to improve academic and social outcomes for teenage youth; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, today I am introducing the YMCA Teen Action Agenda Enhancement Act of 2001, along with my colleague Mr. DEWINE. This
bipartisan legislation will enable the YMCA to reach more teenagers across the United States who are in need of safe, supervised after-school activities. Unfortunately, the evidence is all around us that our young people today need some extra care and support. Kids today face challenges and obstacles that I never dreamed about when I was growing up in Regent. Children are killing other children because they covet their tennis shoes or their jackets. Kids are having kids. One-quarter of adolescents report that they have used illegal drugs.

Part of the problem is the temptation that kids face when they have too much idle time on their own. Every day, millions of American teens are left unsupervised after school. Studies have shown that teens who are unsupervised during those hours are more likely to smoke cigarettes, drink alcohol, engage in sexual activity, and become involved in delinquent behavior than those teens who participate in structured, supervised after-school activities. Also, nearly 90 percent of teens who are involved in after-school activities are A or B students, while only half of those who are not involved earn those grades. Two out of every 3 teens said that they would participate in after-school programs to help them improve academically, if such programs were offered.

The YMCA is an exemplary organization that is dedicated to serving our nation’s youth, and it wants to help them even more. Nearly 2.4 million teenagers, 1 out of every 10, are involved in programs offered by their local YMCA. The Y is a safe place for kids during after school hours. Teens participate in hundreds of programs that focus on fitness and wellness, sports, mentoring, community service, and life skills. To serve more teens who are in need of structured after-school programs, the YMCA has set a goal of doubling the number of teens served to 1 out of every 5 teens by 2005. This ambitious campaign is called the Teen Action Agenda.

The bill that I offer today provides funding to help the YMCA reach teens who want and need more after-school activities. This piece of legislation authorizes Federal appropriations of $20 million per year for fiscal years 2002 through 2006 for the YMCA to implement its Teen Action Agenda. This funding would in turn be distributed to local YMCAs that are located in all 50 States and the District of Columbia. Similar legislation was passed in the 105th Congress for the Boys and Girls Club and in the 106th Congress for the Police Athletic League to aid in their efforts to reach out to youth. The YMCA is an established and proven organization that is in the position to reach and influence thousands of teenagers who are in danger of falling through the cracks.

This bill will encourage public-private partnerships and leverage additional funding for teen programs. This matching component that will be met by the YMCA through local and private support. The matching component, along with the support the YMCA programs receive from national corporate sponsors, will turn $20 million in Federal funds into $50 million that will be invested in proven programs that serve the teens who are most in need.

In my State, there are six YMCAs that serve North Dakota teens. Through programs focusing on education, life skills, safety, leadership, and service learning, these YMCAs helped 12,500 teens in my State develop character and build a foundation in the next year. One example of how the YMCA reaches teens is the Teen Board recently established in Fargo. This board is comprised of teenage representatives who advise the YMCA and other community representatives on issues and concerns affecting local teens. Similar Teen programs have been created at the other YMCAs in my State. The legislation I introduce today will provide funding for these YMCAs to expand these important programs.

Nationwide, YMCAs partner with 400 juvenile courts, 300 housing authorities and over 2,500 public schools. While the YMCA is national in scope, they are local in control and every program is designed and evaluated to meet the communities’ unique needs. I am confident that this bill will help the YMCA to continue to provide successful solutions for our Nation’s teens and their families.

Edmund Burke once said, “All that is necessary for evil to triumph is for good people to do nothing.” This legislation will provide good volunteers in YMCAs across the country with the additional resources they need to reach more teens. This bill represents a small step we can take to reach out to at-risk teens in communities across the nation. For the sake of our children’s future, I urge my Senate colleagues to join me in cosponsoring this piece of legislation.

By Mr. BROWNBACK (for himself, Mr. GRAHAM, and Mr. HELMS):
S. 1259. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act with respect to the admission of nonimmigrant nurses; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. BROWNBACK. Madam President, I rise today to introduce the Rural and Urban Health Care Act of 2001. I want to thank my cosponsors Senator GRAHAM and Senator HELMS for their support and leadership on this vital issue.

Nothing can traumatize a family more than a medical emergency, particularly one that may have been prevented by timely access to a needed medical professional. In Kansas, I know many communities that would be without a doctor if it was not for an immigrant physician. I know that many communities both in Kansas and around the country would benefit from a greater number of not only doctors, but nurses, nurse aides that would be with...
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SEC. 2. REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION OF NON-IMMIGRANT NURSES.

(a) REQUIREMENTS.—Section 212(m) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(m)) is amended to read as follows:

``(m)(1) The qualifications referred to in the section 101(a)(15)(H)(i)(c), with respect to a alien with respect to whose admission it was ordered to be printed in the record.

(ii) There is no strike or lockout in the course of a labor dispute, the facility did not lay off and will not lay off a registered nurse employed there and another registered nurse who is employed by the facility within the period beginning 90 days before and ending 90 days after the date of filing of any visa petition for clarification of such an alien under section 101(a)(15)(H)(i)(c), and the employment of such an alien is not intended or designated to produce an election for a bargaining representative for registered nurses at the facility.

(iii) At the time of the filing of the petition for registered nurses under section 101(a)(15)(H)(i)(c), notice of the filing has been provided by the facility to the bargaining representative of the registered nurses at the facility or, where there is no such bargaining representative, notice of the filing has been provided to the registered nurses employed by the employer at the facility through posting in conspicuous locations.

(iv) The facility will not, with respect to any alien issued a visa or otherwise provided nonimmigrant status under section 101(a)(15)(H)(i)(c),

(I) authorize the alien to perform nursing services at any worksite other than a worksite controlled by the facility; or

(II) transfer the place of employment of the alien from one worksite to another.

(b) Transfer of Examination.—A facility may meet the requirements of clause (i) of subparagraph (A) if the facility has filed with the Secretary an attestation that contains all of the following:

(i) The alien employed by the facility will fill the position of a nonimmigrant to perform nursing services similarly employed by the facility.

(ii) The alien employed by the facility will fill the position of a nonimmigrant to perform nursing services similarly employed by the facility.

(iii) There is no strike or lockout in the course of a labor dispute, the facility did not lay off and will not lay off a registered nurse employed there and another registered nurse who is employed by the facility within the period beginning 90 days before and ending 90 days after the date of filing of any visa petition for clarification of such an alien under section 101(a)(15)(H)(i)(c), and the employment of such an alien is not intended or designated to produce an election for a bargaining representative for registered nurses at the facility.

(iv) At the time of the filing of the petition for registered nurses under section 101(a)(15)(H)(i)(c), notice of the filing has been provided by the facility to the bargaining representative of the registered nurses at the facility or, where there is no such bargaining representative, notice of the filing has been provided to the registered nurses employed by the employer at the facility through posting in conspicuous locations.

(v) The facility will not, with respect to any alien issued a visa or otherwise provided nonimmigrant status under section 101(a)(15)(H)(i)(c),

(I) authorize the alien to perform nursing services at any worksite other than a worksite controlled by the facility; or

(II) transfer the place of employment of the alien from one worksite to another.

(b) Transfer of Examination.—A facility may meet the requirements of clause (i) of subparagraph (A) if the facility has filed with the Secretary an attestation that contains all of the following:

(i) The alien employed by the facility will fill the position of a nonimmigrant to perform nursing services similarly employed by the facility.

(ii) The alien employed by the facility will fill the position of a nonimmigrant to perform nursing services similarly employed by the facility.

(iii) There is no strike or lockout in the course of a labor dispute, the facility did not lay off and will not lay off a registered nurse employed there and another registered nurse who is employed by the facility within the period beginning 90 days before and ending 90 days after the date of filing of any visa petition for clarification of such an alien under section 101(a)(15)(H)(i)(c), and the employment of such an alien is not intended or designated to produce an election for a bargaining representative for registered nurses at the facility.

(iv) At the time of the filing of the petition for registered nurses under section 101(a)(15)(H)(i)(c), notice of the filing has been provided by the facility to the bargaining representative of the registered nurses at the facility or, where there is no such bargaining representative, notice of the filing has been provided to the registered nurses employed by the employer at the facility through posting in conspicuous locations.

(v) The facility will not, with respect to any alien issued a visa or otherwise provided nonimmigrant status under section 101(a)(15)(H)(i)(c),

(I) authorize the alien to perform nursing services at any worksite other than a worksite controlled by the facility; or

(II) transfer the place of employment of the alien from one worksite to another.

(b) Transfer of Examination.—A facility may meet the requirements of clause (i) of subparagraph (A) if the facility has filed with the Secretary an attestation that contains all of the following:

(i) The alien employed by the facility will fill the position of a nonimmigrant to perform nursing services similarly employed by the facility.

(ii) The alien employed by the facility will fill the position of a nonimmigrant to perform nursing services similarly employed by the facility.

(iii) There is no strike or lockout in the course of a labor dispute, the facility did not lay off and will not lay off a registered nurse employed there and another registered nurse who is employed by the facility within the period beginning 90 days before and ending 90 days after the date of filing of any visa petition for clarification of such an alien under section 101(a)(15)(H)(i)(c), and the employment of such an alien is not intended or designated to produce an election for a bargaining representative for registered nurses at the facility.

(iv) At the time of the filing of the petition for registered nurses under section 101(a)(15)(H)(i)(c), notice of the filing has been provided by the facility to the bargaining representative of the registered nurses at the facility or, where there is no such bargaining representative, notice of the filing has been provided to the registered nurses employed by the employer at the facility through posting in conspicuous locations.

(v) The facility will not, with respect to any alien issued a visa or otherwise provided nonimmigrant status under section 101(a)(15)(H)(i)(c),
“(A) shall provide the nonimmigrant a wage rate that is at least equal to the prevailing rate; and
“(B) shall not interfere with the right of the nonimmigrant to join or organize a union.

“(5)(A) For purposes of paragraph (2)(A)(i), the term ‘lay off’, with respect to a worker—
“(i) means to cause the worker’s loss of employment, other than through a discharge for inadequate performance, violation of workplace rules, voluntary departure, voluntary retirement, or the expiration of a grant or contract; but
“(ii) does not include any situation in which the worker is offered, as an alternative to such loss of employment, a similar employment opportunity with the same employer at equivalent or higher compensation and benefits than the position from which the employee was discharged, regardless of whether or not the employee accepts the offer.

“(B) Nothing in this paragraph is intended to limit an employee’s or an employer’s rights under a collective bargaining agreement.

“(6) For purposes of this subsection and section 101(a)(15)(H)(i)(c), the term ‘facility’ includes a hospital, nursing home, skilled nursing facility, registry, clinic, assisted-living center, and an employer who employs any registered nurse in a home setting.

“(7) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the term ‘Secretary’ means the Secretary of Labor."

(b) IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Labor (in consultation, to the extent required, with the Secretary of Health and Human Services) and the Attorney General shall promulgate final interim final regulations to carry out section 212(m) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (as amended by subsection (a)) The amendments made by this section shall take effect not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, without regard to whether or not regulations to carry out such amendments have been promulgated by such date.

SEC. 2. REPEAL

Section 221 of the Nursing Relief for Disadvantaged Areas Act of 1999 (Public Law 106–95; 8 U.S.C. 1182 note; relating to recommendations for alternative remedy for nursing shortage) is repealed.

SEC. 3. QUALIFICATION FOR CERTAIN ALIEN NURSES

(a) ELIMINATION OF CERTAIN GROUNDS OF INADMISSIBILITY.—Section 212 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182) is amended by striking subsections (a)(5)(C) and (F).

(b) PROCEDURE FOR GRANTING IMMIGRANT STATUS.—Section 203(h)(1)(F) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1154A(h)(1)(F)) is amended by adding at the end the following new sentence: “Any such petition filed on behalf of an alien who will be employed as a professional nurse shall include evidence that the alien—

“(i) is a registered nurse;

“(II) has a current, valid, unrestricted license to practice professional nursing in the State of intended employment.”.

SEC. 4. WAIVERS OF TWO-YEAR FOREIGN RESIDENCE REQUIREMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 214(l) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1184(l)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)(B), by striking “20” and inserting “40, plus the number of waivers specified in paragraph (4)”;

(2) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(4) The number of waivers specified in this paragraph is the total number of unused waivers allotted to all States for a fiscal year under this section, less the number of States having no unused waivers remaining in the allotment to those States for that fiscal year.”;

(b) ELIMINATION OF TERMINATION DATE.—Section 220(c) of the Immigration and Nationality Technical Corrections Act of 1994 (Public Law 103–416, as amended; 8 U.S.C. 1382 note) is amended by striking “and before June 1, 2002”.

SEC. 5. OTHER MEASURES TO MEET RURAL AND URBAN HEALTH CARE NEEDS.

(a) GRANT TO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall award grants to States, local governments, and institutions of higher education (as defined in section 101(a)(15)(H)(i)(c) of the Higher Education Act of 1965) to fund training, recruitment, and other activities to increase the supply of domestic registered nurses and other needed health care professionals.

(b) APPLICATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Each eligible entity desiring a grant under this section shall submit an application to the Secretary of Health and Human Services at such time, in such manner, and accompanied by such information as the Secretary may reasonably require.

(2) CONTENTS.—Each application submitted pursuant to paragraph (1) shall—

(A) describe the activities for which assistance under this section is sought; and

(B) provide such additional assurances as the Secretary of Health and Human Services determines to be essential to ensure compliance with the requirements of this section.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Health and Human Services such sums as may be necessary to carry out this section.

The RURAL AND URBAN HEALTH CARE ACT OF 2003—SECTION-BY-SECTION

SECTION 1.

The Act may be cited as the “Rural and Urban Health Care Act of 2003.”

SECTION 2. REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION OF NON-IMMIGRANT NURSES

Section 212(m) of the Immigration and Nationality Act is amended as follows:

1. The employment of the alien will not adversely affect the wages and working conditions of registered nurses similarly employed by the facility.

2. The alien will be paid the wage rate for nurses similarly employed by the facility.

3. There is not a labor dispute involving a strike or lockout at the facility, and the facility did not lay off and will not lay off a registered staff nurse for a period beginning 90 days before and ending 90 days after the date of filing of any visa petition, and the employment of such an alien is not intended or designed to influence an election for a bargaining representative for registered nurses of the facility.

4. At the time of filing of petition for registered nurses, notice of the filing has been given to the bargaining representative of the nurses at the facility, and in the absence of such representative, notice of the filing has been provided to the nurses employed by the employer at the facility by posting in conspicuous locations.

5. The facility will not:—

a. Authorize the alien to perform nursing services at any worksite other than a worksite controlled by the facility.

b. Transfer the place of employment of the alien to another worksite.

c. Transfer the place of employment of the alien to another worksite.

6. A copy of the attestation shall be provided to the nurses at the facility within 30 days of the date of filing.

7. The Secretary of Labor shall review an attestation only for completeness and obvious inaccuracies, and shall certify the attestation within 7 days of filing. If not returned within 7 days, the attestation shall be deemed certified.

8. An Attestation shall:—

a. Expire on the date that is the later of:

(1) The end of the three-year period beginning on the date of its filing with the Secretary,

(2) The end of the period of admission of the last alien section 101(a)(15)(H)(i)(c) was applied;

b. Apply to petitions filed during the three-year period if the facility states in each petition that it continues to comply with the attestations in the attestation.

9. A facility may meet the requirements listed above with respect to more than one registered nurse in a single petition.

10. The Secretary shall:

a. Compile and make available to the public a list identifying facilities which have filed petitions for classification of non-immigrants under section 101(a)(15)(H)(i)(c), and provide a copy of the attestation filed for each facility.

b. Establish a process for the receipt, investigation, and disposition of complaints respecting a facility’s failure to meet conditions attested to or a facility’s misrepresentation in an attestation. Complaints may be filed by any aggrieved person or organization (but excluding any governmental agency or entity). The Secretary shall conduct an investigation if there is probable cause to believe that a facility willfully failed to meet conditions attested to. This will apply regardless of whether or not the alien is the subject of a complaint.

c. If a complaint is filed, the Secretary shall provide within 180 days of filing, a determination as to whether the basis exists for a finding described below (iv). If such a basis exists, the Secretary shall provide notice of such determination to the interested parties, and have the opportunity for the complaint within 60 days of the date of determination. The Secretary shall promulgate
regulations providing for penalties, including civil monetary fines, upon parties who submit complaints that are found to be frivolous.

d. After notice and opportunity for hearing, if the Secretary finds that a facility has willfully failed to meet a condition attested to, or that there was willful misrepresentation of material fact, the Secretary shall notify the Attorney General of such finding and may also impose administrative remedies (including civil monetary penalties not to exceed $1000 per nurse per violation, with the total not to exceed $10,000 per violation) as the Secretary deems appropriate. Upon receipt of such notice, the Attorney General shall not approve petitions filed with respect to a facility during a period of at least one year for nurses to be employed by the facility.

e. In addition to the sanctions listed above (iv), if the Secretary finds (after notice and opportunity for hearing) that a facility has violated conditions regarding the payment of registered nurses at the facility wage rate (subparagraph (h)(ii)), the Secretary shall order the facility to provide for payment of back pay to comply with such condition.

11. The Secretary shall:

a. Impose a facility filing fee, but not to exceed $250.

b. Such fees collected shall be deposited in a fund established for this purpose with the Treasurer of the United States.

c. The collected fees shall be available to the Secretary, to the extent provided in appropriation Acts, to cover the costs described above.

The period of admission of an alien under 101(a)(15)(H)(1)(c) shall be for an initial period not to exceed three years, and subject to an extension of not to exceed a total period of admission of six years.

A facility that has filed a petition under 101(a)(15)(H)(1)(c) shall:

1. Provide a wage rate and working conditions the same as those of nurses similarly employed by the facility;

2. Not interfere with the right of the immigrant to organize and bargain collectively through representatives of his choosing.

The term “lay off” with respect to a worker (for purposes of paragraph (2)(A)(ii)), means to cause the worker's loss of employment, other than a discharge for inadequate performance, violation of workplace rules, cause, voluntary departure, voluntary retirement, or the expiration of a grant or contract; but

2. Does not include any situation in which the workers offered, as an alternative to retirement, or the expiration of a grant or contract; but

3. Nothing in this paragraph is intended to limit an employee's or an employer's rights under a collective bargaining agreement or other employment contract.

The term ‘facility’ includes a hospital, nursing home, skilled nursing facility, registry, clinic, assisted-living center, and an employer who employs any registered nurses in a home setting.

The term ‘Secretary’ means the Secretary of Labor:

1. Implementation:

a. No later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, regulations to carry out this amendment shall be made by the Secretary in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, and the Attorney General. The amendments made shall take effect not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, without regard to regulations have been made by that date.

SECTION 3. REPEAL

Section 3 of the Nursing Relief for Disadvantaged Areas Act of 1989 is repealed.

SECTION 4. CERTIFICATION FOR CERTAIN ALIEN NURSES

Any such petitions filed on behalf of an alien who will be employed as a professional nurse shall include evidence that the alien has passed: (I) the examination given by the Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools; or (II) another appropriate examination recognized in regulations promulgated in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services; or holds a full and unrestricted license to practice professional nursing in the State of intended employment.

SECTION 5. WAIVERS OF TWO-YEAR FOREIGN RESIDENCE REQUIREMENT FOR FOREIGN PHYSICIANS

Section 214(l) of the Immigration and Nationality Act is amended

1. In paragraph (1)(B), by striking “20” and inserting “40” after "20;

2. By adding at the end of the following new paragraph: “(4) The number of waivers specified in this paragraph in the total number of unused waivers allotted to all State for fiscal year divided by the number of States having no unused waivers remaining in the allotment to those States for that fiscal year.

SECTION 6. OTHER MEASURES TO MEET RURAL AND URBAN HEALTH CARE NEEDS

The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall award grants to States, local governments, and institutions of higher education to fund training, recruitment, and other activities to increase the supply of domestic registered nurses and other needed health care providers. There are authorized such sums as may be necessary to carry out this section.

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER:

S. 1260. A bill to provide funds for the planning of a special census of Americans residing abroad;

a. To the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Madam President, millions of Americans live and work overseas. While living abroad, they continue to pay taxes and they can vote in our Federal elections. They traditionally buy American, sell American, and create business opportunities for American companies and workers, thereby strengthening the United States economy, creating jobs in the United States, and extending United States influence around the world.

(3) Americans residing abroad play a key role in advancing this Nation’s interests by serving as economic, political, and cultural ‘ambassadors’ of the United States.

(4) The major business, civic, and community organizations representing Americans and companies of the United States abroad are concerned about the counting of American citizens residing abroad by the Bureau of the Census, and are prepared to assist the Bureau of the Census in this task.

SENATE. It is the sense of Congress that—

1. The Bureau of the Census should carry out a special census of all Americans residing abroad in 2004;

2. The Bureau should, after completing that special census, review the means by which Americans residing abroad may be included in the 2010 decennial census;

3. The Bureau should take appropriate measures to provide for the inclusion of Americans residing abroad in the 2010 decennial census and decennial censuses thereafter; and

4. In order to ensure that the measures specified in the preceding provisions of this subsection can be completed in the most efficient fashion, the Bureau should begin planning as soon as possible for the special census described in paragraph (1).

SEC. 2. FUNDING TO BEGIN PLANNING FOR A SPECIAL CENSUS OF AMERICANS RESIDING ABROAD

For necessary expenses in connection with the planning of a special census of Americans residing abroad (as described in section 1(b)(1)), there is appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $5,000,000 for fiscal year 2002, to remain available until expended.

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER:

S. 1261. A bill to amend the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act to increase the ability of absent uniformed services voters and overseas voters to participate in elections for Federal office, and for other purposes;

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Madam President, millions of Americans live abroad, serving in our military or working in foreign countries. These Americans pay taxes and have the right to vote. They deserve to know that their votes will be counted.

Today, I am introducing legislation designed to streamline and improve the
process for absentee ballots to help ensure that Americans living overseas can participate in American elections. The bill is called the Uniformed and Overseas Citizen Absentee Voting Reform Act. It is based on the bipartisan legislation introduced in the House of Representatives by Congresswoman CAROLYN MALONEY and Congressman THOMAS REYNOLDS. This bill is developed through recommendations of overseas Americans. Our goal is to help both military and civilian overseas Americans to participate in elections. The right to vote is important in our country, and we need to encourage all of our citizens, including those millions living abroad, to participate in elections. I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the Record. There being no objection, the bill was ordered to be printed in the Record, as follows:

S. 1261
Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.
This Act may be cited as the “Uniformed and Overseas Citizen Absentee Voting Reform Act of 2001.”

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.
Congress finds the following:

(1) Approximately 3,000,000 to 6,000,000 American citizens, including 576,000 Federal employees and their overseas dependents in the armed services and in other Federal agencies, live permanently or temporarily outside the 50 States and the District of Columbia.

(2) The members of the armed services, their dependents, other employees of the Federal Government and their dependents, and the approximately 3,000,000 to 5,500,000 other American citizens abroad make an indescribable contribution to the security, economic well-being, and cultural vitality of the United States.

(3) Although great progress has been made in recent decades in assuring that these citizens have the chance to participate fully in our democratic processes, the national elections of November 2000 revealed grave shortcomings in our system, with nearly 40 percent of overseas ballots rejected in one State alone.

(4) Moreover, during these elections it became apparent that timely information about the numbers of American citizens seeking to vote and voting from abroad, information which is essential to measure the effectiveness of our overseas voting system, is not currently provided by the States.

SEC. 3. SIMPLIFICATION OF VOTER REGISTRATION AND ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATION PROCEDURES FOR ABSENT UNIFORMED SERVICES AND OVERSEAS VOTERS.
(a) Requiring States To Accept Official Form Official Absentee Voter Registration And Absentee Ballot Application; Deadline For Providing Absentee Ballot;
(1) In General.—Section 102 of the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (42 U.S.C. 1973ff-3) is amended—
(A) by amending paragraph (2) to read as follows:
“(2) accept and process, with respect to any election for Federal office, any other

wise valid voter registration application and absentee ballot application from an absent uniformed services voter or overseas voter; if the application is received by the appropriate State election official not less than 30 days before the day of the election;

(B) by striking the period at the end of paragraph (3) and inserting a semicolon; and

(C) by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:
“(4) use the official post card form (prescribed under section 101) for simultaneous voter registration application and absentee ballot application in accordance with section 102(4).”

“(5) transmit the absentee ballot for an election to each absent uniformed services voter and overseas voter who is registered with respect to the election as soon as practicable after the voter is registered, but in no case later than the 45th day preceding the election (if the voter is registered as of such day).”

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 101(b)(2) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1973ff-3) is amended by striking “as recommended in section 101(b)” and inserting “as required under section 102(4)”.

(3) SIMPLIFICATION OF VOTER REGISTRATION AND ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATION PROCEDURES FOR ABSENTEE UNIFORMED SERVICES AND OVERSEAS VOTERS.
(b) Use Of Single Application For All Subsequent Elections.—Section 104 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1973ff-3) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 104. USE OF SINGLE APPLICATION FOR ALL SUBSEQUENT ELECTIONS.
“(a) In General.—If a State accepts and processes an official post card form (prescribed under section 101) submitted by an absent uniformed services voter or overseas voter for simultaneous voter registration and absentee ballot application (in accordance with section 102(4))—

“(1) the voter shall be deemed to have submitted an absentee ballot application for each subsequent election for Federal office held in the State; and

“(2) the State shall provide an absentee ballot to the voter for each subsequent election for Federal office held in the State in accordance with the deadline required under section 102(a)(5).”

“(b) Exception For Voters Changing Registration.—Subsection (a) shall not apply with respect to a voter registered to vote in a State for any election held after the voter notifies the State that he or she no longer wishes to be registered to vote in the State or after the State determines that the voter has registered to vote in another State.

“(c) No Effect On Voter Removal Programs.—Nothing in this section may be construed to prevent a State from removing any voter from the rolls of registered voters in the State under any program or method permitted under section 8 of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993.”

SEC. 4. REMOVING BARRIERS TO ACCEPTANCE OF COMPLETED BALLOTS.
Section 102 of the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (42 U.S.C. 1973ff-1) is amended—

(1) by inserting “(a) In General.—” before “Each State”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:
“(b) Special Requirements Regarding Acceptance Of Completed Ballots.—
“(1) Mandatory Minimum Period For Acceptance Of Absentee Ballot After Date On Envelope.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a State shall not refuse to count an absentee ballot submitted in an election for Federal office by an absent uniformed services voter or overseas voter on the grounds that the ballot was submitted later than 14 days after the date of the election.

“(2) Ballot Is SIGNED and Dated by the Voter.—If the ballot is signed and dated by the voter and is otherwise valid, the State shall not refuse to count an absentee ballot submitted in an election for Federal office by an absent uniformed services voter or overseas voter on the grounds that the ballot was submitted later than 14 days after the date of the election.

“(3) Prohibiting Refusal of Ballot for Lack of Postmark.—A State shall not refuse to count an absentee ballot submitted in an election for Federal office by an absent uniformed services voter or overseas voter on the grounds that the ballot was submitted without a postmark if the ballot is signed and dated by the voter and a witness within the deadline applicable under State law for the submission of the ballot (taking into account the requirements of paragraph (1)).”

SEC. 5. OTHER REQUIREMENTS TO PROMOTE PARTICIPATION OF OVERSEAS AND ABSENT UNIFORMED SERVICES VOTERS.
Section 102 of the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (42 U.S.C. 1973ff-1), as amended by section 4, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(c) Other Requirements and Prohibitions.—
“(1) Response To Submitted Materials.—
“(A) Applications For Voter Registration And Absentee Ballot Request.—With respect to each absent uniformed services voter and each overseas voter who submits a voter registration application or an absentee ballot request, the State—

“(i) shall immediately notify the voter as to whether or not the State has approved the application or request; and

“(ii) if the State rejects the application or request, shall provide the voter with the reasons for the rejection.

“(B) Absentee Ballots.—With respect to each absent uniformed services voter and each overseas voter who submits a completed absentee ballot, the State—

“(i) shall immediately notify the voter as to whether or not the State has received the ballot; and

“(ii) if the State refuses to accept the ballot, shall provide the voter with the reasons for the rejection.

“(2) Use Of Facsimile Machines And Internet.—Each State shall make voter registration applications, absentee ballot requests, and absentee ballots available to absent uniformed services voters and overseas voters through the use of facsimile machines and the Internet, and shall permit such voters to transmit completed applications and requests to the State through the use of such machines and the Internet. Nothing in this paragraph may be construed to prohibit a State from accepting completed absentee ballots from absent uniformed services voters and overseas voters through the use of facsimile machines.

“(3) Notwithstanding any other law, a State may not refuse to accept any voter registration application, absentee ballot request, or absentee ballot submitted by an absent uniformed services voter or overseas voter on the grounds that the document involved is not notarized.

“(4) Compilation Of Statistics.—For each election for Federal office held in the State, each State shall compile and publish the following information with respect to absent uniformed services voters and overseas voters:

“(1) the number of voter registration applications received from each such group of
voters, together with the number of such applications of which the State rejected the ballot and the reasons for rejection.

“(ii) The number of absentee ballots sent to each such group of voters.

“(iii) The number of completed absentee ballots which were rejected by the State and the reasons for rejection.

“(B) Breakdown by local jurisdiction and overseas location.—In compiling and publishing the information described in sub-paragraph (A), the State shall break down each category of such information by county (or other appropriate local election district) and by the locations to which and from which the materials described in such sub-paragraph were transmitted and received.

“(C) Transmission to presidential designee.—With respect to information regarding a Presidential election year, the State shall transmit the information compiled under this paragraph to the Presidential designee at such time and in such manner as the President may require to prepare the report described in section 101(b)(6).”.

SEC. 6. ADDITIONAL DUTIES OF PRESIDENTIAL DESIGNEE.

(a) Educating election officials on responsibilities under Act.—Section 101(b)(1) of the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (42 U.S.C. 1973ff(b)(1)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (b) as subsection (c); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (a) the following new subsection:

“(D) is otherwise qualified to vote with respect to any election occurring during the 60-day period which begins on the date the individual becomes a separated uniformed services voter.”

(b) Separated uniformed services voter defined.—

“(1) In general.—In this section, the term ‘separated uniformed services voter’ means an individual who—

(A) is separated from the uniformed services;

(B) was a uniformed services voter immediately prior to separation;

(C) presents to an appropriate election official other official proof of meeting such requirements of subparagraphs (A) and (B) (or any other official proof of meeting such requirements); and

(D) is otherwise qualified to vote with respect to the election involved.

(2) Uniformed services voter.—In paragraph (1), the term ‘uniformed services voter’ means—

(A) a member of a uniformed service on active duty; or

(B) a member of the merchant marine.”

SEC. 7. GRANTING PROTECTIONS GIVEN TO ABSENT UNIFORMED SERVICES VOTERS TO RECENTLY SEPARATED UNIFORMED SERVICES VOTERS.

The Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (42 U.S.C. 1973ff et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 104 the following new section:

“SEC. 104A. COVERAGE OF RECENTLY SEPARATED UNIFORMED SERVICES VOTERS.

“(a) In general.—For purposes of this Act, an individual who is a separated uniformed services voter (or the spouse or dependent of such an individual), shall be treated in the same manner as an absent uniformed services voter with respect to any election occurring during the 60-day period which begins on the date the individual becomes a separated uniformed services voter.

“(b) Separated uniformed services voter defined.—

“(1) In general.—In this section, the term ‘separated uniformed services voter’ means an individual who—

(A) is separated from the uniformed services;

(B) was a uniformed services voter immediately prior to separation;

(C) presents to an appropriate election official other official proof of meeting such requirements of subparagraphs (A) and (B) (or any other official proof of meeting such requirements); and

(D) is otherwise qualified to vote with respect to the election involved.

(2) Uniformed services voter.—In paragraph (1), the term ‘uniformed services voter’ means—

(A) a member of a uniformed service on active duty; or

(B) a member of the merchant marine.”

SEC. 8. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO STATES FOR COSTS OF COMPLIANCE.

(a) In general.—The Presidential designee shall make the Federal write-in absentee ballot available to the United States citizens residing abroad and the Internet. The Presidential designee shall make the Federal write-in absentee ballot and the application for such a ballot available to overseas voters through the use of facsimile machines and the Internet, and shall permit such voters to transmit completed applications for such a ballot to the Presidential designee through such facsimile machines and the Internet.

(b) Providing breakdown between overseas voters and absent uniformed services voters in statistical analysis of voter participation.—Section 101(b)(6) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1973ff(b)(6)) is amended by inserting after ‘‘participation’’ the following:—“(listed separately for overseas voters and absent uniformed services voters).”
have worked with Chairman Boehlert on this important initiative. The purpose of this bill is to make a major impact on the teaching of technical subjects in Grades K through 12. This bill accomplishes its goal by bringing the wider community including industry into the educational process through partnerships by increasing the number of qualified teachers and providing support programs to improve their qualifications, and by providing access to master teachers, curriculum related materials, and research opportunities. The bill also promotes Centers of Research on Learning to determine which methodologies are most effective for educating our students in mathematics and science.

One of the main provisions authorizes the National Science Foundation to establish a program of mathematics and science education partnerships involving universities and local educational agencies. These partnerships will focus on a wide array of reform efforts ranging from professional development to curriculum reform for Grades K through 12. The partnerships may include the State educational agency and 50 percent of them must include businesses. These partnerships are intended to conceive, develop, and evaluate innovative approaches to education in mathematics, science, engineering, and other technical subjects. A special feature is an emphasis on encouraging the ongoing interest of girls in science, mathematics, engineering, or technology preparing them to pursue careers in these fields.

A second provision authorizes the expansion of the National Science, Mathematics, Engineering, and Technology Education Digital Library to include peer reviewed elementary and secondary education materials. The library will serve as an Internet accessible means to provide state-of-the-art curriculum materials in support of teaching technical subjects.

A third provision, that is of particular importance to me, provides for the establishment of a new scholarship program designed to encourage mathematics, science, and engineering majors to pursue careers in teaching. The program provides grants to universities who will, in turn, award scholarships to mathematics, science and engineering majors who agree to teach following graduation and certification. The institutions must also provide education and support programs for the scholarship recipients. A second element is that stipends will be offered to mid-career professionals in mathematics, science, or engineering who need course work to transition to a career in teaching. Recipients are required to teach in a K through 12 school receiving assistance under Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 as payback for the scholarship. The bill also provides for a study of Broadband Network access for schools and libraries. This requires the National Science Foundation to determine how Broadband access can be used and what impact can be made on the educational process. This section is important to the future of the highly successful E-Rate program that is helping close the digital divide between rich and poor schools and urban, rural, and suburban schools.

Another important provision sets up a grant program to train master teachers to work in K through 9 classrooms to improve the teaching of mathematics or science. This program will develop an invaluable in-house resource for teachers of technical subjects.

There are a number of other provisions, all of which, address shortcomings in our current approach to education in this area. I often visit West Virginia schools, and during the school year I use the Internet to host on-line chats with students across the State, I believe that students, parents, and teachers recognize the importance of science and engineering on the workplace, but we need a better support system for these key subjects in my State, and nationwide.

The National Mathematics and Science Partnerships Act is not by itself a solution to solving the crisis in technical education. However, in conjunction with the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act will begin the process of addressing a major national problem. I urge my colleagues to join us in making our children the best in the world.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a summary of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

NATIONAL MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE PARTNERSHIPS ACT

The overall purpose of this bill is to make a major impact on the teaching of technical subjects in Grades K-12. Many studies have indicated that the US is seriously lacking in our ability to effectively convey scientific knowledge to K-12 students that will enable them to go on to college and major in technical fields. This situation has led to concern that we are losing our competitive edge in the modern world. A key element is the serious shortage of qualified math and science teachers. This bill helps by bringing the wider community including industry into the educational process by increasing the number of qualified teachers, and by providing for access to support in the form of materials, research opportunities, and Centers of Research on Learning.

Most of the provisions of this bill originated in the House Science Committee and some of them reflect the Administration’s priorities. We have been working with the Science Committee for several months. Our major input is the inclusion of a Title that establishes scholarships for additional teachers who commit to teach mathematics or science in Grades K-12 in return. We have evaluated the other provisions and agree with them as will be reflected in the bill we are planning to introduce. The provisions of the proposed Senate bill are summarized below.

PROVISIONS OF THE “NATIONAL MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE PARTNERSHIPS ACT”

1. Mathematics and Science Education Partnerships: This provides for universities or consortia to receive grants to establish partnerships programs to improve the instruction of math and science. The partnerships may include local educational agencies and there is a mandate that 50% will include businesses. There is a strong section on programs aimed at girls. The appropriation is $15M/year for 2002-2006.

2. Teacher Research Stipends: This provides grants for K–12 math and science teachers to do research in math, science and engineering to improve their performance in the classroom. The appropriation is $15M/year for 2002-2006.

3. National Science, Mathematics, Engineering, and Technology Education Library: This Title expands the existing Digital Library to archive and provide for the timely dissemination through the Internet and other digital technologies of educational materials to support the teaching of technical subjects. The appropriation is $20M/year for 2002-2006.

4. Education Research Centers: This Section will establish 4 multi disciplinary Centers for Research on Learning and Education Improvement. This provision is to do research in cognitive science, education, and related fields to develop ways to improve the teaching of math and science. It also provides for an annual conference to disseminate the results of the Center’s activities. The appropriation is $15M/year for 2002-2004.

5. Education Research Teacher Fellowship: This Section provides grants for institutions of higher education to enable teachers to have research opportunities related to the science of learning. The appropriation is $5M/year for 2002-2004.

6. Robert Noyce Scholarship Program: This Title is an updated version of a scholarship program that Senator Rockefeller and I worked on in 1989. It is based on the Noyce scholarship program that Senator Rockefeller and Rep. Boehlert sponsored and passed in 1989. It calls for grants to universities or consortia to award scholarships or stipends to students who agree to become K-12 math or science teachers. Scholarships are for $7,500 and are limited to 2 years. In addition, there are provisions for a stipend to enable mid-career math, science and engineering professionals to receive their certificate to teach. The stipend is $7,500 for 1 year. Recipients under this subtitle are obligated to teach math or science. The requirement is 2 years for each year of support within 6 years of graduation. The university or consortium receiving the grant is responsible for monitoring compliance and collecting refunds from those who do not comply. The appropriation is $20M/year for 2002-2005 plus an unspecified amount for the NSF to administer the program for 2005.

Political History: While the Noyce scholarship was authorized in 1989, we never secured appropriations to fund the program, in part because NSF had concerns about the scholarships and never lobbied OMB for the appropriations. This time, we worked with NSF staff to get their consent so that we really can do something with these scholarships and the program is a criteria for awarding grants. There is no appropriation for the Title.
The bill to be voted on by the House also contains a number of provisions added during the Science Committee Mark-up. These are contained in a title called “Miscellaneous Provisions”.

1. Mathematics and Science Proficiency Partnership Act: This section sets up a demonstration project for local educational agencies to develop a program to build technology curricula, purchase equipment, and provide professional development for teachers. It is specifically aimed at economically disadvantaged students and requires private sector participation in the private sector that donates equipment, provides funds for internships and scholarships, and other activities helping the objectives of this section. The appropriation is $5M/year for 2002-2004.

2. Articulation Partnerships between Community Colleges and Secondary Schools: Amends the “Scientific and Advanced Technology Act of 1992” (P.L. 102-476) to direct the NSF to give priority to proposals that involve students who are under represented in technical fields. (The act applies to two year and four year granting colleges.) The appropriation is $5M/year for 2002-2004.

3. Assessment of In-Service Teacher Professional Development Programs: This section requires the Department of Education to review all programs sponsored by the NSF that support in-service teacher professional development for science teachers. The purpose is to determine whether information technology is being used effectively and how resources are allocated between summer activities and reinforcement training. A report is due one year after enactment of this Act. There is no appropriation.

4. Instructional Materials: The NSF may provide initial reports to Congress and provide an update every year for the next 5 years. The reports are to how Broadband access can used and can be effective in the educational process. There is no appropriation. This section relates to the ERATE law to which Senator Rockefeller is very committed.

5. Study of In-Service Teacher Professional Development Programs: Provides for the Director of the NSF to enter into an agreement with the National Academies of Sciences and Engineering to review existing studies on the effectiveness of technology in the classroom and to make recommendations for future improvements. The appropriation is $500K.

6. Mathematics and Science Partnerships Act: The NSF shall convene an annual 5-7 day conference for K-12 technology education stakeholders to 1. identify and gather information on existing programs, 2. determine the coordination between providers, and 3. identify the common goals and divergences among the participants. There will be a yearly report to the Senate Commerce Committee and the House Science Committee.

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I rise today, along with my colleagues, Senator ROCKEFELLER and Senator KENNEDY, to introduce a piece of legislation that continues to build on our efforts to improve math and science education.

The National Mathematics and Science Partnerships Act creates a program to support the National Science Foundation NSF, that provides a variety of recruitment incentives for college students and individuals who are engineering, science and math professionals in other fields, to pursue teaching math and science. Additionally, math and science teachers are provided with a variety of professional development opportunities. I am pleased to include in this legislation a portion of a bill I introduced earlier this year, S. 478, the Engineering, Science, Technology and Mathematics Education Enhancement Act.

The Math and Science Partnerships Act will provide grants for K-12 math and science teachers to do research in engineering, science and math to do research in these areas to improve their performance in the classroom, a demonstration project for LEAs to develop a program to build technology curricula, purchase equipment and provide professional development for teachers specifically aimed at economically disadvantaged students. It also provides in-service support and a master teacher grant program to hire master teachers who are responsible for in-classroom help and oversight. Additionally, the legislation allows school students in pursuit of their careers as math and science teachers by informing them of courses they should complete in preparation for college.

Bipartisan efforts to increase and enhance math and science education has been encouraging and I am glad to see that math and science education is finally beginning to receive the recognition that is needed and deserved.

The need to recruit and retain teachers in the math and science fields as well as the need for professional development opportunities for teachers currently teaching math and science is crucial. An article that appeared on May 6th in The Hutchinson News, discusses the teacher recruiting woes that the State of Kansas is experiencing. The article highlights Fort Hays State University in Hays, KS and tells of a young graduate, Lora Clark, who has a teaching degree in mathematics. With her degree Lora could have found a job anywhere in the State of Kansas or with several other States who were recruiting Fort Hays State teaching graduates. Thankfully, she chose to stay in her home state and fill a mathematics teaching position in Haysville, Kansas.

However, what stands out most from the article is the number of math and science positions available at the career fair at Fort Hays State and the number of students who graduated with teaching degrees in math and science. There were 125 math and science teaching positions available and only 8 students graduating with math and science teaching degrees. We desperately need to fill these positions with teachers who have been properly trained and have professional development opportunities in order to encourage students to pursue fields in engineering, science, technology and math. The U.S. will need to produce between four and five times as many scientists and engineers than we currently produce in order to meet future demand. The U.S. has been a leader in technology for decades and the need for skilled workers that will require technical expertise continues to climb. Congress has had to increase the number of H-1B visas to fill current labor shortages within these fields, we need to focus on long-term solutions through the education of our children.

Improving our students knowledge of math and science is not only a concern of American companies but also a concern of U.S. National Security. According to the latest reports and studies regarding National Security, the lack of math and science education beginning at the K-12 level imposes a serious security threat. The report issued by the U.S. Commission on National Security for the 21st Century reports that “The base of American national security is the strength of the American economy. Therefore, health of the U.S. economy depends not only on an elite that can produce and direct innovation, but also on a populace that can effective apply technical expertise to climb. Congress has had to increase the number of H-1B visas to fill current labor shortages within these fields, we need to focus on long-term solutions through the education of our children.”

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We are all aware of the need for good teacher recruitment and retention programs because of the shortage of teachers many of our states are experiencing.
The Air National Guard supports the vision of re-unifying the pipeline and tank farm, as does the Maine State Department of Transportation and Sprague Industries, the current owner of the land on which part of the tank farm sits. In consideration of the large geographical expanse of my State, with often treacherous winter conditions, and the fuel shortages that have vexed the Northeast over the past two winters, I believe that the conveyance of this tank farm and the adjoining pipeline would serve the public well. It would provide a safer means of transporting fuel and, by presenting a more efficient means of accessing fuel, manufacturing and processing plants currently considering new operations in the economically-challenged area would be better connected to the resources of the Eastern seaboard.

By Mr. DURBIN. (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. REID, Mr. DODD, Mr. WELLS and Mr. FEINGOLD) S. 1265. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to require the Attorney General to cancel the removal and adjust the status of certain aliens who were brought to the United States as children; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, this past Spring thousands of students across our Nation donned their caps and gowns and received their high school diplomas as their proud parents and family members looked on. This is an important milestone in the lives of both the graduates and their parents.

However, while many of these graduates will be looking forward to college, tens of thousands of these students and their families faced a difficult choice. These children and their families were brought to the United States at a very young age by their parents and did not have the opportunity to make an independent decision about where they would live. They had no choice in the matter. Thus, they grew up here. They went to school here. And like other children, they too had thoughts of realizing the American dream. These dreams are quickly dashed when these students realize that, unlike their classmates, college is not on their horizon because of their immigration status.

Although Congress and the United States Supreme Court rightfully require State and local education agencies to admit undocumented children to attend elementary and secondary school, there are very few mechanisms under current law for these children to legalize their immigration status or go on to college once they have completed their high school education. They are effectively denied the opportunity to go to college and are constantly under the threat of deportation. Their lives are filled with uncertainty and lost opportunity.

This is why I, along with Senators KENNEDY, REID, DODD, WELLS, CORZINE, and FEINGOLD, am introducing the Children's Adjustment, Relief, and Education Act, CARE Act. Representatives CANNON, BERNAN, and ROYBAL-ALFORD introduced a companion bill in the House on May 21, 2001.

The CARE Act would provide immigration relief to undocumented children who are in the United States, have lived a significant portion of their lives in this country, are of good moral character, and are interested in remaining in the country and continuing their education. The CARE Act would help lift these vulnerable children from the shadows of society and free them to go to college, regularize their status, and fully contribute to our country, now their country.

The CARE Act includes three major provisions.

As to restoration of the State option to determine residency for purposes of higher education benefits for undocumented individuals, the Act would repeal Section 505 of the 1996 immigration law, under which any State that provides in-state tuition to undocumented immigrants must provide the same tuition break or benefit to out-of-state residents. In other words, under Section 505, a State must charge the same tuition to out-of-state U.S. citizens as it charges to resident undocumented aliens. Repeal of Section 505 would restore to the States the authority to determine their own residency rules.

As to immigration relief for long-term resident students, second, the Act would permit students in America's schools who have good moral character, reside in the United States, and have lived in the United States for at least five years to obtain special immigration relief, known as cancellation of removal, so that they can go to college and eventually become United States citizens. The Act also applies to high school graduates who are under 21 years of age and are either enrolled in or are seriously pursuing admission to college.

As to higher education benefits for Student Adjustment Act applicants, finally, the Act would ensure that students who are applying for immigration relief under the Act may obtain federal student assistance on the same basis as other students while their application is being processed.

This legislation would help children like Luis Miguel in my home State of Illinois. Luis was born to a single mother in Guadalajara, Mexico. His mother was having a very difficult time living in Mexico so she decided to take her children and migrate to the United States. Luis was eight years old. He didn't have a say in the matter.
There being no objection, the bill was ordered to be printed in the Record, as follows:

S. 1265

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE. This Act may be cited as the “Children’s Adjustment, Relief, and Education Act” or the “CARE Act”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITION. In this Act, the term “secondary school student” means a student enrolled in any of the grades 7 through 12.

SEC. 3. STATE FLEXIBILITY IN PROVIDING IN-STATE TUITION FOR COLLEGE-AGE ALIEN CHILDREN. (a) In General.—Section 505 of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-208; division C, tit. 130, stat. 3009-3672 (8 U.S.C. 1255b)) is hereby repealed.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The repeal made by paragraph (a) applies to an individual who begins attendance at an institution of higher education on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 4. CANCELLATION OF REMOVAL AND ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS FOR CERTAIN ALIEN CHILDREN. (a) In General.—Section 240A of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1232a) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b), by inserting at the end the following new paragraph:

“(5) SPECIAL RULE FOR RESIDENTS BROUGHT TO THE UNITED STATES AS CHILDREN.—

“(A) AUTHORITY.—Subject to the restrictions in subparagraph (B), the Attorney General shall cancel removal of, and adjust to the status of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence, an alien who is inadmissible or deportable from the United States, if the alien applies for relief under this paragraph and demonstrates that on the date of application for such relief—

“(i) the alien had not attained the age of 21; 

“(ii) the alien had been physically present in the United States for a continuous period of not less than five years immediately preceding the date of application; and 

“(iii) the alien had been a person of good moral character during the five-year period preceding the application; and 

“(iv) the alien—

“(I) was a secondary school student in the United States; 

“(II) was attending an institution of higher education in the United States as defined in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001); or 

“(III) with respect to whom the registrar of such an institution of higher education in the United States had certified that the alien had applied for admission, met the minimum standards for admission, and was being considered for admission. 

“(B) RESTRICTIONS ON AUTHORITY.—Subparagraph (A) does not apply to—

“(i) an alien who is inadmissible under section 212(a)(3)(C) (or is deportable under section 237(a)(2)(A)(i)), unless the Attorney General determines that the alien’s removal would result in extreme hardship to the alien’s family, 

“(ii) an alien who is a child (as defined in section 101(n)(12) of the Act); or 

“(iii) an alien who is inadmissible under section 212(a)(3), or is deportable under section 237(a)(2)(B)(i), if—

“(I) the alien was physically present in the United States for a continuous period of not less than five years immediately preceding the date of application (as determined by the Attorney General); and 

“(II) the alien had been a person of good moral character during the five-year period preceding the application; and 

“(III) the alien had been a full-time student of a title IV institution during the four-year period preceding the date of application; and 

“(IV) the alien has met the requirements at any time during the four-year period of—

“(aa) attending an institution of higher education that is a designated entity, 

“(bb) demonstrating financial need, 

“(cc) meeting the qualifications of clause (i) of section 101(a)(15)(B) of the Act, or 

“(dd) being an eligible student as defined in section 481 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1071); 

“(e) a student described in subparagraph (B) who has been granted student status by the Attorney General; 

“(f) an alien who is eligible for student status under section 244(e) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1255a(e)), in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Attorney General; or 

“(g) an alien described in paragraphs (1) and (2) who has failed to maintain continuous physical presence in the United States for a continuous period of not less than five years immediately preceding the date of application (as determined by the Attorney General); and 

“(h) an alien described in paragraphs (1) and (2) who has failed to meet any of the requirements of clause (i) of section 101(a)(15)(B) of the Act.”

(b) EXEMPTION FROM NUMERICAL LIMITATIONS.—Section 260A of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1255b), as amended by this Act, is further amended in subsection (a)(1)(A) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(C) Aliens described in subsection (b)(5).”.

(c) APPLICATION OF PROVISIONS.—For the purpose of applying section 240A(b)(5)(A) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (as added by subsection (a)—

(1) an individual shall be deemed to have met the qualifications of clause (i) of such section 240A(b)(5)(A) if the individual—

(A) had not attained the age of 21 prior to the date of enactment of this Act; and 

(B) the individual has graduated from, or is on the date of application for relief under such section 240A(b)(5) an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence in the United States (as defined in clause (iv) of such section 240A(b)(5)(A)).

(d) CONFIDENTIALITY OF INFORMATION.—(1) PROHIBITION.—Neither the Attorney General, nor any other official or employee of the Department of Justice may—

(A) use the information furnished by the alien pursuant to an application filed under section 240A(b)(5) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (as added by this Act) for any purpose other than to make a determination on the application; 

(B) make any publication whereby the information furnished by any particular individual can be identified; or 

(C) permit anyone other than the sworn officers and employees of the Department or, with respect to applications filed under such section 240A(b)(5) with a designated entity, that designated entity, to examine individual applications.

(2) PENALTY.—Whoever knowingly uses, publishes, or permits information to be examined in violation of this subsection shall be fined not more than $10,000.

(e) REGULATIONS.—(1) PROPOSED REGULATION.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney General shall publish proposed regulations implementing this section.

(2) INTERIM, FINAL REGULATIONS.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney General shall publish final regulations implementing this section. Such regulations shall be effective immediately on an interim basis, but shall be subject to change and revising after public notice and opportunity for a period of public comment.

(3) ELEMENTS OF REGULATIONS.—In promulgating regulations described in paragraphs (1) and (2), the Attorney General shall do the following:

(A) APPLICATION FOR RELIEF.—Establish a procedure allowing eligible individuals to apply affirmatively for the relief available under section 240A(b)(5) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (as added by this Act) without being placed in removal proceedings.

(B) CONTINUOUS PRESENCE.—Ensure that an alien shall not be considered to have failed to maintain continuous physical presence in the United States for a continuous period of not less than five years in accordance with section 240A(b)(5)(ii) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (as added by this Act) by virtue of...
brief, casual, and innocent absences from the United States.

(f) Conforming Amendment.—Section 240A(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1229b(b)), as amended by this Act, is further amended in paragraph (4) by striking "paragraph (1) or (2)" each place it occurs and inserting "paragraph (1), (2), or (5)".

SEC. 5. Eligibility of Cancellation Applicants for Educational Assistance.

(a) Qualified Aliens.—Section 431 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1641(b)) is amended by adding at the end of the following new paragraph: "(8) for purposes of determining eligibility for postsecondary educational assistance, including grants, scholarships, and loans, an alien with respecto whom an application has been filed for relief under section 240A(b)(5) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, but whose application has not been finally adjudicated.

(b) Effective Date.—The amendment made by this section shall apply as if enacted on August 22, 1996.

Mr. Kennedy. Mr. President, I strongly support the Children's Adjustment, Relief, and Education Act. This needed legislation will give thousands of immigrant children who are presently unable to obtain a higher education a fair opportunity to realize the American dream.

For too many of these children, the highest level of education they can hope to attain is a high school diploma. It is not their lack of ability or their lack of desire which holds these children back. It is the fact that they were born abroad to parents who unlawfully entered this country. Under current law, they are often denied State and Federal aid for higher education. In an economy in which higher education is a prerequisite for higher wages and benefits, the result of current law is to relegate these children to an uncertain future.

It is wrong to punish these children for their parents' actions. That is why I strongly support the CARE Act. It will help undocumented children who are in the United States, who have lived a significant portion of their lives in this country, who are of good moral character, and who want to remain in this country and continue their education. It will give them special immigration relief so that they can go to college and eventually become U.S. citizens. I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

By Mr. CRAPO (for himself Mr. LUGAR Mr. ROBERTS, and Mr. HUTCHINSON):

S. 1267. A bill to extend and improve conservation programs administered by the Secretary of Agriculture; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Conservation Extension and Enhancement, CEE, Act. I am pleased to be joined in intro-

ducing this bill by Senator Richard Lugar, the Ranking Member of the Senate Agriculture Committee, Senator Patrick Spectors, and Senator Tim Hutchinson.

America's agricultural producers have long been the best stewards of the land. This legislation helps farmers and ranchers continue to meet the public's increasing demands for cleaner air and water, greater soil conservation, increased wildlife habitat, and more open space. These demands have resulted in more stringent applications of Federal and State environmental regulations, including the Clean Water Act, the Clean Air Act, and the Endangered Species Act. It is appropriate we direct our funding to help producers in their efforts to provide these public benefits.

Conservation is an important component of Federal policy. Unfortunately, this proposal dedicates the resources necessary to ensure farmers and ranchers are receiving the assistance they need to provide the environmental benefits the public deserves. It will keep working farms working. This program provides technical and economic and environmental perspective.

To do this, CEE re-authorizes necessary conservation programs, makes enhancements to these voluntary programs, and provides increased funding to meet increasing needs.

The last farm bill built on the past successes of the Conservation Reserve Program, CRP, and Wetlands Reserve Program, WRP, and enhanced the flexibility of the compliance programs, while creating a number of new conservation programs. There are many success stories associated with these programs, both new and old. However, there have also been suggestions made to improve these programs. This initiative implements those suggestions to make the programs more effective and increases their funding.

CRP has been one of the most successful conservation programs in USDA history. The program provides a rental payment to producers for voluntarily converting highly-erodible or environmentally-sensitive cropland to a cover crop or grasses or trees. The program has led to a tremendous reduction in soil erosion, and has been responsible for creation of habitat for a wide variety of species. CEE has currently nearing its acreage cap.

I share the concerns of many producers and rural Americans about the impact of idled land on production and main street economies. CEE increases the acreage cap by 3.6 million acres to a total of 40 million acres, but it sets aside those 3.6 million acres for continuous enrollment CRP and the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, CREEP. These two programs, continuous CRP and CREEP, focus on conservation buffers, allowing producers to maintain working lands, while getting assistance in protecting their most environmentally-sensitive lands.

WRP has played an important role in protecting and restoring wetlands. WRP provides payments to producers for voluntarily enrolling acreage in thirty-year, or ten-year easements. It also provides technical and financial assistance to land owners seeking help in restoring wetlands. The environmental benefits of wetlands cannot be underestimated. Unfortunately, WRP is nearing its acreage cap of 1.075 million acres. CEE allows for an additional 250,000 acres to be enrolled in the program annually.

The Farmland Protection Program is targeted at easing development pressure on agricultural lands. It provides a payment to producers who agree to enroll land in easements and has been an important program in meeting the public demand for open space. Again, producers demand far outpaces available funding. CEE provides $100 million annually to this important program.

Another successful program in need of continued authorization and funding is the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program. This program provides technical and financial assistance to producers who want to establish improved fish and wildlife habitat. My bill provides $100 million annually to this program, while creating a pilot project that assists landowners in focusing their efforts on addressing species concerns before the species is in threat of listing under the endangered species act.

One of the most important programs available to assist producers is the Environmental Quality Incentives Program. EQIP provides technical and financial assistance to producers to adopt conservation practices. Demand for the program greatly exceeds existing funding. CEE provides for a tripling of the funding, while providing flexibility in the program. EQIP is the primary vehicle for assisting producers to comply with the Clean Water Act. It has been estimated producers will have to spend billions to comply with new regulations, such as total maximum daily loads and confined animal feeding operations. Increasing the funding and flexibility of the EQIP programs is vital to helping producers meet the challenges of the Clean Water Act and other environmental regulations.

Also included in this comprehensive bill is the creation of the Grasslands Reserve Program. Like the other conservation programs created through past farm bills, it is a bipartisan-supported, voluntary program. The Grasslands Reserve Program would be a voluntary grassland easement program to provide protections for native grasslands. This will ease development pressure on ranchlands, providing a long-term commitment to wildlife and the environment. I am also pleased to be a co-sponsor of a free-standing Grassland's legislation introduced by my colleague, Senator Larry Craig.
CCE also provides funding for the Conservation of Private Grazing Lands program. This program offers technical assistance to ranchers seeking to implement best management practices and other range improvements.

The bill codifies existing practices for the Resource Conservation and Development, RC&D, program, while increasing flexibility in the use of funds. RC&Ds effectively leverage federal funds to assist in stabilizing and growing communities while protecting and developing natural resources.

CCE also provides for several studies. It authorizes a National Academy of Sciences study to develop a protocol for measuring accomplishments. This protocol is necessary to ensure we are getting maximum environmental benefits for the taxpayer.

The bill also directs the Secretary of Agriculture to review existing disaster programs and report on how to improve the timeliness and effectiveness of the overall disaster program. Natural disasters are a constant threat to farmers and ranchers. Flooding, drought, fire, and other natural events impact even the most efficient operations, causing losses beyond producer control. An effective disaster program is vital to the survival of many farms and ranches.

Conservation programs are vital to continued progress in creating efficient, environmentally and farmer-friendly agricultural policies. This bill sets a baseline as we endeavor to create a farm policy that recognizes the importance of conservation efforts, builds upon past efforts, is equitable, and has measurable achievements. I ask my colleagues to join me in co-sponsoring this bill.

STATEMENTS ON SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 140—DESIGNATING THE WEEK BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 15, 2002 AS 'NATIONAL CIVIC PARTICIPATION WEEK'.

Mr. ROBERTS (for himself, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) submitted the following resolution: which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

S. Res. 140

Whereas the United States embarks on this new millennium as the world's model of democratic ideals, economic enterprise, and technological innovation and discovery;

Whereas our Nation's preeminence is a tribute to our great 21st-century-old experiment in representative government that nurtures those ideals, fosters economic vitality, and encourages innovation and discovery;

Whereas our Nation's leaders to foster civic discourse, education, and participation in Federal, State, and local affairs;

Whereas civic and political participation remains the school in which citizens engage in the free, diverse, and positive political dialogue that guides our Nation toward common interests, consensus, and good government;

Whereas it is in the public interest for our Nation's leaders to foster civic discourse, education, and participation in Federal, State, and local affairs;

Whereas the advent of revolutionary Internet technology offers new mechanisms for empowering our citizens and fostering greater civic engagement than at anytime in our peacetime history; and

Whereas the use of new technologies can bring people together in civic forums, educate citizens on their roles and responsibilities, and engage citizens in the political process through volunteerism, voting, and the elevation of voices in public discourse: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved.

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION OF NATIONAL CIVIC PARTICIPATION WEEK.

The Senate—

(1) designates the week beginning September 15, 2002, as "National Civic Participation Week";

(2) proclaims National Civic Participation Week as a week of inauguration of programs and activities that will lead to greater participation in elections and the political process; and

(3) requests that the President issue a proclamation calling upon interested organizations and the people of the United States to promote programs and activities that take full advantage of the technological resources available in fostering civic participation through the dissemination of information.

Mr. ROBERTS, Madam President, we stand in the midst of an amazing period of history. Not since the industrial revolution has society witnessed such an explosion of technological advancements. The rise of the Internet yields volumes of information to anyone at anytime and is only a mouse click away. It is imperative that we use this medium responsibly.

The strength of our country is deeply rooted in informed citizens freely exchanging ideas. Common men and women engaged in the political process is the lifeblood of the United States. As legislators, we are the stewards of democracy. It is our duty to encourage citizens of all persuasions to actively play a role in this democratic saga.

With the emergence of the Internet, there is no better way to make this possible than by supporting this resolution. I, along with my distinguished colleague, DIANNE FEINSTEIN of California, am submitting a resolution entitled, "The National Civic Participation Week Resolution", as a week of September 15, 2002 as a time devoted to the education of the political process on the Internet. This resolution challenges the technical industry to create Web sites that promote civic involvement. Further, it calls on local communities to establish links that provide information to its citizens, such as polling locations, registration, and voter information.

We submit this resolution today in response to the declining participation in the American political system, particularly among younger citizens. I offer some sobering statistics: In the last presidential election, of the 25.5 million Americans between the ages of 18–24, only 10 percent registered to vote and only 16 percent actually voted. In the 1996 presidential election, of the 24 million Americans that age, only 47 percent registered, and 32 percent voted. 22 percent of U.S. teens did not know from whom the United States won its independence. 14 percent thought it was France. 10 percent didn't know there were thirteen original colonies. About 23 percent didn't know who fought in the civil war.

Our country has come along way from the early days of the thirteen colonies. Those were times, as Alexis de Tocqueville wrote in his "Democracy in America," of citizens creating "freedom schools" to teach and learn of freedom and democracy and the role that each of us can play to help it flourish.

We believe that the Internet and other new technologies can play a crucial role in acting as "freedom schools." With so many young people drawn to the Internet, it is an ideal medium to cultivate democratic virtues and encourage participation. The possibilities are numerous. The World Wide Web has the potential to assist citizens on finding information with how the government works, how laws are made, and how citizens can effectively communicate with their elected officials.

This resolution offers no Federal mandates or governmental expenditures. It does not prescribe what information should be posted on the web or how it is disseminated. Instead, we as Senators are making a collective statement that we recognize the power of the Internet and its vast potential at promoting civic virtues. It is a resolution that encourages those within the technology industry to provide valuable information on the inner-workings of democracy.

Let us use the Internet's vast information highway to cultivate learning and greater awareness in civic affairs. It is our sincere hope that we can rekindle the spirit of the "freedom school" of the American Revolution through the Internet. May these new technologies illuminate and continue the lessons and dreams of our forefathers.