

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 Pennsylvania (Mr. SANTORUM), the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI), the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY), the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. WELLSTONE) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. CORZINE) 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. 1140

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. GREGG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1140, a bill to amend chapter 1 of title 9, United States Code, to provide for greater fairness in the arbitration process relating to motor vehicle franchise contracts.

S. 1169

At the request of Mr. FEINGOLD, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. KOHL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1169, a bill to streamline the regulatory processes applicable to home health agencies under the medicare program under title XVIII of the Social Security Act and the medicaid program under title XIX of such Act, and for other purposes.

S. 1201

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. BENNETT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1201, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for S corporation reform, and for other purposes.

S. 1208

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was withdrawn as a cosponsor of S. 1208, a bill to combat the trafficking, distribution, and abuse of Ecstasy (and other club drugs) in the United States.

S. 1209

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1209, a bill to amend the Trade Act of 1974 to consolidate and improve the trade adjustment assistance programs, to provide community-based economic development assistance for trade-affected communities, and for other purposes.

S. 1349

At the request of Mr. ENSIGN, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SANTORUM) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. SMITH) were added as cosponsors of S. 1349, a bill to provide for a National Stem Cell Donor Bank regarding qualifying human stem

cells, and for the conduct and support of research using such cells.

S. RES. 132

At the request of Mr. CAMPBELL, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. THURMOND) was added as a cosponsor of S.Res. 132, a resolution recognizing the social problem of child abuse and neglect, and supporting efforts to enhance public awareness of it.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER:

S. 1408. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to standardize the income threshold for copayment for outpatient medications with the income threshold for inability to defray necessary expense of care, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans Affairs.

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I am pleased to introduce today legislation that would exempt certain veterans from copayments for needed prescription drugs.

Currently, veterans with incomes of less than \$24,000 a year are exempt from copayments for most VA health care services. However, when it comes to prescription drugs, the income threshold for exemption is just \$9,000 a year. Veterans earning over \$9,000, well below the poverty threshold established by the Census Bureau, are required to make copayments. These copayments place an undue burden on our poorest veterans. To compound the problem, the Department of Veterans Affairs recently proposed increasing the copayment for prescription drugs from \$2 to \$7 per 30-day prescription.

I have serious concerns about what this copayment increase will mean for veterans. Indeed, I have already heard from a number of veterans whose incomes hover just above the \$9,000 threshold, who must make the required copayments for their pharmaceuticals. Many of them are on several different medications for multiple medical conditions, each requiring their own copay. There are many veterans like Steven Smith, formerly of Greenwood, WV, who has no health insurance except Medicare and depends upon the VA for his medications. With the lack of a Medicare drug benefit, he, and many veterans like him, are faced with a 350 percent increase in what they must pay for life-sustaining medications.

I am not alone in my concerns about the impact the copayment increase will have on veterans. In commenting on the proposed regulations, the VFW recently cited an example of a veteran who has an annual income of \$10,500, just above the current exemption limit set by VA. The increase in the prescription copayment rate would force that veteran to allocate over 8 percent of his annual income just to prescription

drugs. There is a grave danger that, faced with this situation, many veterans will stop seeking necessary medical care because they are priced out of the system.

At a glance, the increase to \$7 per prescription may seem reasonable enough and in keeping with industry standards. However, consider a veteran with an income of about \$9,000 a year who currently pays \$2 per prescription for 10 medications a month. He presently incurs out-of-pocket costs of \$240 a year. Under the new regulations, his costs would go up to \$840 per year, an increase of \$600. For someone living barely over the \$9,000 annual income threshold, this is a substantial sum.

I am also concerned about disparities in how VA defines who is "poor" for the purpose of exemption from health care copayments. For prescription drugs, veterans with more than \$9,000 annual income must make copayments, but for outpatient care, hospitalization, and extended care, the income threshold for copayments is \$24,000 per year. My proposed legislation would raise the exemption level for prescription copays to make them the same as all other VA health care copays. It will be less confusing to veterans, easier to administer, and quite simply, it's the right thing to do.

My legislation, the Veterans' Copayment Adjustment Act, would also require VA to delay implementing the increase in prescription copayments until we see an adjustment to copayments for other health care services. On July 24, I held a hearing on prescription drug issues in VA. At that hearing, we heard testimony from VA Secretary Anthony Principi who also believes that new drug copayments shouldn't be put into effect until we see a reduction in other health care copayments.

As part of the Veterans Millennium Health Care and Benefits Act, Congress gave VA authority to adjust the different health care copayments. This was intended to make VA's copayments more rational. Currently, veterans must make a copayment of over \$50 for outpatient care services. There is no doubt that \$50 for a routine outpatient visit is unreasonable at best, and at worst, discourages veterans from getting the primary care they need. By delaying the increase in the medication copayment until VA implements its adjusted outpatient copayment, we will reduce the negative financial impact on our Nation's veterans. I am confident that VA will study this issue closely and will expeditiously set the outpatient copayment to be more in line with managed care plans.

I urge my Senate colleagues to join me in seeking to provide affordable health care for our sick and disabled veterans. They have sacrificed for all of us, and deserve every effort we can

make to keep them from having to choose between buying needed prescription drugs and putting food on the table.

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. 1408

*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 "Veterans' Copayment Adjustment Act".

**SEC. 2. STANDARDIZATION OF INCOME THRESHOLDS FOR COPAYMENT FOR OUTPATIENT MEDICATIONS AND FOR INABILITY TO DEFRAY NECESSARY EXPENSES OF CARE.**

(a) **STANDARDIZATION.**—Section 1722A(a)(3)(B) of title 38, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

"(B) to a veteran whose attributable income is not greater than the amount provided for in subsection (b) of section 1722 of this title, as adjusted from time to time under subsection (c) of that section."

(b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect on January 1, 2002, and shall apply with respect to calendar years beginning on or after that date.

**SEC. 3. LIMITATION ON IMPLEMENTATION OF INCREASE IN COPAYMENTS FOR OUTPATIENT MEDICATIONS PENDING COLLECTION OF COPAYMENTS FOR OUTPATIENT CARE.**

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs may not implement under section 1722A(b)(1) of title 38, United States Code, an increase in the copayment amount for medications furnished on an outpatient basis under section 1722A(a) of that title until the Secretary commences collection of amounts for outpatient visits for medical services under section 1710(g) of that title.

By Mr. McCONNELL (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. CRAPO, Mrs. CLINTON, Mrs. CARNAHAN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. TORRICELLI, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. CLELAND, Mr. ENSIGN, Mr. JOHNSON, and Mr. INOUE):

S. 1409. A bill to impose sanctions against the PLO or the Palestinian Authority if the President determines that those entities have failed to substantially comply with commitments made to the State of Israel; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

MIDDLE EAST PEACE COMPLIANCE ACT OF 2001

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I am today joining with my good friend, Senator FEINSTEIN from California, who is in the Chamber as well, in offering the Middle East Peace Compliance Act of 2001. We do that with the support also of our colleagues, Senators DASCHLE, SCHUMER, MIKULSKI, CRAPO, CLINTON, CARNAHAN, BOXER, TORRICELLI, EDWARDS, CLELAND, ENSIGN, and SHELBY.

We also do so with full appreciation of the dire and untenable situation in the Middle East.

Given the ongoing and relentless bloodshed in the Middle East, the time has come for finger pointing. Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat—and the terrorists he allows free reign in the West Bank and Gaza—are guilty of waging a guerrilla war against America's most important and reliable ally in that region. Scores of innocent Israeli men, women and children have been killed by bombs, bullets, knives, and stones. In acts of cowardice, Palestinian suicide bombers have caused death and destruction in discos, pizza parlors, cafes, and on the streets of Jerusalem and Tel Aviv.

There appears no end to this madness. On Monday of this week, four bombs exploded in the Jerusalem neighborhood of French Hill. On Tuesday, a Palestinian suicide bomber disguised as an orthodox Jew killed himself and injured others on a Jerusalem street close to two international schools. One wonders how much more of this terror the people of Israel can—or should—endure.

Mr. Arafat and his minions are enlisting Palestinians of all ages to their misguided cause of mutually assured destruction. One Palestinian children's television show reportedly broadcast a song: "When I wander into Jerusalem, I will become a suicide bomber." Mr. President, Israel is well aware of the people in Mr. Arafat's Neighborhood, and they are not ones they, or any peaceful loving people, would choose to associate with.

The legislation we are introducing will make clear the intentions of Mr. Arafat and the PLO. In a report to Congress, the Administration is required to determine whether or not the PLO has lived up to its 1993 commitments under the Oslo Accords to renounce violence against Israel, and what steps have been taken by the PLO and the Palestinian Authority to investigate and prosecute those responsible for killing American and Israeli citizens. Should the Administration determine that the PLO's actions run contrary to their word, the President is required to immediately suspend all assistance to the West Bank and Gaza, except humanitarian aid. He is also required to initiate additional sanctions against the PLO, which may include denying visas to senior officials and downgrading their representative office in the United States.

I intend to offer this legislation, along with Senator FEINSTEIN, as an amendment to the Foreign Operations Appropriations bill, which may be considered by the full Senate in the near future.

While I will have much more to say on the situation in the Middle East at a later date, let me close by asking a question of my colleagues: If the daily terrorists attacks taking place against Israelis were occurring on American

soil against U.S. citizens, what would our response be? A democracy in a region of dictatorships and kingdoms, Israel has the right and responsibility to protect and defend its citizens against terrorism. The United States should be clear in its support of Israel exercising this right, in whatever manner the people of Israel, through their elected leaders, deem appropriate. To date, Israel has shown remarkable restraint.

Mr. McCONNELL. With great thanks to my colleague from California in collaborating with me on this effort, and looking forward to further efforts on behalf of this proposal, I now yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California is recognized.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Kentucky for his leadership. We have consulted together on this bill, and I am very proud to join him as the lead Democratic cosponsor.

I ask unanimous consent to put the following Members from this side of the aisle on the bill: Senators DASCHLE, SCHUMER, MIKULSKI, CLINTON, CARNAHAN, BOXER, TORRICELLI, EDWARDS, and CLELAND.

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

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, the Senator from Kentucky and I joined together in this legislation because we believe that if the violence between the Palestinians and Israel is to end and the peace process is to gain any momentum, the Palestinian leadership must show it can muster the political will that is necessary to meet the commitments they made at Oslo.

Most people, I think, don't know what the Oslo accords were. In fact, the Oslo accords were letters that were sent between the Palestinian and Israeli leadership in 1993. Those letters became the Oslo accords.

I want to indicate what the Palestinians, over the signature of their chairman, Mr. Arafat, said they would do on September 9, 1993:

The PLO recognizes the right of the State of Israel to exist in peace and security.

The PLO accepts United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

The PLO commits itself to the Middle East peace process, and to a peaceful resolution of the conflict between the two sides and declares that all outstanding issues relating to permanent status will be resolved through negotiations.

These are not my words, these are the words of Chairman Arafat.

It goes on:

The PLO considers that the signing of the Declaration of Principles constitutes a historic event, inaugurating a new epoch of peaceful coexistence, free from violence and all other acts which endanger peace and stability. Accordingly, the PLO renounces the use of terrorism and other acts of violence and will assume responsibility over all PLO elements and personnel in order to assure their compliance, prevent violence, and discipline violators.

In view of the promise of a new era and the signing of the Declaration of Principles, and based on Palestinian acceptance of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, the PLO affirms that those articles of the Palestinian Covenant which deny Israel's right to exist, and the provisions of the Covenant which are inconsistent [with the commitments of this letter] are invalid.

For its part, Israel, under Prime Minister Rabin, in a letter to Chairman Arafat, stated:

I wish to confirm to you that in light of the PLO commitments included in your letter, the Government of Israel has decided to recognize the PLO as the representative of the Palestinian people and commence negotiations with the PLO within the Middle East peace process.

Mr. President, that was what formed the beginning of Oslo—not the end, but the beginning of the Oslo peace process. They were the necessary minimum threshold to begin that process—a recognition that Israel has the right to exist in peace and security and that the Palestinian people have a right to be represented in peace negotiations by representatives of their own choosing.

Unfortunately, since Camp David last year, the Palestinians have carried out more than 6,700 armed attacks against Israelis in a fundamental violation of their peace process commitments. This Palestinian campaign of terror has killed 155 Israelis, 114 of them civilians, and it has wounded another 1,500 Israelis.

As the Senator from Kentucky pointed out, whether it is a bomb that goes off in a pizza parlor, a discotheque, a school bus, or a shopping mall, this is the way that kind of violence has happened.

Now, Israel has responded. Some have criticized Israel for that response. Yet if Israel is not going to practice that kind of response, the violence—such as the incident that just happened in Jerusalem, I think, yesterday, when somebody dressed as an Orthodox Jew walking down the street with a bomb in his backpack, detonated the bomb when an Israeli officer came up to him—must stop. A group of schoolchildren were nearby, but luckily they were not injured. Many others were.

The subject here is terror, and no Israeli and no Palestinian should have to live with terror every day, when a child gets on that school bus, when a son goes to work, when a wife goes shopping, when friends meet at a cafe or pizzeria or go to a night club.

The bombings, the terror, and the violence must stop. The Palestinian use of this kind of terror over the past 10 months runs contrary to what is expected of a peace partner. Mr. Arafat must understand that allowing an atmosphere of violence and terror to continue will not and cannot lead to peace.

The bill we are proposing today, the Middle East Peace Compliance Act, sends that signal clearly and simply and says either the PLO live up to

these commitments or we return to a pre-Oslo posture.

So it is a very simple and very straightforward bill based on these commitments. It calls for the President to issue a report addressing whether the PLO and the Palestinian Authority are in compliance with the fundamental commitments they have repeatedly made to renounce terrorism.

If the President is unable to find that the PLO or the Palestinian Authority is adhering to its commitments, it requires him to restrict nonhumanitarian assistance to the West Bank and Gaza and to impose one of two additional sanctions: Denial of visas to Palestinian Authority officials, or closing the Palestinian office in the United States.

I think this legislation is necessary to send a message that we cannot continue this kind of violence. We cannot see that letter abrogated in chapter and verse—the letter that became the foundation of PLO recognition, and the letter that became the foundation of the Oslo peace process.

Let me be clear. It is also my expectation that the Government of Israel, for its part, must continue to meet the commitments it has made to peace and continue to exercise restraint in reaction to these Palestinian terrorist acts.

Mr. President, we submit this legislation. Again, I am very delighted to work with the distinguished Senator from Kentucky. We have a bill and, as the Senator said, we will also offer this as an amendment to the foreign operations appropriations bill. I thank the Chair and the Senator. It has been a great pleasure to work with him.

I yield the floor.

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

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

S. 1409

*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 “Middle East Peace Compliance Act of 2001”.

**SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) On September 9, 1993, Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat made the following commitments in an exchange of letters with Prime Minister of Israel Yitzhak Rabin:

(A) “The PLO recognizes the right of the State of Israel to exist in peace and security.”

(B) “The PLO accepts United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338” pertaining to the cessation of hostilities and the establishment of a just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

(C) “The PLO commits itself to the Middle East peace process, and to a peaceful resolution of the conflict between the two sides and declares that all outstanding issues re-

lating to permanent status will be resolved through negotiations.”

(D) “The PLO considers that the signing of the Declaration of Principles constitutes a historic event, inaugurating a new epoch of peaceful coexistence, free from violence and all other acts which endanger peace and stability. Accordingly, the PLO renounces the use of terrorism and other acts of violence and will assume responsibility over all PLO elements and personnel in order to assure their compliance, prevent violence and discipline violators.”

(E) “In view of the promise of a new era and the signing of the Declaration of Principles and based on Palestinian acceptance of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, the PLO affirms that those articles of the Palestinian Covenant which deny Israel's right to exist, and the provisions of the Covenant which are inconsistent with the commitments of this letter are now inoperative and no longer valid.”

(2) The Palestinian Authority, the governing body of autonomous Palestinian territories, was created as a result of the agreements between the PLO and the State of Israel that are a direct outgrowth of the September 9, 1993, commitments.

(3) The United States Congress has provided authorities to the President to suspend certain statutory restrictions relating to the PLO, subject to Presidential certification that the PLO has continued to abide by commitments made.

**SEC. 3. REPORTS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The President shall, at the times specified in subsection (b), transmit to Congress a report—

(1) detailing and assessing the steps that the PLO or the Palestinian Authority, as appropriate, has taken to substantially comply with its 1993 commitments, as specified in section 2(1) of this Act;

(2) a description of the steps taken by the PLO or the Palestinian Authority, as appropriate, to investigate and prosecute those responsible for violence against American and Israeli citizens;

(3) making a determination as to whether the PLO or the Palestinian Authority, as appropriate, has substantially complied with such commitments during the period since the submission of the preceding report, or, in the case of the initial report, during the preceding 6-month period; and

(4) detailing progress made in determining the designation of the PLO, or one or more of its constituent groups (including Fatah and Tanzim) or groups operating as arms of the Palestinian Authority (including Force 17) as a foreign terrorist organization, in accordance with section 219(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act.

(b) TRANSMISSION.—The initial report required under subsection (a) shall be transmitted not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act. Each subsequent report shall be submitted on the date on which the President is next required to submit a report under the PLO Commitments Compliance Act of 1989 (title VIII of Public Law 101-246) and may be combined with such report.

**SEC. 4. IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—If, in any report transmitted pursuant to section 3, the President determines that the PLO or Palestinian Authority, as appropriate, has not substantially complied with the commitments specified in section 2(1), the following sanctions shall apply:

(1) **SUSPENSION OF ASSISTANCE.**—The President shall suspend all United States assistance to the West Bank and Gaza except for humanitarian assistance.

(2) **ADDITIONAL SANCTION OR SANCTIONS.**—The President shall impose one or more of the following sanctions:

(A) **DENIAL OF VISAS TO PLO AND PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY FIGURES.**—The President shall prohibit the Secretary of State from issuance of any visa for any member of the PLO or any official of the Palestinian Authority.

(B) **DOWNGRADE IN STATUS OF PLO OFFICE IN THE UNITED STATES.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the President shall withdraw or terminate any waiver by the President of the requirements of section 1003 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act of 1988 and 1989 (22 U.S.C. 5202) (prohibiting the establishment or maintenance of a Palestinian information office in the United States), and such section shall apply so as to prohibit the operation of a PLO or Palestinian Authority office in the United States from carrying out any function other than those functions carried out by the Palestinian information office in existence prior to the Oslo Accord.

(b) **DURATION OF SANCTIONS.**—The period of time referred to in subsection (a) is the period of time commencing on the date that the report pursuant to section 3 was transmitted and ending on the later of—

(1) the date that is 6 months after such date;

(2) the date that the next report under section 3 is required to be transmitted; or

(3) the date, if any, on which the President determines and informs Congress that the conditions that were the basis for imposing the sanctions are no longer valid.

(c) **WAIVER AUTHORITY.**—The President may waive any or all of the sanctions imposed under this Act if the President determines that such a waiver is in the national security interest of the United States, and reports such a determination to the appropriate committees of Congress.

#### **SEC. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE; TERMINATION DATE.**

(a) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—This Act shall take effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) **TERMINATION DATE.**—This Act shall cease to be effective 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

By Mr. CAMPBELL (for himself and Mr. ALLARD):

S. 1411. A bill to authorize the transfer of the Denver Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Colorado, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, today I am introducing a bill to facilitate the move of the Denver Veterans Affairs Medical Center, DVAMC, from its present site in Denver to the former Fitzsimons Army Medical Center in Aurora, CO. I am happy to be joined in this effort by my friend and colleague Senator ALLARD as an original co-sponsor. The bill would authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to accomplish the transfer in a timely manner. It would also require the Secretary to submit a report to the Veterans Affairs Committee and the Appropriations Committee of both the Senate and House of Representatives. This report would detail the costs of the transfer

and would be submitted 60 days prior to awarding a contract for the move.

The relocation of the DVAMC to the former Fitzsimons site offers a unique opportunity to provide the highest quality medical care for our veterans. The University of Colorado Health Sciences Center, UCHSC, is moving its facilities from its overcrowded location near downtown Denver to the Fitzsimons site, a decommissioned Army base. The UCHSC and the DVAMC have long operated on adjacent campuses and have shared faculty, medical residents, and access to equipment. A DVAMC move to the new location would allow such cost-effective cooperation to continue, for the benefits of our veterans and all taxpayers.

The need to move is pressing. A recent VA study concludes that the Colorado State veterans' population will experience one of the highest percent increases nationally in veterans 65 and over between 1990 and 2020. The present VA hospital was built in the 1950's. While still able to provide service, the core facilities are approaching the end of their useful lives and many of the patient care units have fallen horribly out of date. Studies indicate that co-location with the University on a state-of-the-art medical campus would be a cost effective way to give veterans in the region the highest quality of care. The move would also provide a tremendous opportunity to showcase a nationwide model of cooperation between the University and the Department of Veterans Affairs, VA. These cooperative initiatives have proven time and again their effectiveness.

Timing is also very important. The VA needs to move quickly to realize the financial advantages of this unique opportunity. In order to make the move fiscally effective, the VA needs to make a decision not later than 2004. Additionally, our veterans are aging and their needs are increasing. Assisting our veterans with their medical needs is a promise we, as a country, made long ago.

The savings we can realize by approving the timely transfer of our veterans' medical treatment facilities in the Denver region compels me to urge my colleagues to act quickly on this bill. We must not miss out on this opportunity to serve America's veterans and their families by ensuring that they receive the excellent medical care they deserve.

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:

*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 "Denver Veterans Affairs Medical Center Transfer to Fitzsimons Act of 2001".

#### **SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF MAJOR MEDICAL FACILITY PROJECT TO FACILITATE TRANSFER OF DENVER DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL CENTER, COLORADO.**

(a) **AUTHORIZATION.**—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may carry out a major medical facility project, in the amount appropriated for the project pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in subsection (b), for purposes of the transfer of the Denver Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Colorado, from its current location in Denver, Colorado, to the site of the former Fitzsimons Army Medical Center, Aurora, Colorado.

(b) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for the Construction, Major Projects, account such sums as may be necessary for the project authorized by subsection (a).

(c) **TRANSFER OF MEDICAL CENTER.**—(1) Upon completion of the major medical facility project authorized by subsection (a), the Secretary shall transfer the Denver Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center to the facility constructed pursuant to that authorization.

(2) Amounts for the cost of the transfer authorized by paragraph (1) shall be derived from amounts in the Construction, Major Projects, account for a category of activity not specific to a project that are available for obligation.

(d) **REPORT ON TRANSFER COSTS.**—Not later than 60 days before awarding the contract for the major medical facility project authorized by subsection (a), the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the estimated cost of the transfer of the Denver Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center under subsection (c).

(e) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.**—In this section, the term "appropriate congressional committees" means the following:

(1) The Committees on Veterans' Affairs and Appropriations of the Senate.

(2) The Committees on Veterans' Affairs and Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

#### **AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED & PROPOSED**

SA 1527. Mr. THOMPSON proposed an amendment to the bill S. 149, to provide authority to control exports, and for other purposes.

SA 1528. Mr. CRAIG (for himself, Mr. CRAPO, and Mr. HATCH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 149, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1529. Mr. KYL proposed an amendment to the bill S. 149, supra.

SA 1530. Mr. SARBANES (for himself, Mr. GRAMM, Mr. ENZI, and Mr. JOHNSON) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 149, supra.

SA 1531. Mr. ALLEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2500, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1532. Mr. REID (for Mr. LOTT) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 1885, to expand the class of beneficiaries who may apply for adjustment of status under section 245(i) of the Immigration and Nationality