

Recently, I received a letter from Dr. John Bahcall. Dr. Bahcall is a scientist at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, NJ. He was awarded the National Medal of Science in 1998, and is a widely recognized expert in neutrino science and an authority on the potential of an underground laboratory. In a recent letter to me, he explained, "There are pioneering experiments in the fields of physics, astronomy, biology, and geology that can only be carried out in an environment that is shielded from the many competing phenomena that occur on the surface of the earth. These experiments concern such fundamental and applied subjects as: How stable is ordinary matter? What is the dark matter of which most of our universe is composed? What new types of living organisms exist in deep underground environments from which sunlight is excluded? How are heat and water transported underground over long distances and long times?"

This research, as well as other research that could be conducted in the mine, has the potential to answer fundamental questions about our universe. The National Science Foundation is already considering a \$281 million proposal for the construction of this laboratory.

I want to thank all of those who have been involved in the development of this legislation. I particularly appreciate the hard work and support of Governor Bill Janklow of South Dakota and officials with the Homestake and Barrick mining companies, who helped us to reach agreement on this legislation. I also want to thank my colleague, Senator JOHNSON, a cosponsor of this bill, for all of his work. In particular, Senator JOHNSON's ability to secure the \$10 million in transition funds that will bridge the gap between Homestake's closure and the establishment of the laboratory has been critical to this effort.

I ask unanimous consent that the letter from Dr. John Bahcall be printed in the RECORD.

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

PROFESSOR JOHN N. BACHALL,  
INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY,  
Princeton, NJ, November 8, 2001.

The Hon. TOM DASCHLE,  
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR TOM DASCHLE: I would like to summarize for you the scientific importance of the National Underground Science Laboratory to be located in the Homestake Gold Mine near Lead, South Dakota.

There are pioneering experiments in the fields of physics, astronomy, biology, and geology that can only be carried out in an environment that is shielded from the many competing phenomena that occur on the surface of the earth. These experiments concern such fundamental and applied subjects as: How stable is ordinary matter? What is the dark matter of which most of our universe is composed? What new types of living organisms exist in deep environments from which

sunlight is excluded? How are heat and water transported underground over long distances and long times?

American scientists have been among the world leaders in research in these underground studies. But we have had to travel to Japan, to Italy, to Russia, to South Africa, to Finland, to India and to other countries in order to carry out our experiments. During the past year, I had the privilege of chairing a national committee of distinguished research scientists that was charged with the task of recommending whether or not the United States should develop its own national laboratory to support the underground scientific work of physicists, astronomers, biologists, and geologists. We were also asked to make a recommendation as to whether the expenditure of funds for this purpose would, in a highly constrained budgetary situation, be beneficial to the scientific enterprise.

The committee had many meetings in this country and in other countries where major underground scientific facilities are currently active. The committee reached two conclusions. First, it is in the best interest of the United States to develop a national underground science laboratory only if this facility would be the best in the world. Secondly, the Homestake Gold Mine could be converted into the premier underground laboratory in the world. The recommendations of the committee have been endorsed by panels of scientists representing different disciplines.

I hope that these remarks are useful to you and to your colleagues.

Sincerely yours,

JOHN BAHCALL,  
*National Medal of Science, 1998.*

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill, as amended, be read a third time, passed, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements thereon be printed in the RECORD.

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

The bill (S. 1389), as amended, was read the third time and passed.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, we have a number of other items to be taken up.

#### MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—H.R. 2873

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I understand that H.R. 2873, which was just received from the House, is at the desk, and I now ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill for the first time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2873) to extend and amend the program entitled Promoting Safe and Stable Families under title IV-B, subpart 2 of the Social Security Act, and to provide new authority to support programs for mentoring children of incarcerated parents; to amend the Foster Care Independent Living Program under title IV-E of that Act to provide for educational and training vouchers for youths aging out of foster care, and for other purposes.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I now ask for its second reading and object to

my own request on behalf of my colleagues.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard. The bill will remain at the desk.

#### HEATHER FRENCH HENRY HOMELESS VETERANS ASSISTANCE ACT

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 191, S. 739.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 739) to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve programs for homeless veterans, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) *SHORT TITLE.*—This Act may be cited as the "Heather French Henry Homeless Veterans Assistance Act".

(b) *TABLE OF CONTENTS.*—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Findings; definition.
- Sec. 3. National goal to end homelessness among veterans.
- Sec. 4. Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans.
- Sec. 5. Meetings of Interagency Council on the Homeless.
- Sec. 6. Evaluation of programs and activities regarding homeless veterans.
- Sec. 7. Per diem payments for furnishing services to homeless veterans.
- Sec. 8. Dental care for homeless veterans.
- Sec. 9. Programmatic expansions.
- Sec. 10. Various authorities.
- Sec. 11. Life safety code for grant and per diem providers.
- Sec. 12. Assistance for grant applications.
- Sec. 13. Extension of homeless veterans reintegration program.

#### SEC. 2. FINDINGS; DEFINITION.

(a) *FINDINGS.*—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) *On the field of battle, the members of the Armed Forces who defend the Nation are honor-bound to leave no one behind and, likewise, the Nation is honor-bound to leave no veteran behind.*

(2) *The Department of Veterans Affairs report known as the Community Homeless Assessment, Local Education, and Networking Groups for Veterans (CHALENG) assessment, issued in May 2000, reports that during 1999 there were an estimated 344,983 homeless veterans, an increase of 34 percent above the 1998 estimate of 256,872 homeless veterans.*

(3) *The 1996 National Survey of Homeless Assistance Providers and Clients found that, although veterans constitute only 13 percent of the adult population, veterans comprise 23 percent of homeless clients.*

(4) *Homelessness among veterans is persistent despite unprecedented economic growth and job creation and general prosperity.*

(5) *While there are many effective programs that assist homeless veterans to again become productive and self-sufficient members of society, current resources provided to such programs*

and other activities that assist homeless veterans are inadequate to provide all needed essential services, assistance, and support to homeless veterans.

(6) The CHALENG assessment referred to in paragraph (2) reports—

(A) that Department of Veterans Affairs and community providers were responsible for establishing almost 500 beds for homeless veterans during 2000, including emergency, transitional, and permanent beds; and

(B) that there is a need for about 45,724 additional beds to meet current needs of homeless veterans.

(7) Nearly four decades ago, the Nation established a goal of sending a man to the moon and returning him safely to earth within a decade and accomplished that goal, and the Nation can do no less to end homelessness among the Nation's veterans.

(b) HOMELESS VETERAN DEFINED.—In this Act, the term "homeless veteran" means a veteran who is homeless (as that term is defined in section 103(a) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11302(a)).

### SEC. 3. NATIONAL GOAL TO END HOMELESSNESS AMONG VETERANS.

(a) NATIONAL GOAL.—Congress hereby declares it to be a national goal to end homelessness among veterans within a decade.

(b) COOPERATIVE EFFORTS ENCOURAGED.—Congress hereby encourages all departments and agencies of Federal, State, and local governments, quasi-governmental organizations, private and public sector entities, including community-based organizations, and individuals to work cooperatively to end homelessness among veterans within a decade.

### SEC. 4. ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON HOMELESS VETERANS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 5 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

#### "§546. Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans

"(a)(1) There is established in the Department the Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans (hereinafter in this section referred to as the 'Committee').

"(2) The Committee shall consist of not more than 15 members appointed by the Secretary from the following:

"(A) Veterans service organizations.

"(B) Advocates of homeless veterans and other homeless individuals.

"(C) Community-based providers of services to homeless individuals.

"(D) Previously homeless veterans.

"(E) State veterans affairs officials.

"(F) Experts in the treatment of individuals with mental illness.

"(G) Experts in the treatment of substance use disorders.

"(H) Experts in the development of permanent housing alternatives for lower income populations.

"(I) Experts in vocational rehabilitation.

"(J) Such other organizations or groups as the Secretary considers appropriate.

"(3) The Committee shall include, as *ex officio* members—

"(A) the Secretary of Labor (or a representative of the Secretary selected after consultation with the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans' Employment and Training);

"(B) the Secretary of Defense (or a representative of the Secretary);

"(C) the Secretary of Health and Human Services (or a representative of the Secretary); and

"(D) the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (or a representative of the Secretary).

"(4) The Secretary shall determine the terms of service and pay and allowances of the mem-

bers of the Committee, except that a term of service may not exceed three years. The Secretary may reappoint any member for additional terms of service.

"(b)(1) The Secretary shall, on a regular basis, consult with and seek the advice of the Committee with respect to the provision by the Department of benefits and services to homeless veterans.

"(2)(A) In providing advice to the Secretary under this subsection, the Committee shall—

"(i) assemble and review information relating to the needs of homeless veterans;

"(ii) provide an on-going assessment of the effectiveness of the policies, organizational structures, and services of the Department in assisting homeless veterans; and

"(iii) provide on-going advice on the most appropriate means of providing assistance to homeless veterans.

"(3) The Committee shall—

"(A) review the continuum of services provided by the Department, whether directly or by contract, in order to define cross-cutting issues and to improve coordination of all services in the Department that address the special needs of homeless veterans;

"(B) identify (through annual assessments under section 1774 of this title and other available resources) gaps in programs of the Department in serving homeless veterans, including identification of geographic areas with unmet needs, and provide recommendations to address those gaps;

"(C) identify gaps in existing information systems on homeless veterans, both within and outside the Department, and provide recommendations about redressing problems in data collection;

"(D) identify barriers under existing laws and policies to effective coordination by the Department with other Federal agencies and with State and local agencies addressing homeless populations;

"(E) identify opportunities for enhanced liaison by the Department with nongovernmental organizations and individual groups addressing homeless populations;

"(F) with appropriate officials of the Department designated by the Secretary, participate with the Interagency Council on the Homeless under title II of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11311 et seq.);

"(G) recommend appropriate funding levels for specialized programs for homeless veterans provided or funded by the Department;

"(H) recommend appropriate placement options for veterans who, because of advanced age, frailty, or severe mental illness, may not be appropriate candidates for vocational rehabilitation or independent living; and

"(I) perform such other functions as the Secretary may direct.

"(c)(1) Not later than March 31 of each year, the Committee shall submit to the Secretary a report on the programs and activities of the Department that relate to homeless veterans during the preceding year. Each such report shall include—

"(A) an assessment of the needs of homeless veterans;

"(B) a review of the programs and activities of the Department designed to meet such needs, including the evaluation of outreach activities required under paragraph (2);

"(C) a review of the activities of the Committee; and

"(D) such recommendations (including recommendations for administrative and legislative action) as the Committee considers appropriate.

"(2)(A) The Committee shall include in each report under paragraph (1) an evaluation of the outreach activities of the Department with respect to homeless veterans, including outreach

regarding clinical issues and outreach regarding other benefits.

"(B) The Committee shall conduct each evaluation under this paragraph in consultation with the Under Secretary for Benefits, the Under Secretary for Health, the Readjustment Counseling Service, the Director of Homeless Veterans Programs, and the Mental Health Strategic Health Care Group.

"(C) In including an evaluation under this paragraph in a report under paragraph (1), the Committee shall set forth in the report the following:

"(i) The results of the evaluation.

"(ii) Any recommendations that the Committee considers appropriate to improve the outreach activities of the Department with respect to homeless veterans, including recommendations for enhanced interagency cooperation and enhanced cooperation between the Department and appropriate community organizations and recommendations for additional activities to complement, supplement, or otherwise eliminate deficiencies in the outreach activities.

"(3) Not later than 90 days after the receipt of a report under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall transmit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives a copy of the report, together with any comments and recommendations concerning the report that the Secretary considers appropriate.

"(4) The Committee may also submit to the Secretary such other reports and recommendations as the Committee considers appropriate.

"(5) The Secretary shall include with each annual report submitted to Congress pursuant to section 529 of this title a summary of all reports and recommendations of the Committee submitted to the Secretary since the previous annual report of the Secretary submitted pursuant to that section.

"(d)(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall apply to the activities of the Committee under this section.

"(2) Section 14 of such Act shall not apply to the Committee."

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

"546. Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans."

### SEC. 5. MEETINGS OF INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON THE HOMELESS.

Section 202(c) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11312(c)) is amended to read as follows:

"(c) MEETINGS.—The Council shall meet at the call of its Chairperson or a majority of its members, but not less often than annually."

### SEC. 6. EVALUATION OF PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES REGARDING HOMELESS VETERANS.

(a) EVALUATION CENTERS.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall support the continuation within the Department of Veterans Affairs of at least one center for evaluation to monitor the structure, process, and outcome of programs of the Department that address homeless veterans.

(b) ANNUAL REPORT ON PROCESSING OF BENEFITS CLAIMS.—The Secretary shall submit to Congress on an annual basis a report on the programs and activities of the Veterans Benefits Administration in processing of claims for benefits of homeless veterans during the preceding year. Each report shall include, for the year covered by such report, the following:

(1) Information on costs, expenditures, and workload of Veterans Benefits Administration claims evaluators in processing claims for benefits of homeless veterans.

(2) Information on the filing of claims for benefits by homeless veterans.

(3) Information on efforts undertaken to expedite the processing of claims for benefits of homeless veterans.

(4) Any other information that the Secretary considers appropriate.

(c) ANNUAL REPORT ON HEALTH CARE.—The Secretary shall submit to Congress on an annual basis a report on programs of the Department addressing health care needs of homeless veterans. The Secretary shall include in each such report the following:

(1) Information about expenditures, costs, and workload under the Department of Veterans Affairs program known as the Health Care for Homeless Veterans program (HCHV).

(2) Information about the veterans contacted through the program.

(3) Information about processes under the program.

(4) Information about program treatment outcomes under the program.

(5) Other information the Secretary considers relevant in assessing the program.

(6) Information about supported housing programs.

(7) Information about the grant and per diem provider program of the Department.

(d) ANNUAL PROGRAM ASSESSMENT.—Section 1774(b) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by inserting “annual” after “to make an”; and

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

“(6) The Secretary shall review each annual assessment under this subsection, and shall consolidate the findings and conclusions of such assessments into an annual report which the Secretary shall submit to Congress.”.

**SEC. 7. PER DIEM PAYMENTS FOR FURNISHING SERVICES TO HOMELESS VETERANS.**

(a) INCREASE IN RATE OF PER DIEM PAYMENTS.—Section 4(a) of the Homeless Veterans Comprehensive Service Programs Act of 1992 (38 U.S.C. 7721 note) is amended by striking “at such rates” and all that follows through “homeless veteran—” and inserting the following: “at the same rates as the rates authorized for State homes for domiciliary care provided under section 1741 of title 38, United States Code, for services furnished to homeless veterans—”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect on the first day of the first fiscal year beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act.

**SEC. 8. DENTAL CARE FOR HOMELESS VETERANS.**

Section 1712(a)(1)(H)(ii) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by inserting “(including a homeless veteran)” after “for a veteran”.

**SEC. 9. PROGRAMMATIC EXPANSIONS.**

(a) TRANSITIONAL HOUSING.—Effective October 1, 2001, section 12 of the Homeless Veterans Comprehensive Service Programs Act of 1992 (38 U.S.C. 7721 note) is amended to read as follows:

**“SEC. 12. FUNDING.**

“(a) AMOUNTS FOR GRANT AND PER DIEM PROGRAMS.—From amounts appropriated for ‘Medical Care’ for any fiscal year, the Secretary may expend not more than \$55,000,000 (as adjusted from time to time under subsection (b)) to carry out the transitional housing grant and per diem provider programs under sections 3 and 4 of this Act.

“(b) PERIODIC INCREASES.—The amount in effect under subsection (a) shall be increased for any fiscal year by the overall percentage increase in the Medical Care account for that fiscal year over the preceding fiscal year.”.

(b) COMPREHENSIVE HOMELESS SERVICES PROGRAM.—(1)(A) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall provide for the establishment of not less than five additional centers for the provision of comprehensive services to homeless veterans under section 1773(b) of title 38, United States Code.

(B) In establishing additional centers under this paragraph, the Secretary shall take into ac-

count the particular needs of homeless veterans in each metropolitan area in which the Secretary proposes to establish a center.

(C) The Secretary shall ensure that the services provided to homeless veterans at each center established under this paragraph are tailored to the needs of homeless veterans in the metropolitan area in which such center is established.

(2) Section 1773(b) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “not fewer than eight”.

(c) PROGRAM EXPIRATION EXTENSION.—Sections 1771(b) and 1773(d) of title 38, United States Code, are amended by striking “December 31, 2001” and inserting “December 31, 2006”.

**SEC. 10. VARIOUS AUTHORITIES.**

(a) EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may authorize homeless veterans receiving care through vocational rehabilitation programs to participate in the compensated work therapy program.

(b) SUPPORTED HOUSING FOR VETERANS PARTICIPATING IN COMPENSATED WORK THERAPIES.—(1) The Secretary may authorize homeless veterans in the compensated work therapy program to be provided housing through the therapeutic residence program under section 1772 of title 38, United States Code, or through grant and per diem providers.

(2) As used in this subsection, the term “grant and per diem provider” means an entity in receipt of a grant under section 3 or 4 of the Homeless Veterans Comprehensive Service Programs Act of 1992 (38 U.S.C. 7721 note).

(c) REPORT ON ASSIGNMENT OF HOMELESS COORDINATORS AT VBA REGIONAL OFFICES.—(1) Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report on the assignment of Homeless Coordinators at the Regional Offices of the Veterans Benefits Administration.

(2) The report shall include the following:

(A) A list of the Regional Offices of the Veterans Benefits Administration for which Homeless Coordinators have been assigned.

(B) A description of the manner in which each Regional Office listed under subparagraph (A) staffs the assignment, whether as a collateral hire, by rotation of staff, or by a full-time employee, including the caseload of the position and the amount of time spent on the caseload by each employee assigned to fulfill the duties of the position.

(C) In the case of any Regional Offices for which no Homeless Coordinator has been assigned, a description of the manner in which such Regional Office addresses matters relating to homeless veterans.

(D) An evaluation of the demand for services of Homeless Coordinators in the various Regional Offices, including a statement of the Regional Offices which have the greatest demand for such services.

(d) COORDINATION OF EMPLOYMENT SERVICES.—(1) Section 4103A(c) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(11) Coordination of services provided to veterans with training assistance provided to veterans by entities receiving financial assistance under section 738 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11448).”.

(2) Section 4104(b) of such title is amended—

(A) by striking “and” at the end of paragraph (1);

(B) by striking the period at the end of paragraph (12) and inserting “; and”; and

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

“(13) coordinate services provided to veterans with training assistance for veterans provided

by entities receiving financial assistance under section 738 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11448).”.

**SEC. 11. LIFE SAFETY CODE FOR GRANT AND PER DIEM PROVIDERS.**

(a) NEW GRANTS.—Section 3(b)(5) of the Homeless Veterans Comprehensive Service Programs Act of 1992 (38 U.S.C. 7721 note) is amended by striking “, but fire and safety” and all that follows through “in carrying out the grant” and inserting “and the fire and safety requirements applicable under the Life Safety Code of the National Fire Protection Association”.

(b) PREVIOUS GRANTEEES.—Section 4 of such Act is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(e) LIFE SAFETY CODE.—(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), a per diem payment (or in-kind assistance in lieu of per diem payments) may not be provided under this section to a grant recipient unless the facilities of the grant recipient meet the fire and safety requirements applicable under the Life Safety Code of the National Fire Protection Association.

“(2) During the five-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of the Heather French Henry Homeless Veterans Assistance Act, paragraph (1) shall not apply to an entity that received a grant under section 3 before that date if the entity meets fire and safety requirements established by the Secretary.

“(3) From amounts available for purposes of this section pursuant to section 12, not less than \$5,000,000 shall be used only for grants to assist entities covered by paragraph (2) in meeting the Life Safety Code of the National Fire Protection Association.”.

**SEC. 12. ASSISTANCE FOR GRANT APPLICATIONS.**

(a) GRANT PROGRAM.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall carry out a program to make technical assistance grants to nonprofit community-based groups with experience in providing assistance to homeless veterans in order to assist such groups in applying for grants relating to addressing problems of homeless veterans.

(b) FUNDING.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for each of fiscal years 2002 through 2006, \$750,000 to carry out the program under this section.

**SEC. 13. EXTENSION OF HOMELESS VETERANS REINTEGRATION PROGRAM.**

Section 4111(d)(1) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking subparagraphs (C) and (D) and inserting the following:

“(C) \$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2002.

“(D) \$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2003.

“(E) \$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2004.

“(F) \$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2005.

“(G) \$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2006.”.

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, as chairman of the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, I urge the Senate to pass S. 739, the proposed “Heather French Henry Homeless Veterans Assistance Act of 2001,” a bill that enhances VA’s efforts to combat homelessness among our Nation’s veterans.

On July 19, 2001, the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs held a hearing on S. 739 as originally introduced by my good friend and colleague on the Committee, Senate PAUL WELLSTONE. The Department of Veterans Affairs and homeless advocate shared their views on what could be done to help VA treat the unique problems faced by homeless veterans. Witnesses testified that homelessness remains a prevalent problem among veterans, with roughly one-third of the total homeless population

consisting of veterans. Members of the Committee were told that more needs to be done to help these men and women get back on their feet.

I will highlight a couple of the provisions included in the bill and refer my colleagues to the report accompanying this legislation for more detail.

The pending measure contains many provisions seek to enhance programs that VA currently administers to homeless veterans, most notably the Grant and Per Diem Program. This program offers grants to nonprofit community-based organizations that serve homeless veterans. Specifically, the bill authorizes up to \$55 million a year in funding for the program.

In addition, the bill would link the daily per diem rates provided to these community-based organizations for the care of homeless veterans to the rate already provided to state veterans homes for domiciliary care. This would increase the daily rate from \$19 to \$24, giving those who are truly combating homelessness the appropriate resources with which to work.

Another important aspect of this legislation is the establishment of an Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans within VA. This 12-15 member committee would evaluate and report directly to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs on all matters related to homeless veterans. This ensures that there is always a voice for this segment of the veteran population at the highest level within VA.

With regard to the overall evaluation of homeless programs—often cited as one of the biggest impediments to properly serving the homeless—the pending legislation would encourage the continued support of at least one evaluation center within VA. Currently, VA's Northeast Program Evaluation Center in Connecticut conducts such research, and it's important to ensure that all research efforts receive needed resources to pursue valuable work.

Evaluation needs to be conducted so that VA policy makers and Members of Congress know what works and what does not. Therefore, the pending measure would require two annual reports to Congress from VA on the activities of both the health care and benefits-related aspects of their treatment of homeless veterans.

Yet another key aspect of the pending measure is the required establishment of at least five new Comprehensive Service Centers. These centers would be located in the metropolitan areas found by VA to have the greatest demand for homeless services. Existing centers, such as ones located in Brooklyn, NY, and Dallas, TX, provide the full spectrum of care for homeless veterans, including transitional housing and substance abuse treatment.

In closing, I would like to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of

the namesake of this bill, Miss America 2000, Heather French Henry. Her focus on homeless veterans during her reign and subsequent to the end of her tenure as miss America brought significant attention to this important issue. Ms. Henry's advocacy for homeless veterans is truly admirable.

It is my sincere hope this bill will give VA greater ability to treat homeless veterans, and thereby contribute toward eradicating this national share. I urge my colleagues on the House Veterans's Affairs Committee, who have also been active on this issue, to work with Senator WELLSTONE, the other members of our Committee, and me, to help those who have sacrificed for our country and now need our help.

I ask unanimous consent that a summary of S. 739 be printed in the RECORD.

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

**SUMMARY OF S. 739: THE HEATHER FRENCH HENRY HOMELESS VETERANS ASSISTANCE ACT OF 2001**

The Committee bill incorporates provisions from S. 739, as originally introduced. It seeks to enhance and provide additional support for VA programs that combat homelessness among veterans.

The following is a summary of key provisions in the Committee bill, S. 739:

**Programmatic Expansions:** Authorizes VA to spend up to \$55 million per year on the transitional housing Grant and Per Diem program. Requires VA to establish at least five new comprehensive service centers for homeless veterans in those metropolitan areas found to have the greatest need. Extends the Homeless Chronically Mentally Ill and Comprehensive Homeless Programs until December 31, 2006.

**Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans:** Establishes a Committee that will examine and report to the Secretary no various services provided to homeless veterans.

**Interagency Council on the Homeless:** Requires annual meetings of the Interagency Council on the Homeless, as the Council has yet to get underway.

**Evaluation on Homeless Programs:** Encourages the continued support of at least one evaluation center to monitor the effectiveness of VA's various homeless programs. Requires VA to report on both the benefits and health care aspects of combating homelessness.

**Life Safety Code:** Requires that real property of grantees under VA's homeless Grant and Per Diem program meet fire and safety requirements applicable under the Life Safety Code of the National Fire Protection Association.

**Technical Assistance Grants:** Authorizes the Secretary to conduct a technical assistance grants program to assist nonprofit groups in applying for grants relating to addressing problems of homeless veterans. Provides \$750,000 for each of fiscal years 2002 through 2006 for these purposes.

**Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program:** Extends the Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program and authorizes \$50 million a year for each of fiscal years 2002 through 2006.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the committee amendment be agreed to.

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

The committee amendment, in the nature of a substitute, was agreed to.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the bill be read the third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

The bill (S. 739), as amended, was read the third time and passed.

#### TO PREVENT ELIMINATION OF CERTAIN REPORTS

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 212, H.R. 1042.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1042) to prevent the elimination of certain reports.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read the third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, that any statements relating thereto be printed in the RECORD.

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

The bill (H.R. 1042) was read the third time and passed.

#### OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT ETHICS AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2001

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 207, S. 1202.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1202) to amend the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) to extend the authorization of appropriations for the Office of Government Ethics through fiscal year 2006.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read the third time, passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements relating thereto be printed in the RECORD.

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

The bill (S. 1202) was read the third time and passed, as follows:

S. 1202

*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 "Office of Government Ethics Authorization Act of 2001".