

and wish him the very best as he prepares himself for the future challenges that lie ahead.●

RECOGNITION OF HEATHER EAGLESTON

● Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Miss Heather Eagleston of Mountain Home, AR. Heather recently won the Arkansas 2001 "RespecTeen Speak for Yourself" Contest. In her entry letter, Heather passionately described her personal experience with her brother's tragic accident and resulting paralysis and the problems he now faces everyday with disabilities discrimination. It was for families like this one that we passed the Americans with Disabilities Act just over 10 years ago and, during the 106th Congress, the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act of 1999. However, as President Roosevelt once said, "the credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena . . . who does actually strive to do the deeds." In this case, that credit belongs to a thirteen-year-old girl, who has pledged herself in an effort to combat discrimination against the disabled, and who has already taken a notable step in that direction. I salute Heather for her dedication and congratulate her on this achievement.

Mr. President, I ask that Heather Eagleston's letter and a short biography be printed in the RECORD.

The material follows:

MOUNTAIN HOME, AR,
January 16, 2001.

Hon. ASA HUTCHINSON,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE ASA HUTCHINSON: Eliminating discrimination against disabled people should be a national priority. Even though legislation has been passed addressing their problems, enforcement of existing laws still leaves the disabled individual without even the most basic resources necessary to pursue a normal life.

Access into public buildings, and equal employment opportunities are essential to every citizen of our country. More than half of the population believes that the disabled are being discriminated against in the workforce.

The Rehabilitation Act, of 1973, requires all federal agencies to take an affirmative action in hiring qualified employees with disabilities. Currently, federal government hires only 209,284 people with disabilities. That is only seven percent of the entire work force.

In 1993 my brother was paralyzed in a car accident. His medical bills were about one million dollars, and at that time we had no insurance. My mother had to go to the hospital administrative board and beg them to give my brother the spinal surgery he needed to function. Fortunately, after a long tedious process he did qualify for government assistance.

We have come a long way. The government is making progress but only in small parts. Since 1973 we have had about 20 laws passed on disability rights. The current laws are not being enforced. In 1990 the Americans with

Disabilities Act was signed into a law. This included provisions to access all public accommodations. However in 1994, when my brother went to get his senior portrait taken there was no wheelchair access ramp for him to get in, nor in the school sanction. This is only one example of a minor problem that illustrates a major issue.

Initiate stricter penalties for those who will not abide by the laws. Inform the public concerning the law the consequences of ignoring the law.

I will set a standard in my life that focuses on the fact that no United States citizen, despite whatever limitation they might have, feels that their rights are limited due to public ignorance or support from our government. I will speak out for the right of all individuals.

Sincerely,

HEATHER EAGLESTON.

RESPECTTEEN SPEAK FOR YOURSELF ENTRY FORM

Judging criteria: Letters will be judged on quality and clarity of thought, quality of argument, effectiveness of supporting data, quality of expression, sincerity and originality, as well as adherence to rules regarding form and length. Entries must address a national issue that a member of a Congress can take action on. At least one sentence in the letter must describe action the writer can take, has taken, or plans to take to help address the issue on the local level. Please keep in mind that if your letter is a state or district winner, your letter will be released to the media.

You must complete all information below for entry into the contest. Please staple this entry form securely to a copy of the letter that you mailed to your U.S. representative.

Please type clearly or print in black ink:

Today's Date: January 30, 2001
 First Name: Heather
 Last Name: Eagleston
 Sex: Female
 Date of Birth: August 8, 1987
 Age: 13
 Grade: Eighth
 Email Address: hmeagleston@yahoo.com
 First and Last Name(s) of Parent(s) or Guardian(s) and Daytime Phone Numbers: John Eagleston and Amanda Tait
 Daytime Phone: (870) 425-9686
 Home Street Address: 500 N. Church St. A-7
 City: Mountain Home
 State: Arkansas
 ZIP: 72653
 Home Phone: (870) 424-3253
 Teacher's Name: Mrs. Helen Gammill
 Full School Name: Mountain Home Junior High
 School Street Address: 2301 Rodeo Drive
 City: Mountain Home
 State: Arkansas
 ZIP: 72653
 School Phone: (870) 425-1231
 U.S. Representative (For Your Home Address): Asa Hutchinson
 Congressional District (For Your Home Address): #3
 Issue discussed in your letter: Discrimination against disabled
 Please sign to the right, verifying that the letter is entirely your own work:
 Heather Eagleston
 Is the number of words in the body of your letter between 150 and 350?: Yes.
 Does your letter have the six standard letter parts (heading, inside address, greeting, body, closing, and signature)?: Yes.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. CRAIG (for himself, Mr. DORGAN, and Mr. CRAPO):

S. 836. A bill to amend part C of title XI of the Social Security Act to provide for coordination of implementation of administrative simplification standard for health care information; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BOND:

S. 837. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a safe harbor for determining that certain individuals are not employees; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. DEWINE):

S. 838. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to improve the safety and efficacy of pharmaceuticals for children; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. HUTCHINSON (for herself, Mr. BAYH, Mr. HUTCHINSON, Mr. BURNS, Mr. KERRY, Mr. CHAFEE, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. HELMS, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mr. BIDEN):

S. 839. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to increase the amount of payment for inpatient hospital services under the medicare program and to freeze the reduction in payments to hospitals for indirect costs of medical education; to the Committee on Finance.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 145

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 145, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to increase to parity with other surviving spouses the basic annuity that is provided under the uniformed services Survivor Benefit Plan for surviving spouses who are at least 62 years of age, and for other purposes.

S. 247

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. CORZINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 247, a bill to provide for the protection of children from tobacco.

S. 281

At the request of Mr. HAGEL, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr.