

I am committed to the quality of life of the men and women in uniform who sacrifice to serve their Nation. All too often we forget that families and their treatment are key to the quality of life and retention of those servicemembers. Our military and their families deserve better treatment than what they receive today. If they choose to accept the higher costs of TRICARE Standard in exchange for greater control over their healthcare choices, then they should have that control over all healthcare choices. Pregnancy should not force a spouse to get permission from the military to receive her prenatal, delivery, and postnatal care from the same doctor who she paid to see prior to the pregnancy. Anything less is fundamentally unfair and is something none of us would accept from any medical plan in the civilian community.

This body has worked hard to improve military healthcare for our servicemembers, their families and retirees. With the creation of TRICARE, we gave them control over their medical treatment by allowing them to pay additional costs out of pocket in exchange for greater flexibility, the same choice anyone outside of the military has the opportunity to make. If we want to continue to recruit and retain the best and brightest people our Nation has, we owe them equitable treatment. Any other course is a disservice to them and disrespectful of the choices and financial commitments they have made to the military healthcare system. I urge my colleagues to support this bill and send a message to our military: You and your families will be treated fairly and with respect when making healthcare decisions. The Military Coalition representing more than 5.5 million servicemembers and their families supports this legislation. So does The Retired Officers' Association, TROA. Fellow members of the Senate, support of this bill should be common sense for all of us. This bill should pass unanimously because it does what is right, what is fair, and keeps faith with our military.

I am proud to cosponsor this legislation with Senator COLLINS and urge all of you to join us in supporting the Military Spouse Physician Choice Act.

By Mr. THOMPSON (for himself and Mr. FRIST):

S. 1097. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to issue right-of-way permits for natural gas pipelines within the boundary of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. President, 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. 1097

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

SECTION 1. NATURAL GAS PIPELINES WITHIN THE BOUNDARY OF THE GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK.

(a) PERMIT FOR NATURAL GAS PIPELINES.—(1) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary of the Interior may issue right-of-way permits for natural gas pipelines that are—

(A) within the boundary of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park (as of the date of enactment of this Act);

(B) not otherwise authorized by Federal law; and

(C) not subject to valid rights of property ownership.

(2) CONDITIONS.—A permit issued under paragraph (1) shall be subject to any terms and conditions that the Secretary determines necessary.

(b) PERMIT FOR PROPOSED NATURAL GAS PIPELINES.—

(1) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary may issue right-of-way permits for natural gas pipelines within the boundary of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park that are proposed for construction in—

(A) the Foothills Parkway;

(B) the Foothills Parkway Spur between Pigeon Forge and Gatlinburg; and

(C) the Gatlinburg Bypass.

(2) CONDITIONS.—A permit issued under paragraph (1) shall be subject to any terms and conditions that the Secretary determines necessary, including—

(A) provisions for the protection and restoration of resources that are disturbed by pipeline construction; and

(B) assurances that construction and operation of the pipeline will be compatible with the purposes of the Park.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 116—CONGRATULATING THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA ON ITS TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE

Mr. VOINOVICH (for himself, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. DEWINE, and Mr. HARKIN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 116

Whereas on December 23, 1990, the people of Slovenia voted overwhelmingly in favor of independence from the former Yugoslavia in a national referendum;

Whereas, on June 25, 1991, the Republic of Slovenia declared itself an independent and sovereign nation;

Whereas, on December 23, 1991, the Slovenian parliament adopted a constitution based on the rule of law, respect for human rights, and democratic ideals;

Whereas, during its ten years of independence, Slovenia has been an important United States ally in Central and Eastern Europe and a strong advocate of democracy, the rule of law, and the merits of an open, free market economy;

Whereas the Republic of Slovenia has demonstrated an outstanding record on human rights during the past decade, and the country's market economy has experienced continued growth and success;

Whereas Slovenia has made important contributions to international efforts to pro-

mote peace and stability in Southeast Europe and other parts of the world;

Whereas Slovenia serves as a leader in efforts to remove destructive land mines in parts of Southeast Europe plagued by war and ethnic violence during the 1990s;

Whereas Slovenia has become an active member of international organizations, including the United Nations, the World Trade Organization, the Council of Europe and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe; and

Whereas the Republic of Slovenia has made significant progress in its work to join the NATO Alliance and the European Union: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate hereby—

(1) congratulates the Republic of Slovenia as the country celebrates ten years of independence on June 25, 2001;

(2) commends the people of Slovenia on the significant progress made during the past decade to advance respect for human rights, the rule of law, free market economies, and democracy;

(3) recognizes the important role played by the Slovenian community in diaspora to promote independence in the Republic of Slovenia; and

(4) encourages the Republic of Slovenia to continue its important work toward membership in the NATO Alliance and the European Union, as well as efforts to further peace, stability, and prosperity in Central and Eastern Europe.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 811. Mr. SPECTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1052, to amend the Public Health Service Act and the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to protect consumers in managed care plans and other health coverage; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 812. Mr. EDWARDS (for Mr. MCCAIN (for himself and Mr. EDWARDS)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1052, supra.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 811. Mr. SPECTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1052, to amend the Public Health Service Act and the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to protect consumers in managed care plans and other health coverage; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 153, strike lines 1 through 14.

On page 159, between lines 12 and 13, insert the following:

“(D) ACTIONS IN FEDERAL COURT.—A cause of action described in subparagraph (A) shall be brought and maintained only in the Federal district court for the district in which the plaintiff resides or in which the alleged injury or death that is the subject of such action occurred. In any such action, the court shall apply the laws of the State involved in determining the liability of the defendants.”

SA 812. Mr. EDWARDS (for Mr. MCCAIN (for himself and Mr. EDWARDS)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1052, to amend the Public Health Service Act and the Employee Retirement