current Federal employees who participate in the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program, saving an average of over $400 per year on their Federal income taxes. It is a benefit already available to many private sector employees, and State and local government employees.

Although extending this benefit to Federal annuitants has broad support, it requires a legislative change in the tax laws. The legislation I am introducing today will do just that.

The Federal Employees Health Insurance Premium Conversion Act will provide that the same health insurance premium conversion arrangement afforded to employees in the Executive and Judicial branches of the Federal government, be made available to Federal annuitants.

This year, retirees under the Civil Service Retirement System received a 3.5 percent cost of living adjustment, and those who receive an annuity under the Federal Employees Retirement System received a 2.5 percent adjustment.

This increase in benefits is nearly offset by severe increases in FEHB premiums. In 2000, health premiums increased by an average of 9.3 percent. The Office of Personnel Management reports that a similar increase is expected again this year.

I am deeply concerned about increases in Federal Employee Health Benefit premiums in recent years. Health care coverage is provided to over 9 million Federal employees, retirees and their families under FEHBP. Ensuring affordable health care coverage for all Federal employees and their dependents must remain a priority for Congress.

In addition, I am pleased that this bill will also allow uniformed services retiree beneficiaries, their family members and survivors to pay their TRICARE Prime enrollment fees and TRICARE Standard supplemental insurance premiums with pre-tax dollars. TRICARE Standard supplemental insurance premiums paid by active duty personnel are also covered by the legislation which allows for an above the line deduction to benefit active duty personnel and their families.

This is a critical issue to many retirees, especially those living on a fixed income. Extending premium conversion will provide much needed relief from the increasing cost of health care insurance. It will help to ensure that more Federal retirees are able to afford continued coverage under the Federal Employees Health Benefits program.

I encourage my colleagues to support this critical legislation and show their support of these Federal civilian and military retirees for their dedicated service. 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. 1022

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

SECTION 1. PRETAX PAYMENT OF HEALTH INSURANCE PREMIUMS BY FEDERAL CIVILIAN AND MILITARY RETIREES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (g) of section 125 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to cafeteria plans) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(5) HEALTH INSURANCE PREMIUMS OF FEDERAL CIVILIAN AND MILITARY RETIREES.—

''(A) FEHBP PREMIUMS.—Nothing in this section shall prevent the benefits of this section from being allowed to an annuitant, as defined in paragraph (3) of section 8901, title 5, United States Code, with respect to a choice between the annuity or compensation referred to such paragraph and benefits under the health benefits program established by chapter 89 of such title 5.

''(B) TRICARE PREMIUMS.—Nothing in this section shall prevent the benefits of this section from being allowed to an individual receiving retired or retainer pay by reason of being a member or former member of the uniformed services of the United States with respect to a choice between such pay and benefits under the health benefits program established by chapter 55 of title 10, United States Code.''

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 2. DEDUCTION FOR TRICARE SUPPLEMENTAL PREMIUMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Part VII of subchapter B of chapter 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to additional itemized deductions for individuals) is amended by redesignating section 223 as section 224 and by inserting after section 222 the following new section:

''SEC. 223. TRICARE SUPPLEMENTAL PREMIUMS OR ENROLLMENT FEES.

''(a) ALLOWANCE OF DEDUCTION.—In the case of an individual, there shall be allowed as a deduction the amounts paid during the taxable year by the taxpayer for insurance purchased as supplemental coverage to the health benefits programs established by chapter 55 of title 10, United States Code, for the taxpayer and the taxpayer's spouse and dependents.

''(b) COORDINATION WITH MEDICAL DEDUCTION.—Any amount allowed as a deduction under subsection (a) shall not be taken into account in computing the amount allowable to the taxpayer as a deduction under section 213(a).''

(b) DEDUCTION ALLOWED WHETHER OR NOT INDIVIDUAL ITEMIZES OTHER DEDUCTIONS.—Subsection (a) of section 62 of such Code is amended by inserting after paragraph (18) the following new paragraph:

''(19) TRICARE SUPPLEMENTAL PREMIUMS OR ENROLLMENT FEES.—The deduction allowed by section 223.''

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for part VII of subchapter B of chapter 1 of such Code is amended by striking the last item and inserting the following new items:

''Sec. 223. TRICARE supplemental premiums or enrollment fees.

''Sec. 224. Cross reference.''

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act.

STATEMENTS ON SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 109—DESIGNATING THE SECOND SUNDAY IN THE MONTH OF DECEMBER AS ''NATIONAL CHILDREN'S MEMORIAL DAY'' AND THE LAST FRIDAY IN THE MONTH OF APRIL AS ''CHILDREN'S MEMORIAL FLAG DAY''

Mr. REID (for himself, Mr. EDWARDS, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mr. CLELAND) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 109

Whereas approximately 80,000 infants, children, teenagers, and young adults of families living throughout the United States die each year from myriad causes;

Whereas the death of an infant, child, teenager, or young adult of a family is considered to be 1 of the greatest tragedies that a parent or family will ever endure during a lifetime;

Whereas a supportive environment, empathy, and understanding are considered critical factors in the healing process of a family that is coping with and recovering from the loss of a loved one; and

Whereas April is National Child Abuse Prevention month: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved,

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION OF NATIONAL CHILDREN'S MEMORIAL DAY AND CHILDREN'S MEMORIAL FLAG DAY.

The Senate—

(1) designates the second Sunday in the month of December as ''National Children's Memorial Day'' and the last Friday in the month of April as ''Children's Memorial Flag Day''; and

(2) requests that the President issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to—

(A) observe ''National Children's Memorial Day'' with appropriate ceremonies and activities in remembrance of the many infants, children, teenagers, and young adults of families in the United States who have died; and

(B) fly the Children's Memorial Flag on ''Children's Memorial Flag Day''.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to submit a resolution which would designate the second Sunday in December as ''National Children's Memorial Day.'' The resolution would set aside this day to remember all the children who die in the United States each year. While I realize the families of these children deal with the grief of their loss every day, I would like to commemorate the lives of these children with a special day as well.

The Senate has passed a resolution for each of the past three years to designate the second Sunday in December as ''National Children's Memorial Day.'' This year, the resolution I am introducing would establish this day as an annual observance. The parents and family members of the children who have died deserve the comfort of knowing that they will always have a special day set aside to honor the memory of their loved ones.

The death of a child at any age is a shattering experience for a family. I have had many constituents share

their heart-wrenching stories with me about the death of their son or daughter. I have heard heroic stories of kids battling cancer or diabetes, and tragic stories of car accidents and drownings. Each of these families has had their own experience, but they must all continue with their lives and deal with the incredible pain of losing a child. By establishing a day to remember children that have passed away, bereaved families from all over the country will be encouraged and supported in working through their grief. It is important to families who have suffered such loss to know that they are not alone.

In addition, this year, I have added a provision to designate the fourth Friday in April as ''National Children's Memorial Flag Day'' in recognition of children who have died as a result of violence. April has been designated as National Child Abuse Prevention Month, an annual tradition started by President Jimmy Carter in 1979. Many State and local governmental agencies and private organizations already fly the Children's Memorial Flag on the fourth Friday in April to remember children lost to violence. Recognizing this day is another way we can commemorate the lives of children.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 797. Mr. HAGEL (for himself, Mr. CAMPBELL, and Mr. KYL) proposed an amendment to amendment SA 358 submitted by Mr. JEFFORDS and intended to be proposed to the bill (S. 1) to extend programs and activities under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.

SA 798. Mr. HOLLINGS proposed an amendment to amendment SA 358 submitted by Mr. JEFFORDS and intended to be proposed to the bill (S. 1) supra.

SA 799. Mr. GREGG (for Mr. SANTORUM) proposed an amendment to amendment SA 358 submitted by Mr. JEFFORDS and intended to be proposed to the bill (S. 1) supra.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 797. Mr. HAGEL (for himself, Mr. CAMPBELL, and Mr. KYL) proposed an amendment to amendment SA 358 submitted by Mr. JEFFORDS and intended to be proposed to the bill (S. 1) to extend programs and activities under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

''5—FEDERAL PRIORITIES FOR SCHOOL REPAIR AND RENOVATION.

''SEC. 5351. REQUIREMENT RELATING TO SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION ASSISTANCE.

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

''(1) The Federal Government's unique and continuing trust relationship with and responsibility to the Indian people includes the education of Indian Children.

''(2) Since 1950, the Federal Government has also recognized an obligation to support the education of children whose parents serve our Nation in the military and with other Federal agencies.

''(3) The Federal Government has responsibility for the operation and financial support of the Bureau of Indian Affairs funded school system that the Federal Government has established on or near reservations and Indian trust lands throughout the Nation for Indian children.

''(4) The Federal Government has responsibility for providing financial support for Federally Impacted schools throughout the Nation.

''(5) The Federal Government is the sole funding source of 185 elementary and secondary schools operated by the Bureau of Indian Affairs for the education of American Indian children on reservations throughout the United States.

''(6) The Federal Government is a significant source of funding for the elementary and secondary schools that receive Impact Aid.

''(7) Over several decades, Bureau of Indian Affairs and Impact Aid schools have suffered from neglect and disrepair, which has had a direct impact on student learning and safety.

''(8) As of January 2001, the repair, rehabilitation, and renovation backlog for Bureau of Indian Affairs and heavily impacted Impact Aid education facilities and quarters was over $2,000,000,000.

''(b) REQUIREMENT.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law (including the provisions of this Act), in administering any Federal program to provide assistance for school construction or renovation, the Secretary of Education shall ensure that assistance under such program is provided to meet the construction or renovation needs of schools receiving Impact Aid, schools under the jurisdiction of the Department of Defense, and Indian and Bureau of Indian Affairs funded schools prior to making any such assistance available under such program to other schools.

''(c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to apply to—

''(1) school construction bond programs or school renovation bond programs; or

''(2) amounts provided for school construction or renovation under—

''(A) title VIII of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965;

''(B) any program administered by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, or the Secretary of the Interior for the benefit of Indians; or

''(C) any program administered by the Secretary of Defense with respect to schools within the jurisdiction of the Department of Defense.''.

SA 798. Mr. HOLLINGS proposed an amendment to amendment SA 358 submitted by Mr. JEFFORDS and intended to be proposed to the bill (S. 1) to extend programs and activities under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965; as follows:

On page 47, after line 12, insert the following: ''(i)(I) a State may elect, in accordance with this clause, to waive the application of the requirements of this subparagraph if—

''(aa) the State determines that alternative public elementary and secondary educational investments will produce a greater increase in student achievement; or

''(bb) the State can demonstrate the presence of a comparable assessment system;

''(II) a waiver under subclause (I) shall be for a period of 1 year;

''(III) a State with a waiver in effect under this clause may utilize Federal funds appropriated to carry out activities in schools that fail to make yearly progress, as defined in the plan of the State under section 1111(b)(2)(B), to—

''(aa) increase teacher pay;

''(bb) implement teacher recruitment and retention programs;

''(cc) reduce class size;

''(dd) hire additional teachers to reduce class sizes;

''(ee) improve school facilities;

''(ff) provide afterschool programs;

''(gg) tutor students;

''(hh) increase the access of students to technology;

''(ii) improve school safety; or

''(jj) carry out any other activity that the State educational agency determines necessary to improve the education of public elementary and secondary school students; and

''(IV) a State shall ensure that funds to which this clause applies will not be used to pay the cost of tuition, room, or board at a private school or a charter school;''.

SA 799. Mr. GREGG (for Mr. SANTORUM) proposed an amendment to amendment SA 358 submitted by Mr. JEFFORDS and intended to be proposed to the bill (S. 1) to extend programs and activities under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following: ''SEC.

SEC.____. SENSE OF THE SENATE.

''It is the sense of the Senate that—

''(1) good science education should prepare students to distinguish the data or testable theories of science from philosophical or religious claims that are made in the name of science; and

''(2) where biological evolution is taught, the curriculum should help students to understand why this subject generates so much continuing controversy, and should prepare the students to be informed participants in public discussions regarding the subject.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that the hearing previously scheduled for Thursday, June 14, at 9:30 a.m., in SD–106, has been postponed. The purpose of the hearing was to receive testimony on potential problems in the gasoline markets this summer. The hearing has not been rescheduled at this time.

For further information, please call Shirley Neff at 202/224–4103.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, June 12, 2001, to hear testimony on Preserving and Protecting our Natural Resources.

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

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Jonathan McIllwain and Brittni Aldridge, summer interns in my office, be granted