

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, was leader's time reserved?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Yes, it was.

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, one of the first decisions I had to make as majority leader was which bill should be designated S. 1. When I considered the message the American people sent us last November, the decision was easy. I chose Senator KEMPTHORNE's unfunded mandates bill, because it shows we are serious about reining in the power of the Federal Government.

The 10th amendment to the U.S. Constitution reads:

The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States, respectively, or to the people.

When the 104th Congress convened, I pledged that we would dust off the 10th amendment, and restore it to its rightful place in the Constitution.

The unfunded mandates bill is the first step in the important process of returning power to the States and to the people. For far too long, Congress has operated under the false assumption that legislation that did not affect the Federal Government had no cost. But, ask any mayor, Governor, county commissioner, or school board official—or any State and local taxpayer—and they will tell you otherwise.

This law will change the way we do business in Washington. Under business-as-usual, Congress had the costly habit of giving State and local governments new responsibilities without supplying the money to pay for these new obligations. Those unfunded mandates have forced State and local officials to cut services or increase taxes in order to keep their budgets in balance.

The unfunded mandates law will be a reality check for advocates of new mandates: the Federal Government should know and pay for the costs of mandates before imposing them on State and local governments, and the Federal Government should know the costs and impacts before imposing them on the private sector.

This law will provide real relief to State and local governments, and to the people who ultimately pay the bills for unfunded mandates—individual American taxpayers.

I am pleased that this bill will pass with strong bipartisan support, and there are a lot of Senators who deserve credit for this initiative's success. Senator GLENN has led the effort on the Democratic side of the aisle, and Senators DOMENICI and ROTH are among those who have also worked hard for this bill.

But no Senator worked harder than our colleague from Idaho, Senator DIRK KEMPTHORNE. He came to the Senate as a mayor, with front-line experience coping with the Federal Government telling him how to run Boise, ID. When he ran for the Senate, he promised the people of Idaho he would fight to stop unfunded mandates. He kept his promise. The first bill he introduced was an unfunded mandates bill—and it attracted only three cosponsors. But that did not stop him. He kept pushing, and he helped mobilize the mayors, county commissioners, and Governors, who stepped up their efforts. After he got more than 51 cosponsors on his unfunded mandates bill, he worked across the aisle to write a bipartisan bill. After that effort was blocked late last year, he spent the recess writing a better, tougher bill. He then spent 11 days and nights tirelessly debating and managing the bill on the floor, and 40 days and nights—it seems there is something else about 40 days and nights—getting it through the conference, successfully resisting efforts to weaken it.

All that work has produced a strong bill that all of us can be proud of, and all of us should vote for.

A few weeks ago, I told mayors they should send Senator KEMPTHORNE and Senator GLENN keys to their cities to thank them for their efforts.

I do not know if they have received any keys yet, but if you can use some, maybe I can round them up. Maybe by now you both have a pocketful of keys, and I am certain there are more on the way.

After all, our Nation's mayors, Governors, county commissioners, and taxpayers would be hard pressed to find a better friend than Senator DIRK KEMPTHORNE.

Mr. President, I urge all of my colleagues to vote for S. 1, and I urge President Clinton to sign it into law at the earliest possible date.

Mr. KEMPTHORNE. Mr. President, I wish to echo what America's mayors, Governors, and county commissioners are saying, and that is their gratitude to Senator DOLE for designating this bill S. 1. That sort of stamp of priority by the majority leader of the Senate went a long way toward helping propel this legislation toward what we believe tomorrow will be its successful conclusion.

So again, on behalf of America's mayors, Governors, and myself, I thank the Senator for the honor of having this legislation designated S. 1.

Mr. President, I am prepared to yield back the remainder of my time.

Mr. GLENN. I yield back my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time has expired. The vote is scheduled to be held tomorrow.

Mr. GLENN. Parliamentary inquiry, Mr. President. The vote, as I understand it, will be the second vote tomorrow. Is that correct?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. That is correct.

MORNING BUSINESS

(During the session of the Senate, the following morning business was transacted.)

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Thomas, 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.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:44 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 956. An act to establish legal standards and procedures for product liability litigation, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House insists upon its amendment to (S. 244) An act to further the goals of the Paperwork Reduction Act to have Federal agencies become more responsible and publicly accountable for reducing the burden of Federal paperwork on the public, and for other purposes, and asks a conference with the Senate on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon; and appoints Mr. CLINGER, Mrs. MEYERS of Kansas, Mr. McHUGH, Mr. McINTOSH, Mr. Fox of Pennsylvania, Mrs. COLLINS of Illinois, Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota, and Mr. WISE as the managers of the conference on the part of the House.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

H.R. 956. An act to establish legal standards and procedures for product liability litigation, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, which were referred as indicated:

EC-512. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, copies of D.C. Act 11-12 adopted by the Council on

February 7, 1995; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-513. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, copies of D.C. Act 11-16 adopted by the Council on February 7, 1995; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-514. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, copies of D.C. Act 11-17 adopted by the Council on February 7, 1995; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-515. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, copies of D.C. Act 11-18 adopted by the Council on February 7, 1995; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-516. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, copies of D.C. Act 11-19 adopted by the Council on February 7, 1995; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-517. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, copies of D.C. Act 11-21 adopted by the Council on February 7, 1995; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-518. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, copies of D.C. Act 11-22 adopted by the Council on February 7, 1995; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-519. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, copies of D.C. Act 11-23 adopted by the Council on February 7, 1995; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-520. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, copies of D.C. Act 11-24 adopted by the Council on February 7, 1995; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-521. A communication from the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report entitled "Audit of the Operations of the Office of the Campaign Finance"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-522. A communication from Comptroller General of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report entitled "Independence of Legal Services"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-523. A communication from Administrator of General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report on the disposal of surplus Federal real property; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-524. A communication from Chairman of the Administrative Conference of the United States, transmitting, a draft of proposed legislation to amend the Administrative Conference Act; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-525. A communication from the Inspector General Agency for International Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of an audit; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-526. A communication from Chairman of the Administrative Conference of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report entitled "Toward Improved Agency Dispute Resolution: Implementing the ADR Act"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. THURMOND:

S. 546. A bill for the relief of Dan Aurel Suci; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SIMON:

S. 547. A bill to extend the deadlines applicable to certain hydroelectric projects under the Federal Power Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER:

S. 548. A bill to provide quality standards for mammograms performed by the Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans Affairs.

By Mr. BUMPERS:

S. 549. A bill to extend the deadline under the Federal Power Act applicable to the construction of three hydroelectric projects in the State of Arkansas; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. EXON:

S. 550. A bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act and the Railway Labor Act to prevent discrimination based on participation in labor disputes; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

By Mr. CRAIG:

S. 551. A bill to revise the boundaries of the Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument and the Craters of the Moon National Monument, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. BURNS (for himself and Mr. BAUCUS):

S. 552. A bill to allow the refurbishment and continued operation of a small hydroelectric facility in central Montana by adjusting the amount of charges to be paid to the United States under the Federal Power Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN:

S. 553. A bill to amend the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967 to reinstate an exemption for certain bona fide hiring and retirement plans applicable to State and local firefighters and law enforcement officers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

By Mr. FEINGOLD:

S. 554. A bill to amend the provisions of titles 5 and 28, United States Code, relating to equal access to justice, award of reasonable costs and fees, hourly rates for attorney fees, administrative settlement officers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. KASSEBAUM (for herself, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mr. FRIST):

S. 555. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to consolidate and reauthorize health professions and minority and disadvantaged health education programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

By Mr. KERRY (for himself and Mr. KENNEDY):

S. 556. A bill to amend the Trade Act of 1974 to improve the provision of trade readjustment allowances during breaks in training, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER:

S. 548. A bill to provide quality standards for mammograms performed

by the Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

THE WOMEN VETERANS' MAMMOGRAPHY QUALITY STANDARDS ACT

• Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, for a number of years, I have been active—both through legislation and oversight activity—in seeking to improve VA's response to women veterans. While there has been some progress, much remains to be done. During the last Congress, we were poised to make some significant improvements, particularly in defining which services VA must furnish to women veterans. Unfortunately, that legislation, along with other vital measures, died in the closing hours of the Congress. While those issues may still be brought into play on legislation later on this year, one element of our prior effort can clearly be separated out at this time and dealt with on its own merits—and that's what the bill I am introducing today will do.

BACKGROUND

Mr. President, the bill I am introducing, which is cosponsored by Senators AKAKA, JEFFORDS, MIKULSKI, MOSELEY-BRAUN, and MURKOWSKI, would ensure that women veterans will receive safe and accurate mammograms. Under this measure, VA facilities that furnish mammography would be required to meet quality assurance and quality control standards that are no less stringent than those to which other mammography providers are subject under the Mammography Quality Standards Act. VA facilities that contract with non-VA facilities would be required to contract only with facilities that comply with that act. I will now highlight briefly the provisions contained in this legislation.

SUMMARY OF PROVISIONS

Mr. President, this legislation would establish quality standards for mammography services furnished by VA which would:

First, require that all VA facilities that furnish mammography be accredited by a private nonprofit organization designated by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

Second, require the Secretary to designate only an accrediting body that meets the standards for accrediting bodies issued by the Secretary of Health and Human Services for purposes of accrediting mammography facilities subject to the Mammography Quality Standards Act of 1992—Public Law 102-539.

Third, require the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, to issue quality assurance and quality control standards for mammography services furnished in VA facilities that would be no less stringent than the Department of Health and Human Services regulations to which other mammography providers are subject under the Mammography Quality Standards Act of 1992.

Fourth, require the Secretary to issue such regulations not later than