

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 Aureli 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