

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. BINGAMAN (for himself and Mr. DOMENICI):

S. 2097. A bill to modify the boundary of Bandelier National Monument in the State of New Mexico, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. DOMENICI:

S. 2098. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to assist the development of small business concerns owned and controlled by women, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. GRAHAM):

S. 2099. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide post-eligibility treatment of certain payments received under a Department of Veterans Affairs pension or compensation program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HATCH:

S. 2100. A bill to provide for the extension of certain authority for the Marshal of the Supreme Court and the Supreme Court Police; read the first time.

By Mr. SPECTER (for himself, Mr. HATCH, Mr. KOHL, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. BIDEN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. THURMOND, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. SIMPSON, and Mr. LEVIN):

S. 2101. A bill to provide educational assistance to the dependents of Federal law enforcement officials who are killed or disabled in the performance of their duties; considered and passed.

By Mr. HATFIELD:

S. 2102. A bill to nullify the Supplemental Treaty Between the United States of America and the Confederated Tribes and Bands of Indians of Middle Oregon, concluded on November 15, 1865; read twice.

By Mr. BREAUX (for himself, Mr. FAIRCLOTH, Mr. HEFLIN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. HELMS, and Mr. MACK):

S. 2103. A bill to amend title 17, United States Code, to protect vessel hull designs against unauthorized duplication, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WARNER (for himself, Mr. ROBB, Mr. SARBANES, and Ms. MIKULSKI):

S.J. Res. 62. A joint resolution granting the consent of the Congress to amendments made by Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia to the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Regulation Compact; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

Mr. DOMENICI:

S. 2098. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to assist the development of small business concerns owned and controlled by women, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business.

THE WOMEN'S BUSINESS TRAINING CENTERS ACT OF 1996

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I am pleased to introduce the Women's Business Training Centers Act of 1996, a companion to H.R. 4071 introduced by Congresswoman Nancy Johnson on September 12.

As many of us recognize, women-owned businesses are one of the fastest growing, highly stable, and job-producing segments of our U.S. economy. At the same time, I am afraid they are also one of the most perceptually under-valued segments of our business sector; there are far too many who have overlooked this extraordinary group of business owners.

Let me cite some phenomenal statistics about women-owned businesses.

Between 1982 and 1987, women-owned firms increased by 57.5 percent, more than twice the rate of all U.S. businesses during that period. In 1987 they numbered approximately 4.1 million. By 1996, women-owned businesses had grown to approximately 8 million businesses and employed 18.5 million people, which is one out of every four U.S. company workers and more than the Fortune 500 companies employed worldwide. They generated an estimated \$2.3 trillion in sales and are in every industrial sector.

The National Association of Women Business Owners [NAWBO] reports that the growth of women-owned firms continues to outpace overall business growth by nearly two to one, and that their top growth industries are construction, wholesale trade, transportation/communications, agribusiness, and manufacturing. Women entrepreneurs are taking their firms into the global marketplace at the same rate as all U.S. business owners. Women-owned businesses have sustaining power with 40 percent remaining in business for 12 years or more. As spectacular, women own 30 percent of all businesses and are projected to own 50 percent of all businesses by the year 2000.

These statistics are truly impressive. They also emphasize that women-owned businesses have achieved these monumental feats because of business acumen, as well as self-reliance, ingenuity, common sense, and dogged determination. I say this because there still remain enormous obstacles for women who want to establish businesses; in particular, access to capitol and technical assistance.

One of the most beneficial programs designed to assist women business owners is the Women's Business Training Centers in the Small Business Administration [SBA] to provide training, counseling, and technical assistance. I know personally how very beneficial this demonstration program has been in my State of New Mexico. I have talked with the women clients and toured their businesses, and thanks to the able leadership of the centers' personnel, these businesses are growing financially, employing new personnel, and creating new markets for their goods and services.

The Women's Business Training Centers Program is one of the most needed, best utilized, and tangibly successful activities I have seen. It is also one of the smallest programs in the SBA; the Administration requested only \$2

million this year, although I am hopeful Congress will see fit to fully fund it at twice this amount. In my estimation, this program should be expanded so that the SBA can establish the business centers in all of the States, particularly those 22 States that currently have no sites.

The program is slated to end in 1997. I believe this would be a real disservice to America's women business owners. Therefore, this bill will permanently authorize the program, increase the centers' funding cycle from 3 to 5 years, and increase its presently authorized funding level from \$4 to \$8 million.

I believe the time has come for Congress to recognize how absolutely essential women entrepreneurs are to the American economy. As I stated previously, women business owners have achieved enormous successes because of their independent spirit and skills. We can, however, offer some valuable assistance for a very minimal amount of funding. I believe it fair to say that the return on that investment will far exceed just about any other we may make.

As the National Association of Women Business Owner's fact sheet points out, "the greatest challenge of business ownership for women is being taken seriously." The statistics and proven record of women business owners speaks for itself, and I invite my colleagues to support this effort in their behalf.

This bill, which is going to continue to expand upon the concept of having women business training centers, should become law. I am not sure that will happen this year. But based upon the kind of things happening and the needs out there and the fairness of this approach, I believe it will become law. I am pleased to introduce it at this point.

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. 2098

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Women's Business Training Centers Act of 1996".

SEC. 2. WOMEN'S BUSINESS TRAINING CENTERS.

Section 29 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 656) is amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 29. (a) The Administration may provide financial assistance to private organizations to conduct five-year projects for the benefit of small business concerns owned and controlled by women. The projects shall provide—

"(1) financial assistance, including training and counseling in how to apply for and secure business credit and investment capital, preparing and presenting financial statements, and managing cashflow and other financial operations of a business concern;