

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 211

At the request of Mr. WELLSTONE, the name of the Senator from Iowa [Mr. HARKIN] was added as a cosponsor of S. 211, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend the period of time for the manifestation of chronic disabilities due to undiagnosed symptoms in veterans who served in the Persian Gulf war in order for those disabilities to be compensable by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

S. 363

At the request of Mr. HOLLINGS, the name of the Senator from Kentucky [Mr. FORD] was added as a cosponsor of S. 363, a bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to require that violent video programming is limited to broadcast after the hours when children are reasonably likely to comprise a substantial portion of the audience, unless it is specifically rated on the basis of its violent content so that it is blockable by electronic means specifically on the basis of that content.

 AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEE TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Labor and Human Resources be authorized to meet in executive session during the session of the Senate on Friday, February 28, 1997, at 9 a.m.

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

 ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

 THE JALEX (JAPANESE LANGUAGE EXCHANGE) PROGRAM

• Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, it is my pleasure to take a moment to recognize JALEX, the Japanese Language Exchange Program. Since its inception in 1992, the JALEX Program has made valuable educational contributions to students in the United States preparing to function in an increasingly global environment.

There are few Americans who would dispute the importance of providing our young people with an education that will prepare them to function effectively in the world. It is the responsibility of our educational system to prepare them to be competitive and cooperative in this global environment. You will be pleased to know that this kind of preparation is happening through JALEX, a unique program funded by the Center for Global Partnership of the Japan Foundation and administered by the Laurasian Institution.

JALEX is unlike many exchange programs because it is reciprocal, pairing novice teachers from Japan with mentor teachers of Japanese in the United States at the precollegiate level. The program is designed to mutually bene-

fit teachers from Japan and teachers and students in the United States. JALEX began as a modest prototype serving 18 schools in 5 States and has grown to serve 76 schools and community organizations in 20 States, including 18 cities in my home State of Indiana. JALEX also operates in Washington, Oregon, Utah, Kansas, Missouri, Nevada, Tennessee, Iowa, Illinois, Texas, Wisconsin, Michigan, Minnesota, North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, Connecticut, Maine, and Vermont.

In the process of achieving its mission—enhancing Japanese language instruction in the United States and classroom experience for native Japanese teachers of Japanese-as-a-foreign-language study—the program also provides opportunities for meaningful cultural exchange for thousands of American citizens.

Since 1985, the study of Japanese in United States schools has grown rapidly. Despite the comparative difficulty of Japanese and the longstanding appeal of Romance languages, interest in and demand for Japanese language instruction has continued to grow on a global scale.

JALEX began in 1992 when President Bush and Prime Minister Miyazawa acknowledged the essential role of enhanced Japanese language training to advance global partnership between the two nations. During the Tokyo summit in May 1996, President Clinton and Prime Minister Hashimoto vowed to further promote exchange programs between young people of Japan and the United States as a means of strengthening this bilateral relationship.

The Center for Global Partnership of the Japan Foundation and the Freeman Foundation should be applauded for their generous support of this program. Their support provides participating schools an invaluable resource of a native Japanese teaching assistant in the classroom as well as materials, stipends, and professional development opportunities for United States teachers.

The approximate value of the annual benefits provided by the JALEX Program to each school is conservatively estimated at \$30,000. The Japanese language programs would not be as strong without the support of JALEX. The program has also provided several JALEX participants—teachers, administrators, and students—the opportunity to visit Japan. These activities are provided at no cost to local school districts and without U.S. Government tax dollars.

Because of JALEX, our leaders of the next century, will be able to direct our Nation on a global scale with a greater sensitivity and awareness to cultural and national differences.

I hope my colleagues will join me in congratulating the JALEX Program for the contributions it has made toward fostering cultural understanding and respect. •

THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TOBACCO RULE

• Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, today, the President's rules against teenage smoking will go into effect. I applaud President Clinton for these new rules and for his leadership in fighting youth smoking. It's critically important.

Mr. President, it's time to stop beating around the bush about tobacco. Tobacco is a deadly addictive drug. And those who deal in this drug are dealers in death. They're responsible for snuffing out the lives of thousands each year. And they should be held accountable.

Unfortunately, Mr. President, these deadly dealers also have tremendous political power. We saw evidence of this earlier this week, when a spokesman for the attorney general of Virginia said that the State would refuse to enforce, or even respect the validity of, this Federal rule against teen tobacco use. It was an outrageous and shocking statement. And although he has since backed off of it, the incident highlights the importance of protecting our children from big tobacco, and their deadly drugs.

Mr. President, just this week, Gen. Barry McCaffrey, our Nation's drug czar, recognized that cigarettes are a gateway drug, and that we will not be able to effectively fight cocaine, marijuana, and heroin use unless we work to prevent cigarette smoking by children. Children who smoke are eight times more likely to use illicit drugs than those who do not smoke. Of adults who use cocaine, 83 percent smoked cigarettes as gateway behavior.

Mr. President, it's now clear that the front lines of the drug war are not only in Bogota or Mexico City. They're right here in this country—in the corporate headquarters of tobacco companies and at our neighborhood convenience stores. The rule that goes into effect today will prevent kids from engaging in addictive behavior—behavior that could lead to other dangerous and illegal habits. As General McCaffrey has explained, prevention of Teen tobacco addiction is key to our national drug control strategy.

Mr. President, the tobacco companies have been peddling these drugs to our kids for far too long. Although the industry denies that they target children in cigarette marketing, that's obviously not true. Consider this. How many 6 year olds do you think can identify Joe Camel as a symbol for smoking? The answer, incredibly, is 91 percent; 91 percent of 6-year-olds link Joe Camel with smoking. That, Mr. President, is not an accident.

Mr. President, tobacco industry marketing doesn't stop with advertising. They also give away products that they know will appeal to kids. Over half of adolescents that smoke own at least one tobacco promotional item, such as a Tee-shirt, cap, sporting good, or a lighter.

Today, as the first part of the President's rules will go into effect, we will