

benefits would be canceled in a matter of weeks. These were men and women who had worked for 20, 30, even 40 years at the Morrell plant.

The company did not give them retiree health benefits out of the goodness of their hearts. The Morrell workers earned those benefits. They took smaller pay increases and made other sacrifices while they were still working so they could have some measure of security when they retired.

The letters telling the Morrell retirees that their former company was canceling their health benefits was just the first of many shocks. An additional shock came when those Morrell employees under 65 were forced to buy exorbitant private health insurance—an extremely difficult purchase on a retiree's pension.

To address these concerns, I introduced legislation, S. 1307, the Retiree Health Benefits Protection act of 1997. S. 1307 would require companies to keep the promises they make to their retirees and their families.

I am pleased that the President, Senator MOYNIHAN, and Representative STARK have incorporated a key piece of that bill in the Medicare Early Access Act. This provision would allow retirees between ages 55 and 65 to buy into their former employer's health plan if the employer cancels or substantially reduces promised benefits. Retirees and their spouses would remain eligible until they turn 65 and become eligible for Medicare.

The Medicare Early Access Act includes two additional important provisions for individuals ages 55 to 65. First, it would allow people between the ages of 62 and 65 who do not have access to group coverage to buy into the Medicare program. Second, it would offer access to Medicare for workers between the ages of 55 and 65, and their spouses, when their employer downsizes or their plant shuts down.

Some have questioned whether this program will hurt the current Medicare program. Let me emphasize that the proposal will pay for itself. All workers and retirees who buy into Medicare under our plan would pay premiums out of their own pockets. Any additional costs would be paid through savings from Medicare anti-fraud and abuse measures. Because the bill is self-financing, it does not in any way threaten Medicare's solvency or its future. It is responsible proposal that pays for itself.

Mr. President, there are hundreds of thousands of Americans who could benefit from this bill. It is my hope that we can engage in productive debate over the next few weeks and find a way to fill these gaps in health insurance coverage, instead of making excuses about why we are waiting to help these individuals.

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 195

At the request of Mr. HELMS, the names of the Senator from Mississippi

(Mr. LOTT), the Senator from New York (Mr. D'AMATO), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. BIDEN), and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAIG) were added as cosponsors of S. 195, a bill to abolish the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Council on the Arts.

At the request of Mrs. HUTCHINSON, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SPECTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 195, supra.

S. 381

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. D'AMATO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 381, a bill to establish a demonstration project to study and provide coverage of routine patient care costs for medicare beneficiaries with cancer who are enrolled in an approved clinical trial program.

S. 442

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 442, a bill to establish a national policy against State and local government interference with interstate commerce on the Internet or interactive computer services, and to exercise Congressional jurisdiction over interstate commerce by establishing a moratorium on the imposition of exactions that would interfere with the free flow of commerce via the Internet, and for other purposes.

S. 775

At the request of Mr. JEFFORDS, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CONRAD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 775, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude gain or loss from the sale of livestock from the computation of capital gain net income for purposes of the earned income credit.

S. 1021

At the request of Mr. HAGEL, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. DASCHLE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1021, a bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide that consideration may not be denied to preference eligibles applying for certain positions in the competitive service, and for other purposes.

S. 1251

At the request of Mr. THOMAS, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1251, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the amount of private activity bonds which may be issued in each State, and to index such amount for inflation.

At the request of Mr. D'AMATO, the names of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. FORD), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. HUTCHINSON), and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1251, supra.

S. 1252

At the request of Mr. THOMAS, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1252, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the amount of low-income housing credits which may be allocated in each State, and to index such amount for inflation.

At the request of Mr. D'AMATO, the names of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. FORD), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. HUTCHINSON), and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. TORRICELLI) were added as cosponsors of S. 1252, supra.

S. 1283

At the request of Mr. BUMPERS, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID), and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. DEWINE) were added as cosponsors of S. 1283, a bill to award Congressional gold medals to Jean Brown Trickey, Carlotta Walls LaNier, Melba Patillo Beals, Terrence Roberts, Gloria Ray Karlmark, Thelma Mothershed Wair, Ernest Green, Elizabeth Eckford, and Jefferson Thomas, commonly referred collectively as the "Little Rock Nine" on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the integration of the Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas.

S. 1305

At the request of Mr. GRAMM, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1305, a bill to invest in the future of the United States by doubling the amount authorized for basic scientific, medical, and pre-competitive engineering research.

S. 1321

At the request of Mr. TORRICELLI, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. FAIRCLOTH), and the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) were added as cosponsors of S. 1321, a bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to permit grants for the national estuary program to be used for the development and implementation of a comprehensive conservation and management plan, to reauthorize appropriations to carry out the program, and for other purposes.

S. 1350

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. MOYNIHAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1350, a bill to amend section 332 of the Communications Act of 1934 to preserve State and local authority to regulate the placement, construction, and modification of certain telecommunications facilities, and for other purposes.

S. 1405

At the request of Mr. SHELBY, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1405, a bill to provide for improved monetary policy and regulatory reform in financial institution management and activities, to streamline financial regulatory agency actions, to provide for improved consumer credit disclosure, and for other purposes.

S. 1464

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. GLENN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1464, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the research credit, and for other purposes.

S. 1536

At the request of Mr. TORRICELLI, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. FAIRCLOTH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1536, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act and Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to require that group and individual health insurance coverage and group health plans provide coverage for qualified individuals for bone mass measurement (bone density testing) to prevent fractures associated with osteoporosis and to help women make informed choices about their reproductive and post-menopausal health care, and to otherwise provide for research and information concerning osteoporosis and other related bone diseases.

S. 1621

At the request of Mr. GRAMS, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. THURMOND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1621, a bill to provide that certain Federal property shall be made available to States for State use before being made available to other entities, and for other purposes.

S. 1638

At the request of Mr. CONRAD, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1638, a bill to help parents keep their children from starting to use tobacco products, to expose the tobacco industry's past misconduct and to stop the tobacco industry from targeting children, to eliminate or greatly reduce the illegal use of tobacco products by children, to improve the public health by reducing the overall use of tobacco, and for other purposes.

S. 1643

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. TORRICELLI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1643, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to delay for one year implementation of the per beneficiary limits under the interim payment system to home health agencies and to provide for a later base year for the purposes of calculating new payment rates under the system.

S. 1647

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SANTORUM) were added as cosponsors of S. 1647, a bill to reauthorize and make reforms to programs authorized by the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965.

S. 1682

At the request of Mr. D'AMATO, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. COVERDELL), the Senator from Florida (Mr. MACK), and the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID) were added as cosponsors of S. 1682, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal joint and several liability of spouses on joint returns of Federal income tax, and for other purposes.

S. 1693

At the request of Mr. THOMAS, the names of the Senator from Wyoming

(Mr. ENZI) and the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. GRAMS) were added as cosponsors of S. 1693, a bill to renew, reform, reinvigorate, and protect the National Park System.

S. 1724

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1724, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the information reporting requirement relating to the Hope Scholarship and Lifetime Learning Credits imposed on educational institutions and certain other trades and businesses.

S. 1737

At the request of Mr. MACK, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. D'AMATO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1737, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a uniform application of the confidentiality privilege to taxpayer communications with federally authorized practitioners.

S. 1754

At the request of Mr. FRIST, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1754, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to consolidate and reauthorize health professions and minority and disadvantaged health professions and disadvantaged health education programs, and for other purposes.

S. 1755

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CONRAD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1755, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to disallow tax deductions for advertising, promotional, and marketing expenses relating to tobacco product use unless certain advertising requirements are met.

## SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 41

At the request of Mr. SARBANES, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of Senate Joint Resolution 41, A joint resolution approving the location of a Martin Luther King, Jr., Memorial in the Nation's Capital.

## SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 30

At the request of Mr. HELMS, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. ALLARD) was added as a cosponsor of Senate Concurrent Resolution 30, A concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress that the Republic of China should be admitted to multilateral economic institutions, including the International Monetary Fund and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

## SENATE RESOLUTION 188

At the request of Mr. MOYNIHAN, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. GLENN) were added as cosponsors of Senate Resolution 188, A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding Israeli membership in a United Nations regional group.

## SENATE RESOLUTION 193

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr.

BYRD) was added as a cosponsor of Senate Resolution 193, A resolution designating December 13, 1998, as "National Children's Memorial Day."

## SENATE RESOLUTION 194

At the request of Mrs. HUTCHISON, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. HELMS), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. FAIRCLOTH), and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. LOTT) were added as cosponsors of Senate Resolution 194, A resolution designating the week of April 20 through April 26, 1998, as "National Kick Drugs Out of America Week."

## SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 84—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS RELATIVE TO PROTECTING THE LIVES OF PROPERTY OWNERS IN COSTA RICA

Mr. KEMPTHORNE (for himself, Mr. HELMS, Mr. FAIRCLOTH, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. CHAFEE, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. COVERDELL, Mr. GRAMM, Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. WARNER, and Mr. CRAIG) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

## S. CON. RES. 84

Whereas, although the United States embassy in Costa Rica had forewarned Costa Rican officials about threats on Max Dalton's life, on November 13, 1997, 78 year-old United States citizen from Idaho and World War II veteran Max Dalton was surrounded and murdered in a dispute with squatters, some of whom were illegally occupying his property in the Pavones region of Costa Rica;

Whereas the murder of Max Dalton was the tragic conclusion to a seven-year assault perpetrated against Mr. Dalton by the squatters in an attempt to steal his property, and Costa Rican citizen Alvaro Aguilar was also killed in the incident;

Whereas the initial investigation of Max Dalton's death was flawed in that investigators failed to take fingerprints, collect bullets, and secure the scene of the crime;

Whereas, landowners, including United States and Costa Rican citizens, have reported harassment and invasions by squatters in areas of the country, other than Golfito in Pavones, including Cocotales in the North East, the Caribbean cities of Cahuita and Cocles, and Jaco on the Pacific Coast;

Whereas the squatters' tactics have included stealing and starving livestock, burning homes, leveling crops and fruit trees, death threats, machete attacks, and, in the case of United States citizen, murder;

Whereas Costa Rica has a long history of democratic governance, respect for human rights and close, friendly relations with the United States. Nonetheless, successive Costa Rican governments have failed to deal with squatters invading property held by foreign and Costa Rican landowners;

Whereas, although Article 45 of the Costa Rican Constitution states that "no one may be deprived of his [property] unless on account of legally proved public interest and after compensation in conformity with the law," this Constitutional guarantee has been eroded by the broad interpretation of the Agrarian Code by individuals who have used it as the basis for aggressive campaigns against landowners;