

put their life at risk by driving past the emergency room down the street to the network provider an hour or more away. No patient with symptoms of stroke should be forced to delay the treatment to the point where paralysis and disability is permanent, because a clerk two thousand miles away does not respond promptly and appropriately. And no patient who goes to an emergency room with symptoms of a heart attack that proves to be a false alarm should suffer a real heart attack when a bill for thousands of dollars arrives that the health insurer has refused to pay.

This amendment also says that any reform worthy of the name must guarantee that insurance plans meet the special needs of women and children. Women should have access to gynecologists for needed services. No women with breast cancer should be forced to endure a "drive-by" mastectomy against the advice of her doctor.

No child with a rare childhood cancer should be told that the urologist who happens to be in the plan's network will treat him—even if that urologist has no experience or expertise with children or with that rare cancer.

Too many desperate patients—especially cancer patients—know that their only hope for survival is participation in a clinical trial. Such trials not only offer hope to patients, they also advance our knowledge and lead to better treatments for dread diseases. Many insurers have routinely paid for the medical costs associated with clinical trials, because they knew they offered benefits for patients and because the patients would incur medical costs in any event, even if they were not part of the trial. But today, many insurers are backing away from that constructive policy. Managed care plans, in particular, have often denied their patients the ability to participate in such trials.

Our legislation provides patients a right to participate in such trials if stringent conditions are met. There must be no standard treatment that is effective for the patient, and the patient must be suffering from a serious or life-threatening illness. The trial must be funded by the NIH or another government agency meeting NIH standards. And the trial must offer the patient a realistic hope for clinical benefit.

Patients need the right to appeal decisions on their plans to independent third parties. Today, if a health plan breaks its promise, the only recourse for most patients is to go to court—a time-consuming and costly process that may not provide relief in time to save a life or prevent a disability.

Independent review was recommended unanimously by the President's Commission. It has worked successfully in Medicare for four decades. Working families deserve the basic fairness that only an impartial appeal can provide. Without such a mechanism, any "rights" guaranteed to patients exist on paper only—and they

are scarcely worth the paper on which they are written. When the issues are sickness and health—and often as serious as life and death—no health insurance company should be allowed to be both judge and jury.

When health plan misconduct results in serious injury or death, patients and their families should be able to obtain accountability. Every other industry in America can be held responsible for its actions. Why should health plans, whose decisions truly can mean life or death, enjoy this unique immunity?

Reforms must protect the integrity of the doctor-patient relationship. "Gag clauses" and improper incentive arrangements should have no place in American medicine.

And finally, everyone should agree that noncontroversial steps to improve quality and provide greater patient information should be part of reform.

This amendment should not be controversial for any member of the Senate who is serious about protecting patients from insurance company abuse. Its basic provisions were included in legislation introduced by Democrats in the House and Senate. That legislation is supported by the American Medical Association, the Consortium of Citizens with Disabilities, the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill, the National Partnership for Women and Families, the National Association of Children's Hospitals, the AFL-CIO, and many other groups representing physicians and other health care providers, children, women, families, consumers, persons with disabilities, Americans with serious illnesses, and working families.

It is rare for such a broad and diverse coalition to be assembled in support of any legislation. But ending these flagrant abuses will help every American family.

The choice is clear. The Senate should stand with patients, families, and physicians. We must not stand with the well-heeled special interests that put profits ahead of patients.

By Mr. DEWINE (for himself, Mr. HATCH, Mr. LEAHY, and Mr. SPECTER):

S. 1893. A Bill to establish a law enforcement block grant program; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

THE LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT BLOCK GRANT  
ACT OF 1998

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, today I rise to introduce the Local Law Enforcement Block Grants Act of 1998, which reauthorizes the very successful Local Law Enforcement Grant Program. This program gives local governments the resources to fight crime, without the "Washington knows best" strings attached. I believe it is a mistake for Washington to try to micro-manage how local communities spend their law enforcement dollars. Instead Washington should play the role of partner with local law enforcement to improve the tools they use to fight crime.

My views on this issue are based on more than 20 years of experience in the criminal justice system: as a prosecutor in Greene County, Ohio; in the Ohio State Senate; as a United States Congressman on the Judiciary Committee; as Lieutenant Governor overseeing anti-crime and anti-drug efforts; and now, as a member on the Senate Judiciary Committee. I have had an opportunity to work on criminal justice issues from the local, state, and federal levels, and have been fortunate to see firsthand what Congress can do to help local communities be victors in the war on crime.

Because 90 percent of all criminal prosecution is local, the fight against crime will be won or lost by local law enforcement, local prosecutors and courts, and concerned citizens in every community. I believe the best way for the federal government to help local communities fight crime is to return more money to those communities, because in the final analysis, it is they who will get the job done. For too long the Federal Government has had all the money—and local communities all the crime. Local communities know what works—and they should have the resources.

From 1999–2003, this Act authorizes \$750 million each year for direct grants to local law enforcement to reduce crime and improve public safety. Distributions are made by the Bureau of Justice Assistance on a formula basis, directly to local governments. Grants may include, but are not limited to, equipment and law enforcement personnel, enhancing school security measures, violent offender adjudication, drug courts, crime prevention programs and youth intervention programs.

One of the most frequent uses of this grant money in Ohio, and by local law enforcement across the country, has been for crime fighting technology. I believe there is a critical need to modernize the crime fighting tools used by local law enforcement, who have been fighting increasingly sophisticated criminals with outmoded tools. That's why I am expressly providing that funds may also be used for information and identification technology, such as criminal history information, fingerprint dissemination, and DNA and ballistics tests.

Let me underscore here that this Act leaves to local governments the decision regarding what their funding priorities should be, while at the same time requiring accountability as to how funds are ultimately used. Local advisory boards also have an opportunity to recommend how monies are spent as well. These funds will help local law enforcement meet the critical local needs, by letting them put the resources where they are needed most.

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 71

At the request of Mr. DASCHLE, the names of the Senator from Connecticut

(Mr. DODD) and the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 71, a bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 and the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to provide more effective remedies to victims of discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis of sex, and for other purposes.

S. 885

At the request of Mr. D'AMATO, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 885, a bill to amend the Electronic Fund Transfer Act to limit fees charged by financial institutions for the use of automatic teller machines, and for other purposes.

S. 1141

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CONRAD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1141, a bill to amend the Energy Policy Act of 1992 to take into account newly developed renewable energy-based fuels and to equalize alternative fuel vehicle acquisition incentives to increase the flexibility of controlled fleet owners and operators, and for other purposes.

S. 1473

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. LOTT) and the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) were added as cosponsors of S. 1473, a bill to encourage the development of a commercial space industry in the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 1580

At the request of Mr. SHELBY, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1580, a bill to amend the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 to place an 18-month moratorium on the prohibition of payment under the medicare program for home health services consisting of venipuncture solely for the purpose of obtaining a blood sample, and to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to study potential fraud and abuse under such program with respect to such services.

S. 1677

At the request of Mr. CHAFEE, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1677, a bill to reauthorize the North American Wetlands Conservation Act and the Partnerships for Wildlife Act.

S. 1710

At the request of Mr. COCHRAN, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1710, a bill to provide for the correction of retirement coverage errors under chapters 83 and 84 of title 5, United States Code.

S. 1873

At the request of Mr. COCHRAN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1873, a bill to state the policy of the United States regarding the deployment of a missile defense system capa-

ble of defending the territory of the United States against limited ballistic missile attack.

## SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 30

At the request of Mr. LIEBERMAN, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID) 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 CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 75

At the request of Mr. FEINGOLD, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. COVERDELL), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. LUGAR), and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD) were added as cosponsors of Senate Concurrent Resolution 75, a concurrent resolution honoring the sesquicentennial of Wisconsin statehood.

## SENATE RESOLUTION 170

At the request of Mr. SPECTER, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. COVERDELL) was added as a cosponsor of Senate Resolution 170, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the Federal investment in biomedical research should be increased by \$2,000,000,000 in fiscal year 1999.

## AMENDMENT NO. 1422

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. CHAFEE) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1422 intended to be proposed to S. 1173, a bill to authorize funds for construction of highways, for highway safety programs, and for mass transit programs, and for other purposes.

## AMENDMENT NO. 1618

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1618 intended to be proposed to S. 1488, a bill to ratify an agreement between the Aleut Corporation and the United States of America to exchange land rights received under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act for certain land interests on Adak Island, and for other purposes.

## AMENDMENT NO. 1619

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BOND) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1619 intended to be proposed to S. 1269, an original bill to establish objectives for negotiating and procedures for implementing certain trade agreements.

## AMENDMENT NO. 2165

At the request of Mr. DASCHLE his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2165 proposed to S.Con.Res. 86, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal years 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, and 2003 and revising the con-

current resolution on the budget for fiscal year 1998.

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 2165 proposed to S.Con.Res. 86, supra.

## AMENDMENT NO. 2166

At the request of Mr. REID his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2166 proposed to S.Con.Res. 86, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal years 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, and 2003 and revising the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 1998.

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2166 proposed to S.Con.Res. 86, supra.

## AMENDMENT NO. 2173

At the request of Mr. DASCHLE his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2173 proposed to S.Con.Res. 86, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal years 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, and 2003 and revising the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 1998.

At the request of Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN her name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2173 proposed to S.Con.Res. 86, supra.

## AMENDMENT NO. 2174

At the request of Mr. DASCHLE his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2174 proposed to S.Con.Res. 86, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal years 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, and 2003 and revising the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 1998.

## AMENDMENT NO. 2175

At the request of Mr. DASCHLE his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2175 proposed to S.Con.Res. 86, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal years 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, and 2003 and revising the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 1998.

## AMENDMENT NO. 2176

At the request of Mr. DASCHLE his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2176 proposed to S.Con.Res. 86, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal years 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, and 2003 and revising the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 1998.

SENATE RESOLUTION 203—RECOGNIZING THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE LADY VOLUNTEERS BASKETBALL TEAM

Mr. FRIST (for himself and Mr. THOMPSON) submitted the following