

S. Con. Res. 75: A concurrent resolution honoring the sesquicentennial of Wisconsin statehood.

#### EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. HATCH, from the Committee on the Judiciary:

William P. Dimitrouleas, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida.

Stephan P. Mickle, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Florida.

Chester J. Straub, of New York, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit.

(The above nominations were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

#### 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. BAUCUS (for himself, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. BREAUX, Mr. REID, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. MIKULSKI, and Mr. JOHNSON):

S. 2040. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to extend the authority of State medicaid fraud control units to investigate and prosecute fraud in connection with Federal health care programs and abuse of residents of board and care facilities; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SMITH of Oregon:

S. 2041. A bill to amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the design, planning, and construction of the Willow Lake Natural Treatment System Project for the reclamation and reuse of water, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. FAIRCLOTH:

S. 2042. A bill to provide for a program to improve commercial motor vehicle safety in the vicinity of the borders between the United States and Canada and the United States and Mexico; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mrs. BOXER (for herself, Mr. BUMPERS, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 2043. A bill to repeal the limitation on use of appropriations to issue rules with respect to valuation of crude oil for royalty purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. INOUE, Mr. DODD, Mr. KERRY, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. BINGAMAN, and Mr. GLENN):

S. 2044. A bill to assist urban and rural local education agencies in raising the academic achievement of all of their students; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

By Mr. FAIRCLOTH:

S. 2045. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit certain beneficiaries of the military health care system to enroll in Federal employees health benefits plans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. ASHCROFT:

S. 2046. A bill to ensure that Federal, State and local governments consider all non-

governmental organizations on an equal basis when choosing such organizations to provide assistance under certain government programs, without impairing the religious character of any of the organizations, and without diminishing the religious freedom of beneficiaries of assistance funded under such programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. HATCH (for himself and Mr. BENNETT):

S. 2047. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on the personal effects of participants in, and certain other individuals associated with, the 1999 International Special Olympics, the 1999 Women's World Cup Soccer, the 2001 International Special Olympics, the 2002 Salt Lake City Winter Olympics, and the 2002 Winter Paralympic Games; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SANTORUM:

S. 2048. A bill to provide for the elimination of duty on Ziram; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KERREY (for himself, Mr. BOND, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. DEWINE, and Mr. MOYNIHAN):

S. 2049. A bill to provide for payments to children's hospitals that operate graduate medical education programs; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 2050. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to prohibit members of the Armed Forces from entering into correctional facilities to present decorations to persons who commit certain crimes before being presented such decorations; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. WARNER:

S. 2051. A bill to establish a task force to assess activities in previous base closure rounds and to recommend improvements and alternatives to additional base closure rounds; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. SHELBY:

S. 2052. An original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 1999 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes; from the Select Committee on Intelligence; to the Committee on Armed Services, pursuant to the order of section 3(b) of S. Res. 400 for a period not to exceed 30 days of session.

By Mr. WARNER:

S. 2053. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to redesign the \$1 bill so as to incorporate the preamble to the Constitution of the United States, the Bill of Rights, and a list of Articles of the Constitution on the reverse side of such currency; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

#### SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. FAIRCLOTH (for himself and Mr. HELMS):

S. Res. 225. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the 35th anniversary of the founding of the North Carolina Community College System; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. BAUCUS (for himself, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. BREAUX, Mr. REID,

Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. MIKULSKI, and Mr. JOHNSON):

S. 2040. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to extend the authority of State medicaid fraud control units to investigate and prosecute fraud in connection with Federal health care programs and abuse of residents of board and care facilities; to the Committee on Finance.

THE SENIOR CITIZEN PROTECTION ACT OF 1998

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, today I rise to introduce the Senior Citizen Protection Act of 1998. The legislation aims to protect our nation's seniors from patient and elder abuse. The bill also protects our federal health care programs, most notably Medicare, from fraud.

In the past two years, we have made great strides against fraud and abuse by passing new initiatives. These initiatives include closing loopholes, improving coordination between Federal, State, and local law enforcement programs, and enhancing the powers of the Inspector General of the Department of Health and Human Services to combat fraud and recover lost money.

These measures are helping, but there is another vision which I think will help us stay ahead of those who endlessly scheme to defraud our health care programs. The Senior Citizen Protection Act deputizes Medicaid investigators and enables them to weed out fraud and abuse in our federal health program.

Currently, when a Medicaid Fraud Control Unit investigates a state Medicaid fraud case and finds a similar violation in Medicare, the Unit cannot investigate the Medicare infraction. Common sense will tell you that an unscrupulous actor defrauding Medicaid will likely do the same to federal health programs.

In Montana, for example, the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit routinely finds co-existing cases of Medicaid and Medicare fraud in patient records. While the Unit has the documents right in front of them, they can not pursue the Medicare abuses.

Federal authorities must conduct a new and separate investigation. Unfortunately, these violations may be too small to justify a federal investigation. The majority of health care fraud recoveries, 62%, are more than a million dollars. Even more striking, only 6% of federal fraud recoveries are in an amount lower than \$100,000. Thus, the Federal Government is doing a good job of weeding out the big actors in the anti-fraud war, but the smaller actors—which still cost money—continue to ride scot-free.

That is where our legislation can help. If a fraud Unit is investigating a fraudulent doctor, for example, and finds some Medicare claims that look false, currently the investigator has to call the Inspector General's office and report their suspicions.

In many cases, however, they hear back from Washington that the claims may be fraudulent, but the fraud is not