MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting one nomination which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

(The nomination received today is printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

AT 11:55 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that pursuant to the provisions of section 806(c)(1) of Public Law 104–132, the Speaker appoints the following member on the part of the House to the Commission on the Advancement of Federal Law Enforcement to fill the existing vacancy thereon: Mr. Robert E. Sanders of Florida.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 2:55 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Goetz, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 1065. An act to establish a matching grant program to help State and local jurisdictions purchase armor vests for use by law enforcement departments.

H.R. 3565. An act to amend Part L of the Omnibus Crime control and Safe Streets Act of 1968.

The enrolled bills were signed subsequently by the President pro tempore (Mr. THURMOND).

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. CHAFEE, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 8. A bill to reauthorize and amend the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Liability, and Compensation Act of 1980, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 105–192).

By Mr. HELMS, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, without amendment and with a preamble:

S. Res. 172. A resolution congratulating President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga and the people of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka on the celebration of 50 years of independence.

S. Res. 188. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding Israeli membership in a United Nations regional group.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. HELMS, from the Committee on Foreign Relations:

Charles H. Dolan, Jr., of Virginia, to be a Member of the United States Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy for a term expiring July 1, 2000. (Reappointment)

William Joseph Burns, of Pennsylvania, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

Federal Campaign Contribution Report

Nominee: William J. Burns.

Post: Ambassador to Jordan.

The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

1. Self: William J. Burns, none.
2. Spouse: Lisa A. Carty, none.
3. Children: Elizabeth and Sarah Burns, none.
4. Parents: William F. Burns, $100, 1996, Republican National Committee; Margaret C. Burns, none.
5. Grandparents: William H. and Eleanor Burns (deceased); John and Mary Cassady (deceased).
6. Brothers and spouses: John R. and Ann Davis Burns, none; Robert P. and Vicki Burns, none.
7. Sisters and spouses: Mark E. and Jennifer Burns, none.

Ryan Clark Crocker, of Washington, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Syrian Arab Republic.

Federal Campaign Contribution Report

Nominee: Ryan Clark Crocker.

Post: Ambassador to Syrian Arab Republic.

The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

1. Self: none.
2. Spouse: Christine Barns Crocker, none.
3. Children and spouses: none.
4. Parents: Carol Crocker, none; Howard Crocker (deceased).
5. Grandparents: All deceased since 1926.
6. Brothers and spouses: none.
7. Sisters and spouses: none.

(The above nominations were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed, subject to the nominees' commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.)

(The nominations ordered to lie on the Secretary's desk were printed in the RECORD of March 26, 1998 and April 22, 1998, at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

In the Foreign Service nominations beginning Alexander Almasov, and ending James Hammond Williams, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the RECORD of March 26, 1998

In the Foreign Service nominations beginning Joan E. La Rosa, and ending Morton J. Holbrook, III, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the RECORD of March 26, 1998

In the Foreign Service nominations beginning Michael Farbman, and ending Mary C. Pendleton, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the RECORD of April 22, 1998

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. GRAMS:

S. 2091. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure medicare reimbursement for certain ambulance services, and to improve the efficiency of the emergency medical system, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SMITH of Oregon (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. THOMAS, and Mr. BROWNBACK):

S. 2092. A bill to promote full equality at the United Nations for Israel; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. FEINGOLD:

S. 2093. A bill to provide class size demonstration grants; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. DORGAN (for himself, Mr. KEMPTHORNE, Mr. WYDEN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. BURNS, Mr. SMITH of Oregon, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. GORTON, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. ENZI, and Mr. THOMAS):

S. Res. 232. A resolution to express the sense of the Senate that the European Union should waive the penalty for failure to use restitution subsidies for barley to the United States and ensure that restitution or other subsidies are not used for similar sales in the United States and that the President, the United States Trade Representative, and the Secretary of Agriculture should conduct an investigation of and report on the sale and subsidies; to the Committee on Finance.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. GRAMS:

S. 2091. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure medicare reimbursement for certain ambulance services, and to improve the efficiency of the emergency medical system, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES EFFICIENCY ACT OF 1998

Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, I rise this morning on behalf of all those who serve their fellow citizens through their active participation in the Nation's emergency care system to introduce the Emergency Medical Services Act.

Mr. President, as a Senator who is deeply concerned about the ever-expanding size and scope of the Federal Government, I have long believed Washington is too big, too clumsy and too removed to deal effectively with many of the issues in which it already meddles.

However, I also believe there's an overriding public health interest in ensuring a viable, seamless, nationwide

EMS system. By designating this week as National EMS Week, the Nation recognizes those individual who make the EMS system work.

There is no more appropriate time to reaffirm our commitment to EMS by addressing some of the problems the system is presented with daily.

I have been privileged to get to know the men and women who dedicate their talents to serving others in an emergency. We have together discussed problems within the EMS system and concluded there are areas in which the Federal Government can help.

The original result of our discussions concerning the Federal role in EMS was S. 238, the Emergency Medical Services Act [EMSEA]. When I introduced S. 238 on January 30, 1997, I acknowledged that it wasn't intended to solve all the problems EMS faces; it was merely a first step toward a meaningful national dialog on EMs. Indeed, this first step was a productive one.

Last summer, I assembled EMS and health care leaders in Minnesota, asked them to take another look at the EMSEA, and report back to me with their thoughts. In January, I received a copy of their report.

I was extremely pleased with their efforts and have used those suggestions as the basis for the legislative language comprising the new Emergency Medical Services Efficiency Act I am introducing today.

I have often said that Congress has a tendency to wait until there's a crisis before it acts, but Congress cannot wait until there's a crisis in the EMS system before we take steps to improve it. There is simply too much at stake.

Whether we realize it or not, we depend on and expect the constant readiness of emergency medical services. To ensure that readiness, we need to make efficient and effective efforts to secure the stability of the system.

This has been my focus in redrafting this legislation.

There are many similarities between S. 238 and the new bill I am introducing today.

For instance, we continue to assert that the most important thing we can do to maintain the vitality of the EMS system is to compel the government to reimburse for the services it says it will pay for under Medicare.

In the meetings I have had with ambulance providers, emergency medical technicians emergency physicians, nurses, and other EMS-related personnel, their most common request is to base reimbursement on a ''prudent layperson'' standard, rather than the ultimate diagnosis reached in the emergency room.

While the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 [BBA] contained a provision basing reimbursement for emergency services on the prudent layperson standard, we have yet to see HCFA's interpretation of the provision and whether it will include ambulance services.

I have written letters to HCFA and Senate Finance Committee Chairman WILLIAM ROTH indicating my understanding that ambulance services would be considered part of ''emergency services'' as defined in the BBA.

I have been given no assurances from HCFA that they intend to include ambulance services as part of the ''emergency services'' definition in the balanced budget agreement.

To illustrate how prevalent this problem is, I want to share with you a case my staff worked on relating to Medicare reimbursement for ambulance services. Please keep in mind that this is the fee-for-service Medicare program.

It was back in 1994 that Andrew Bernecker of Braham, MN, was mowing with a power scythe and tractor when he fell. The rotating blades of the scythe severely cut his upper arm. Mr. Bernecker tried to walk toward his home but was too faint from the blood loss, so he crawled the rest of the way.

Afraid that his wife, who was 86 years old at the time, would panic—or worse, have a heart attack—he crawled to the pump and washed as much blood and dirt off as he could. His wife saw him and immediately called 911 for an ambulance.

He was rushed to the hospital where Mr. Bernecker ultimately had orthopedic surgery and spent some time in the intensive care unit.

In response to the bills submitted to Medicare, the Government sent this reply with respect to the ambulance billing:

> Medicare Regulations Provide that certain conditions must be met in order for ambulance services to be covered.
>
> Medicare pays for ambulance services only when the use of any other method of transportation would endanger your health.

The Government denied payment, claiming the ambulance wasn't medically necessary.

Apparently, Medicare believed the man's wife—who was, remember, 86 years old—should have been able to drive him to the hospital for treatment. Mr. and Mrs. Bernecker appealed, but were denied, and they began paying what they could afford each month on the ambulance bill.

After several years of paying $20 a month, they finally paid off the ambulance bill. Medicare however, later reopened the case and reimbursed the Berneckers.

I believe the experience this family had with Medicare's denial of payment for ambulance services happens far too often, and Congress needs to make sure it doesn't happen again.

Another similarity between the two versions of this bill is the creation of a Federal commission on emergency medical services to make recommendations and to help provide input on how Federal regulatory actions affect all types of EMS providers.

EMS needs a seat at the table when health care and other regulatory policy is made.

Few things are more frustrating for ambulance services than trying to navigate and comply with the tangled mess of laws and regulations from the Federal level on down, only to receive either a reimbursement that doesn't cover the costs of providing the service or otherwise a flat denial of the payment.

Mr. President, I came across this chart last year, the chart I have with me on the floor this morning, that demonstrates how a Medicare claim moves from submittal to payment, denial, or write-off by the ambulance provider.

If you look at this chart, I ask you, tell me how a rural ambulance provider who depends on volunteers has the manpower or the expertise to navigate through this entire mess. And, in the event that it is navigated successfully, ambulance services are regularly reimbursed at a level that doesn't even cover their costs.

Now let us talk about how much it costs to run just one ambulance. There is the cost of the dispatcher who remains on the line to give prearrival assistance, the ambulance itself, which costs from $85,000 to $100,000 to put on the road, the radios, beepers, and the cellular telephones used to communicate between the dispatcher, the ambulance, and the hospital, the supplies and equipment in the ambulance, including defibrillators, stretchers, EKG monitors, and bandages, and the two emergency medical technicians or paramedics who both drive the ambulance and provide care to the patient, the vehicle repair, maintenance, and insurance costs, and the liability insurance for the paramedics. As you can see, the list goes on and on.

Yes, the costs can be high, but it is clear to me that, with the uncertainty ambulance providers face out in the field each day, they need to be prepared for every type of injury or condition. Mr. President, that is expensive, but we as consumers expect that in the case of an emergency.

I am convinced those who complain about the high costs of emergency care would be aghast if the ambulance that arrived to care for them in an emergency didn't have the lifesaving equipment needed for their treatment.

Let us be honest with ourselves: We want the quickest and best service when we face an emergency—and the bottom line is that costs money.

Mr. President, many of our political debates in Washington center around how to better prepare for the 21st century.

I have always supported research and efforts to expand the limits of technology and continue to believe technological innovations and advances in biomedical and basic scientific research hold tremendous promise.

Under the new bill I am introducing today, Federal grant programs will be clarified to ensure that EMS agencies are eligible for programs that relate to highway safety, rural development, and tele-health technology.

Emergency medical services have come a long way since the first ambulance services began in Cleveland and New York City way back during the 1860's.

Indeed, the scientific and technological advances have created a new practice of medicine in just 2 short decades, and have dramatically improved the prospects of surviving any serious trauma.

There is reason to believe further advances will have equally meaningful results.

Innovations like tele-health technology may soon allow EMT's, nurses, and paramedics to perform more sophisticated procedures under a physician's supervision via real-time, ambulance-mounted monitors and cameras networked to emergency departments in specific service areas.

By not considering EMS agencies for Federal grant dollars, we may cause significant delays in the application of current technologies. That would be a mistake.

Perhaps the most dramatic departure the reintroduced bill takes from S. 238 related to the designation of a lead Federal agency for EMS.

In August of 1996, the National Highway Traffic and Safety Administration and the Health Resources and Services Administration, Maternal and Child Health Bureau issued their report, ''Emergency Medical Services: Agenda for the Future.''

The report outlined specific ways EMS can be improved, and one of the stated goals was the authorization of a ''lead Federal agency.''

My original legislation instructed the Secretaries of Health and Transportation to confer on and facilitate the transfer of all EMS-related functions to the Department of Transportation.

While we recognized that there would be some who would applaud the notion and others who would berate it, the suggestion compelled people to consider the issue and offer alternative approaches.

The recommendations of the advisory committee and the comments I have received from national groups indicate we have yet to reach a solution to the problematic designation of a lead Federal agency.

As such, under the new legislation, we call for an independent study to determine which existing agency or new board would best serve as the lead Federal entity for EMS.

The concerns expressed to me about designating the Department of Transportation as the lead Federal agency were virtually identical to the concerns about granting lead-agency designation to the Department of Health and Human Services. It just didn't seem to fit.

Therefore, I believe the most appropriate action is to take our time and get it right by conducting this study.

Mr. President, in 1995, there were approximately 100 million visits to emergency departments across the country.

Roughly 20 to 25 percent of those visits started with a call for an ambulance. Each one of those calls is important, especially to those seeking assistance and the responding EMS personnel.

The Nation owes a great deal to the EMS personnel who have dedicated themselves to their profession because they care about people and they want to help those who are suffering.

Nobody gets rich as a professional paramedic, and there is even less compensation as a volunteer. The field of emergency medical services presents many challenges—but offers the reward of knowing you helped someone in need of assistance.

Every year, the American Ambulance Association recognizes EMS personnel across the country for their contributions to the profession, and bestows upon them the Stars of Life Award.

This year, 124 individuals have been chosen by their peers to be honored for demonstrating exceptional kindness and selflessness in performing their duties.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed the 1998 American Ambulance Association Stars of Life honorees in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

1998 STARS OF LIFE HONOREES

Alaska—Monica Helmuth.

Arizona—Jeff Mayhew, Michael Norling, Tammy Smith, Karen Deo, and Sharon R. Featherston.

California—Eva Eveland, John Erie Henry, Chris McGeragle, Nephty Landin, Victor Oseguera, Todd Hombs, Kathy Hester, Les Hutchison, David Pratt, Ted Boorkman, and Paul Maxwell.

Colorado—Kurt Dennison and Jed Swank.

Connecticut—Leonard Sudniek, Michael Pederson, and Alfonso Anglero.

Delaware—Mary McGuire.

Florida—Sean Kelley, Kenneth Warner, David Meck, and John Morrow.

Georgia—Damon Wisdom and Dwayne Friday.

Hawaii—Thomas Sodoma.

Iowa—Elaine Snell and Gary Soderstrom.

Illinois—Julie Burke.

Indiana—Thomas Shoemaker, Rebecca Johnson, and Betty Nickens.

Kansas—Darren Root.

Kentucky—Aaron Gutermuth.

Louisiana—Mark Reis, Wilson ''Billy'' Hughes, Patrice Shows, and Dennis McKinley.

Massachusetts—Warren F. Nicklas, Shawn Payton, Bernard Underwood, Chester ''Chuck'' Cummens, Michael Ward, Dana Gerrard, Priscilla Gerrard, and John Conceison, Jr.

Maryland—James Pirtle, John Dimitriadis, Chad Packard, and Jeff Meyer.

Maine—Paul Knowlton and Doug Chapelle.

Michigan—Nancy Hunger, Craig Veldheer, Jeffrey Buchanan, Timothy Waters, Lydia Paulus, Thomas Scott, and Tonya Prescott.

Minnesota—Daryl Howe, Dan Anger, and John Hall.

Missouri—David Michael, Royce McGuire, and Kirk N. Wattman.

Mississippi—Denise Pilgreen.

North Carolina—Cynthia Seamon, Amy Beinke, Jerry Cornelison, Ronald Corrado, Thomas Wright, Tim Marshburn, and Heather VanRaalte.

Nebraska—Jodi Kozol.

New Jersey—Kimberly Matthews and Michael Maciejczyk.

New Mexico—Gergory Pollard.

Nevada—Mike Denton and Eric Guevin.

New York—Thomas Murphy, Vicki Knarr, Tina Pawlukovich-Cross, Lynn Pulaski, Stacey Wallace, Larry Abbey, Edward Schaeffer, Brent Sala, Dana Peritore, Jean Zambrano, Darrel Grigg, Debra Yandow, John Falgitano, Sam Lubin, and Jim Mazzucca.

Ohio—Kenton Kirkland, Robert Good, and James Drake.

Oklahoma—Terri Farmer.

Oregon—Gregory Sanders, Doug Carlson, and Shawn Hunt.

Pennsylvania—Lisa Mauger, Stephanie Schmoyer, and Christine Webster.

Tennessee—James Quilliams.

Texas—Cory Jeffcoat, Eric Silva, Christine Saucedo, Elaine Tyler, and Brad Redden.

Utah—Marcie Mehl, Charles Cruz, and Patrick Eden.

Virginia—Gerrit ''Bip'' Terhune.

Vermont—Eric Davenport and Paul Jardine.

Washington—George McGibbon and Jim Hogenson.

Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, in closing I have talked with many EMT's, paramedics, and emergency nurses, and most tell me that they wouldn't think of doing anything else for their chosen career.

So, in honoring them during this National EMS Week, I can think of no better way to recognize their service than through the introduction of legislation that will help them to help others.

I ask my colleagues to support them by supporting the Emergency Medical Services Act.

By Mr. SMITH of Oregon (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. THOMAS, and Mr. BROWNBACK):

S. 2092. A bill to promote full equality at the United Nations for Israel; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EQUALITY FOR ISRAEL AT THE UNITED NATIONS ACT OF 1998

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. President, today I introduce legislation requiring the Secretary of State report on actions taken by our Ambassador to the United Nations to push the nations of the Western Europe and Others Group (WEOG) to accept Israel into their group.

As you may know, Israel is the only nation among the 185 member states that does not hold membership in a regional group. Membership in a regional group is the prerequisite for any nation to serve on key United Nations bodies such as the Security Council. In order to correct this inequality, I am introducing ''The Equality for Israel at the United Nations Act of 1998.'' I believe that this legislation will prompt our United Nations Representative to make equality for Israel at the United Nations a high priority.

I am proud to be joined by Senators Wyden, Brownback and Thomas as original co-sponsors of this important legislation.

Mr. President, Israel has been a member of the United Nations since

1949, yet it has been continuously precluded from membership in any regional bloc. Most member states from the Middle East would block the vote needed to join their own regional group. The Western Europe and Others Group, however, has accepted countries from other geographical areas—the United States and Australia for example.

Recently United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan announced that ''It's time to usher in a new era of relations between Israel and the United Nations . . . One way to rectify that new chapter would be to rectify an anomaly: Israel's position as the only Member State that is not a member of one of the regional groups, which means it has no chance of being elected to serve on main organs such as the Security Council or the Economic and Social Council. This anomaly would be corrected.''

I believe it is time to back Secretary General Annan's idea with strong support from the United States Senate and I ask all my colleagues to join me in sending this message to the UN to stop this discrimination against Israel.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have this legislation printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2092

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 ''Equality for Israel at the United Nations Act of 1998''.

SEC. 2. EFFORTS TO PROMOTE FULL EQUALITY AT THE UNITED NATIONS FOR ISRAEL.

(a) CONGRESSIONAL STATEMENT.—It is the sense of the Congress that—

(1) the United States must help promote an end to the persistent inequity experienced by Israel in the United Nations whereby Israel is the only longstanding member of the organization to be denied acceptance into any of the United Nations regional blocs, which serve as the basis for participation in important activities of the United Nations, including rotating membership on the United Nations Security Council; and

(2) the United States Ambassador to the United Nations should take all steps necessary to ensure Israel's acceptance in the Western Europe and Others Group (WEOG) regional bloc, whose membership includes the non-European countries of Canada, Australia, and the United States.

(b) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act and on a quarterly basis thereafter, the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report which includes the following information (in classified or unclassified form as appropriate):

(1) Actions taken by representatives of the United States, including the United States Ambassador to the United Nations, to encourage the nations of the Western Europe and Others Group (WEOG) to accept Israel into their regional bloc.

(2) Efforts undertaken by the Secretary General of the United Nations to secure Israel's full and equal participation in that body.

(3) Specific responses solicited and received by the Secretary of State from each of the nations of Western Europe and Others Group (WEOG) on their position concerning Israel's acceptance into their organization.

(4) Other measures being undertaken, and which will be undertaken, to ensure and promote Israel's full and equal participation in the United Nations.

By Mr. FEINGOLD:

S. 2093. A bill to provide class size demonstration grants; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

● Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, today I introduce the National SAGE Act. This legislation would authorize a limited number of innovative demonstration grant programs to assist states in their efforts to reduce public school class size and improve learning in the earliest grades.

Mr. President, my own state of Wisconsin has been a leader in the effort to reduce class size in public schools. This legislation is modeled after Wisconsin's successful pilot program, the Student Achievement Guarantee in Education of SAGE program. I am proud that my bill bears the same name as that groundbreaking program.

SAGE is a very appropriate acronym for this legislation, for a sage is a teacher who imparts knowledge and wisdom through direct engagement with his or her students. By providing grants to states trying to reduce class size and implement educational reforms, the National SAGE Act would give students and teachers more opportunities to interact directly. The result will be better teacher morale, better student performance and a happier, more successful school.

Mr. President, I have heard about the need for smaller classes from parents, teachers and school administrators around Wisconsin—including my mother-in-law, who has been a 1st grade teacher for more than 20 years in Waunakee. They all tell me by reducing class size students receive more attention from teachers, and it stands to reason that more attention will translate into more learning.

When asked to evaluate the Wisconsin SAGE program, eight-year teaching veteran Shelia Briggs, of Glendale Elementary School in Madison, Wisconsin said, ''SAGE is just phenomenal. I have kindergarteners who are writing paragraphs. In addition, behavior is a huge benefit of SAGE. With too many little bodies, you will have difficulties. Things are so much more manageable.'' Additionally, second grade teacher Amy Kane says, ''I have taught second grade for nine years and never had this high a percentage of readers. Their writing skills are much higher, and they are able to behave better. I make contact with parents now that I could never make with 34 students.''

Wisconsin's SAGE program has again demonstrated empirically what we know instinctively: students in smaller classes get more attention from teachers, and teachers with fewer students will have more time and energy to devote to each child.

In addition to vital input from these Wisconsin educators, other studies confirm that small class size promotes effective teaching and learning. The leading scientific studies of the impact of small class size, Tennessee's STAR study and its follow up, the Lasting Benefit Study, found that students in small classes in the early years earned significantly higher scores on basic skill tests in all four years and in all types of schools. Follow-up studies have shown that these achievement gains were sustained in later years even if students are placed in larger classes. While I certainly recognize that teacher quality, high expectations an parental involvement are important factors in quality education, the significance of small class size should not be underestimated and cannot be ignored.

Mr. President, Wisconsin is not the only state fighting to reduce class size and implement educational reforms in its public schools. Several states have made small class size a priority, including California, Tennessee, Indiana and Nevada to name a few. My legislation, the National SAGE Act, authorizes $75 million over a period of five years to fund a limited number of demonstration grants to state that create innovative programs to reduce public school class size and improve educational performance, as Wisconsin has done. The Secretary of Education would choose the states to receive funding based on several criteria, including the state's need to reduce class size, the ability of a state education agency to furnish 50 percent of the funds and the degree to which parents, teachers, school administrators and local teacher organizations are consulted in designing the program. The funding for the National SAGE Act would be fully offset by cuts in a wasteful federal program that subsidizes research and development for a huge aircraft manufacturer. That's classic corporate welfare and by eliminating it, we can fund this important SAGE program and still reduce federal spending by more than $1.7 billion over a five year period.

The National SAGE Act also includes a comprehensive research and evaluation component to document the benefit of smaller class size in the earliest grades, and support efforts to reduce class size in schools all over America.

Mr. President, I want to take a moment to say how pleased I am that the Clinton Administration has been pushing the issue of class size to the forefront of the education debate. In January I wrote to the President requesting that he make reducing class size a priority in his FY 99 education budget. I was pleased that the President's budget includes an incentive to help schools provide small classes in the early grades.

While I support the intent of the President's class size proposal, it is not funded. I was uncomfortable with the President's original proposal to fund a

small class size initiative with money from a tobacco settlement that did not yet exist. I am hopeful that Congress will soon pass tobacco legislation, Mr. President, but it is best that we not tie class size legislation to something as controversial and decisive as the tobacco bill.

My fear is that the end of the 105th session will come and Congress will go home having done nothing to assist States trying to reduce class size. My bill approaches this issue more directly, without the baggage of the tobacco bill and without expanding the deficit.

I have been very active on the class size issue over the last year because again—I believe that there is a great national purpose of helping our children to learn by doing all we can to reduce class sizes for children in the earliest grades. While I embrace that national purpose, I do not seek a national mandate for smaller classes. That is not a proper federal goal. Instead, I support smaller classes as a national goal, to be achieved by the local school boards. I think we all can agree that there are no magic remedies to the problems in our public schools and no instant fix to improve learning. However, I believe that targeting federal funds matched on a 50–50 basis by state funding, to assist school districts moving toward smaller class size, is an effective use of federal dollars.

At its core, Mr. President, the small class size issue is really about protecting pubic education. The promising achievements of state efforts in education reform merit strong federal support. We have an obligation to strengthen public schools, because they are the principal institution for educating American children.

Public schools are all-inclusive; they accept all students, regardless of income, race, religion or ethnicity. In introducing the National SAGE Act today, I want to reiterate my strong commitment to quality public education. I am proud of the education I received from Wisconsin's public schools; proud to have graduated from them, and proud that my children attend them. I am committed to helping our public schools improve and adapt and respond to the increased burdens placed on them. I feel strongly that the federal government has a limited—but important role to play in public education.

Mr. President, the Washington Post recently wrote an article about the growing number of families in the Washington area deciding to educate their children at home, rather than participate in the public school system. Mr. President, this trend is not happening in Washington alone, but around the nation.

The Post article states that one of their biggest complaints for families opting out of the public schools is large class size. Parents understand the importance of a low teacher to child ratio in the classroom. They understand the critical difference additional teacher attention can make for their child's educational achievement.

The parent's highlighted in the Post article, Mr. President, are fed up with public school classes made up of twenty-five to thirty students or more, fed up with the lack of individual attention their children are receiving in the classroom; and finally, Mr. President, parents are fed up with the discipline problems created by too many children and too few adults in one classroom.

While I support the choices of families who send their children to public schools or home school their children, the growing trend to move public resources away from the public schools, where more than 90% of our nation's children are educated, is disturbing. Instead of abandoning public education with tax breaks for private schools or spending time and energy designing a Constitutionally flawed voucher program, Congress should be working to ensure that we target federal dollars to meet the needs of local school districts. Those of us who believe a high quality public education system is essential to the productivity of our nation should be very alarmed by this growing effort to move resources away from our public schools.

Mr. President, the federal government has a responsibility during the 105th Congress to take a positive step toward helping school districts reduce class size as part of an overall effort to improve education and ensure that our children have the best chance to excel and reach their full potential. I look forward to continued debate on this issue and hope that my colleagues will consider the National SAGE Act as a reasonable, fiscally responsible proposal to assist states in their efforts to reduce public school class size and improve learning in the earliest grades.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the full 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. 2093

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

SECTION. 1. CLASS SIZE DEMONSTRATION GRANTS.

Subpart 3 of part D of title V of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1109 et seq.) is amended to read as follows:

"Subpart 3—Class Size Demonstration Grants

"SEC. 561. PURPOSE.

''It is the purpose of this subpart to provide grants to State educational agencies to enable such agencies to determine the benefits, in various school settings, of reducing class size on the educational performance of students and on classroom management and organization.

"SEC. 562. PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.

''(a) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award grants, on a competitive basis, to State educational agencies to pay the Federal share of the costs of conducting demonstration projects that demonstrate methods of reducing class size that may provide information meaningful to other State educational agencies and local educational agencies.

''(2) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share shall be 50 percent.

''(b) RESERVATION.—The Secretary may reserve not more than 5 percent of the amount appropriated under section 565A for each fiscal year to carry out the activities described in section 565.

''(c) SELECTION CRITERIA.—The Secretary shall make grants to State educational agencies on the basis of—

''(1) the need and the ability of a State educational agency to reduce the class size of an elementary school or secondary school served by such agency;

''(2) the ability of a State educational agency to furnish the non-Federal share of the costs of the demonstration project for which assistance is sought;

''(3) the ability of a State educational agency to continue the project for which assistance is sought after the termination of Federal financial assistance under this subpart; and

''(4) the degree to which a State educational agency demonstrates in the application submitted pursuant to section 564 consultation in program implementation and design with parents, teachers, school administrators, and local teacher organizations, where applicable.

''(d) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this subpart, the Secretary shall give priority to demonstration projects that involve at-risk students in the earliest grades, including educationally or economically disadvantaged students, students with disabilities, and limited English proficient students.

''(e) GRANTS MUST SUPPLEMENT OTHER FUNDS.—A State educational agency shall use the Federal funds received under this subpart to supplement and not supplant other Federal, State, and local funds available to the State educational agency to carry out the purpose of this subpart.

"SEC. 563. PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.

''(a) ANNUAL COMPETITION.—In each fiscal year, the Secretary shall announce the factors to be examined in a demonstration project assisted under this subpart. Such factors may include—

''(1) the magnitude of the reduction in class size to be achieved;

''(2) the level of education in which the demonstration projects shall occur;

''(3) the form of the instructional strategy to be demonstrated; and

''(4) the duration of the project.

''(b) RANDOM TECHNIQUES AND APPROPRIATE COMPARISON GROUPS.—Demonstration projects assisted under this subpart shall be designed to utilize randomized techniques or appropriate comparison groups.

"SEC. 564. APPLICATION.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—In order to receive a grant under this subpart, a State educational agency shall submit an application to the Secretary that is responsive to the announcement described in section 563(a), at such time, in such manner, and containing or accompanied by such information as the Secretary may reasonably require.

''(b) DURATION.—The Secretary shall encourage State educational agencies to submit applications under this subpart for a period of 5 years.

''(c) CONTENTS.—Each application submitted under subsection (a) shall include—

''(1) a description of the objectives to be attained with the grant funds and the manner in which the grant funds will be used to reduce class size;

''(2) a description of the steps to be taken to achieve target class sizes, including,

where applicable, the acquisition of additional teaching personnel and classroom space;

''(3) a statement of the methods for the collection of data necessary for the evaluation of the impact of class size reduction programs on student achievement;

''(4) an assurance that the State educational agency will pay, from non-Federal sources, the non-Federal share of the costs of the demonstration project for which assistance is sought; and

''(5) such additional assurances as the Secretary may reasonably require.

''(d) SUFFICIENT SIZE AND SCOPE REQUIRED.—The Secretary shall award grants under this subpart only to State educational agencies submitting applications which described projects of sufficient size and scope to contribute to carrying out the purpose of this subpart.

''SEC. 565. EVALUATION AND DISSEMINATION.

''(a) NATIONAL EVALUATION.—The Secretary shall conduct a national evaluation of the demonstration projects assisted under this subpart to determine the costs incurred in achieving the reduction in class size and the effects of the reductions on results, such as student performance in the affected subjects or grades, attendance, discipline, classroom organization, management, and teacher satisfaction and retention.

''(b) COOPERATION.—Each State educational agency receiving a grant under this subpart shall cooperate in the national evaluation described in subsection (a) and shall provide such information to the Secretary as the Secretary may reasonably require.

''(c) REPORTS.—The Secretary shall report to Congress on the results of the evaluation conducted under subsection (a).

''(d) DISSEMINATION.—The Secretary shall widely disseminate information about the results of the class size demonstration projects assisted under this subpart.

''SEC. 565A. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

''There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this subpart $15,000,000 for fiscal year 1999 and each of the 4 succeeding fiscal years.''.

SEC. 2. PRIVATE SECTOR FUNDING FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT BY NASA RELATING TO AIRCRAFT PERFORMANCE.

The Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration may not carry out research and development activities relating to the performance of aircraft (including supersonic aircraft and subsonic aircraft) unless the Administrator receives payment in full for such activities from the private sector.●

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 374

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 374, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend eligibility for hospital care and medical services under chapter 17 of that title to veterans who have been awarded the Purple Heart, and for other purposes.

S. 772

At the request of Mr. SPECTER, the name of the Senator from Indiana [Mr. COATS] was added as a cosponsor of S. 772, a bill to establish an Office of Religious Persecution Monitoring, to provide for the imposition of sanctions against countries engaged in a pattern of religious persecution, and for other purposes.

S. 1251

At the request of Mr. D'AMATO, the name of the Senator from Georgia [Mr. CLELAND] 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.

S. 1252

At the request of Mr. D'AMATO, the name of the Senator from Maryland [Ms. MIKULSKI] 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.

S. 1464

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from North Dakota [Mr. DORGAN] 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. 1534

At the request of Mr. TORRICELLI, the name of the Senator from Georgia [Mr. CLELAND] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1534, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to delay the commencement of the student loan repayment period for certain students called to active duty in the Armed Forces.

S. 1645

At the request of Mr. ABRAHAM, the name of the Senator from Nebraska [Mr. HAGEL] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1645, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit taking minors across State lines to avoid laws requiring the involvement of parents in abortion decisions.

S. 1700

At the request of Mr. MOYNIHAN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts [Mr. KENNEDY] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1700, a bill to designate the headquarters building of the Department of Housing and Urban Development in Washington, District of Columbia, as the ''Robert C. Weaver Federal Building''.

S. 1758

At the request of Mr. LUGAR, the name of the Senator from North Carolina [Mr. HELMS] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1758, a bill to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to facilitate protection of tropical forests through debt reduction with developing countries with tropical forests.

S. 1997

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the name of the Senator from South Carolina [Mr. HOLLINGS] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1997, a bill to protect the right of a member of a health maintenance organization to receive continuing care at a facility selected by that member.

S. 2054

At the request of Mr. JEFFORDS, the name of the Senator from Georgia [Mr. CLELAND] was added as a cosponsor of S. 2054, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Secretary of Health and Human Services to carry out a model project to provide the Department of Veterans Affairs with Medicare reimbursement for Medicare health-care services provided to certain Medicare-eligible veterans.

S. 2064

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the names of the Senator from Connecticut [Mr. LIEBERMAN], and the Senator from Oregon [Mr. WYDEN] were added as cosponsors of S. 2064, a bill to prohibit the sale of naval vessels and Maritime Administration vessels for purposes of scrapping abroad, to establish a demonstration program relating to the breaking up of such vessels in United States shipyards, and for other purposes.

S. 2084

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the names of the Senator from New Jersey [Mr. TORRICELLI] and the Senator from California [Mrs. FEINSTEIN] were added as cosponsors of S. 2084, a bill to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to cease mineral leasing activity on submerged land of the Outer Continental Shelf that is adjacent to a coastal State that has declared a moratorium on mineral exploration, development, or production activity in adjacent State waters.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 30

At the request of Mr. HELMS, the name of the Senator from Iowa [Mr. GRASSLEY] 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 84

At the request of Mr. KEMPTHORNE, the names of the Senator from Alabama [Mr. SESSIONS], and the Senator from Hawaii [Mr. INOUYE] were added as cosponsors of Senate Concurrent Resolution 84, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the Government of Costa Rica should take steps to protect the lives of property owners in Costa Rica, and for other purposes.

SENATE RESOLUTION 188

At the request of Mr. MOYNIHAN, the name of the Senator from Alabama [Mr. SESSIONS] was added as a cosponsor of Senate Resolution 188, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding Israeli membership in a United Nations regional group.