

Whereas, In Maryland, legislation was enacted to strengthen the state's internal grievance and appeals processes, establish an external appeal mechanism and provide additional regulatory authority to the state's insurance commissioner over medical directors in health maintenance organizations; and

Whereas, In Florida, the nation's first external review process was created in 1985, and Florida continues to fine tune its process by utilizing a panel of six state employees for the external review process, with explicit time frames from "extreme emergency" cases to "nonurgent" cases; and

Whereas, New Jersey enacted legislation in 1997 that requires health maintenance organizations to establish an external appeal process and now operates a consumer hot line for consumer questions and complaints; and

Whereas, Texas enacted landmark legislation in 1998 that permits managed care enrollees to sue their health plans for malpractice in cases where they have been harmed by a plan's decision to delay or deny treatment; and

Whereas, According to "The Best From the States II: The Text of Key State HMO Consumer Protection Provisions" by Families USA Foundation (October 1998), key consumer protection provisions include the establishment of explicit time frames for appeal of decisions, implementation of methods for expediting the review of emergency and urgent care situations, acceptance of oral appeals and adoption of laws that require reviewers to be health care providers with expertise in the clinical area being reviewed and that prohibits reviewers from participating in the review of cases in which they were involved in the original decisions; and

Whereas, On February 9, 1999, in a letter to the editor of the Las Vegas Sun, Marie Soldo, immediate past Chairman of the Nevada Association of Health Plans, wrote that, because the state has limited jurisdiction regarding the regulation of health insurance plans, more than two-thirds of Nevadans, including state and federal employees, Medicare and Medicaid enrollees and others whose employers are self-insured, are not affected by state legislative action such as mandated benefits, improved grievance and appeals processes and the proposed ombudsman office; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly and Senate of the State of Nevada, Jointly, That the Nevada Legislature hereby urges Congress to take steps to ensure that those plans which are exempt from state regulation provide adequate protection provisions for persons covered by such health plans; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly prepare and transmit a copy of this resolution to the Vice President of the United States as the presiding officer of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives and each member of the Nevada Congressional Delegation; and be it further

Resolved, That this resolution becomes effective upon passage and approval.

POM-188. A petition from a citizen of the State of Florida relative to tobacco; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

POM-189. A petition from a citizen of the State of Florida relative to federal income tax laws; to the Committee on Finance.

POM-190. A petition from a citizen of the State of Florida relative to Social Security and Medicare laws; to the Committee on Finance.

POM-191. A petition from a citizen of the State of Florida relative to water sources; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

POM-192. A petition from a citizen of the State of Florida relative to court reform; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

POM-193. A petition from a citizen of the State of Florida relative to campaign financing reform; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

POM-194. A petition from a citizen of the State of Florida relative to paper money; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

POM-195. A resolution adopted by the Board of Directors, Puerto Rico Bar Association relative to navy war practices at the island of Vieques; to the Committee on Armed Services.

POM-196. A petition from a citizen of the State of Indiana relative to highway safety and the trucking industry; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. McCAIN, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with amendments:

S. 342. A bill to authorize appropriations for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration for fiscal years 2000, 2001, and 2002, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 106-77).

By Mr. MURKOWSKI, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, without amendment:

S. 607. A bill to reauthorize and amend the National Geologic Mapping Act of 1992 (Rept. No. 106-78).

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 Ms. SNOWE:

S. 1224. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to encourage students, including young women, to pursue demanding careers and higher education degrees in mathematics, science, engineering and technology; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. GREGG, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. BURNS, Mr. KERREY, Mr. HAGEL, and Mr. HUTCHINSON):

S. 1225. A bill to provide for a rural education initiative, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MACK:

S. 1226. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide that interest on indebtedness used to finance the furnishing or sale of rate-regulated electric energy or natural gas in the United States shall be allocated solely to sources within the United States; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CHAFEE (for himself, Mr. McCAIN, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. MACK, Mr. MOYNIHAN, and Mr. JEFFORDS):

S. 1227. A bill to amend title IV of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 to provide States with the option to allow legal immigrant pregnant women and children to be eligible for medical assistance under the medical program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. McCAIN (for himself, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. LOTT, and Mr. CONRAD):

S. 1228. A bill to provide for the development, use, and enforcement of a system for labeling violent content in audio and visual media products, and for other purposes; to

the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. BURNS:

S. 1229. A bill to amend the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act to permit a State to register a foreign pesticide for distribution and use within that State; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mrs. BOXER:

S. 1230. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to encourage the production and use of clean-fuel vehicles, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Ms. SNOWE:

S. 1224. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to encourage students, including young women, to pursue demanding careers and higher education degrees in mathematics, science, engineering and technology; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

● Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce legislation that will ensure our nation's students, and young women in particular, are encouraged to pursue degrees and careers in math, science, engineering, and technology.

Mr. President, if our children are to be prepared for the globally competitive economy of the next century, they must not only have access to the technologies that will dominate the workforce and job market that they will enter—but they should also be encouraged to pursue degrees in the fields that underlie these technologies.

We simply cannot ignore that six out of ten new jobs require technological skills—skills that are seriously lacking in our workforce today. The impact of this technological illiteracy is devastating for our nation's businesses, with an estimated loss in productivity of \$30 billion every year, and the inability of companies across the nation to fill an estimated 190,000 technology jobs in mid- to large-sized companies. In fact, these very job vacancies led to Congress passing legislation last year that increased the number of H1-B visas that could be issued to foreign workers to enter the United States.

Furthermore, according to a 1994 report by the American School Counselors Association, 65 percent of all jobs will require technical skills in the year 2000, with 20 percent being professional and only 15 percent relying on unskilled labor. In addition, between 1996 and 2006, all occupations expect a 14 percent increase in jobs, but Information Technology occupations should jump by 75 percent. As this data implies, today's students must gain a different knowledge base than past generations of students if they are to be prepared for, and competitive in, the global job market of the 21st Century.

Mr. President, even as we should seek to increase student access and exposure