

time and in the same manner as under section 415(d)(2), except that the base period taken into account shall be the calendar quarter beginning October 1, 1998, and any increase which is not a multiple of \$50 shall be rounded to the next lowest multiple of \$50."

"(5) APPLICABILITY.—This subsection shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 1999."

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 1999.

SEC. 404. PERMITTING CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS MEDICAL SAVINGS ACCOUNT THROUGH FEDERAL EMPLOYEES HEALTH BENEFITS PROGRAM (FEHBP).

(a) GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTION TO MEDICAL SAVINGS ACCOUNT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 8906 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(j)(1) In the case of an employee or annuitant who is enrolled in a catastrophic plan described by section 8903(5), there shall be a Government contribution under this subsection to a medical savings account established or maintained for the benefit of the individual. The contribution under this subsection shall be in addition to the Government contribution under subsection (b).

"(2) The amount of the Government contribution under this subsection with respect to an individual is equal to the amount by which—

"(A) the maximum contribution allowed under subsection (b)(1) with respect to any employee or annuitant, exceeds

"(B) the amount of the Government contribution actually made with respect to the individual under subsection (b) for coverage under the catastrophic plan.

"(3) The Government contributions under this subsection shall be paid into a medical savings account (designated by the individual involved) in a manner that is specified by the Office and consistent with the timing of contributions under subsection (b).

"(4) Subsections (f) and (g) shall apply to contributions under this section in the same manner as they apply to contributions under subsection (b).

"(5) For the purpose of this subsection, the term 'medical savings account' has the meaning given such term by section 220(d) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986."

(2) ALLOWING PAYMENT OF FULL AMOUNT OF CHARGE FOR CATASTROPHIC PLAN.—Section 8906(b)(2) of such title is amended by inserting "(or 100 percent of the subscription charge in the case of a catastrophic plan)" after "75 percent of the subscription charge".

(b) OFFERING OF CATASTROPHIC PLANS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 8903 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(5) CATASTROPHIC PLANS.—One or more plans described in paragraph (1), (2), or (3), but which provide benefits of the types referred to by paragraph (5) of section 8904(a), instead of the types referred to in paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) of such section."

(2) TYPES OF BENEFITS.—Section 8904(a) of such title is amended by inserting after paragraph (4) the following new paragraph:

"(5) CATASTROPHIC PLANS.—Benefits of the types named under paragraph (1) or (2) of this subsection or both, to the extent expenses covered by the plan exceed \$500."

(3) DETERMINING LEVEL OF GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTIONS.—Section 8906(b) of such title is amended by adding at the end the following: "Subscription charges for medical savings accounts shall be deemed to be the amount of Government contributions made under subsection (j)(2)."

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to contract terms beginning on or after January 1, 2000.

BURNS AMENDMENT NO. 704

(Ordered to lie on the table.)

Mr. BURNS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill, S. 1233, supra; as follows:

On page 76, between lines 6 and 7, insert the following:

SEC. 7. SENSE OF SENATE ON LAMB MEAT IMPORTS.—It is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) there is an overabundance of foreign lamb meat being imported into the United States;

(2) the glut of imported lamb meat is severely harming domestic producers and the domestic agricultural industry;

(3) the sheep industry filed a petition to take action under section 201 of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2251) to prevent further loss of market share due to the enormous quantities of lamb being imported into the United States from New Zealand and Australia;

(4) on February 9, 1999, the International Trade Commission voted unanimously that lamb imports are a threat to the sheep industry in the United States;

(5) on March 26, 1999, the International Trade Commission voted to support 4 years of market stability in the marketing of lamb meat;

(6) several remedies have been offered to achieve this market stability, including tariff rate quotas and ad-valorem tariffs;

(7) the efforts of the sheep industry in the United States should be supported;

(8) although international military issues have recently consumed much time and consideration, with the Kosovo agreement now in place, Congress should turn its attention to domestic matters;

(9) the problem of the overabundance of foreign lamb meat in the United States has important consequences for imports and international trade; and

(10) the remedy that will provide the greatest practicable assistance to the domestic lamb industry should be implemented as soon as practicable.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR,
AND PENSIONS

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I would like to announce for information of the Senate and the public that a hearing of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions will be held on Tuesday, June 22, 1999, 9:30 a.m., in SD-628 of the Senate Dirksen Building. The subject of the hearing is "ESEA: Professional Development". For further information, please call the committee, 202/224-5375.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR,
AND PENSIONS

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I would like to announce for information of the Senate and the public that a hearing of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions, Subcommittee on Aging will be held on June 22, 1999, 2:30 p.m., in SD-628 of the Senate Dirksen Building. The subject of the hearing is "Older Americans Act". For further information, Please call the committee, 202/224-5375.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR,
AND PENSIONS

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I would like to announce for information of the Senate and the public that a hearing of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions will be held on Wednesday, June 23, 1999, 9:30 a.m., in SD-628 of the Senate Dirksen Building. The subject of the hearing is "ESEA: Title VI". For further information, please call the committee, 202/224-5375.

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND
FORESTRY

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I would like to announce that the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry will meet on June 24, 1999 in SR-328A at 9:30 a.m. The purpose of this meeting will be to discuss Agriculture issues related to a variety of trade topics.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO BOBBIE FOUST

● Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Roberta Foust, or "Bobbie" as she is known to her many friends and readers. With her recent retirement from The Paducah Sun, Bobbie completes a distinguished career as a journalist.

Her byline has long been a familiar one to news readers in the western part of Kentucky. She worked for The Calvert News in Calvert City in the 1960's. In 1972, she began working as a reporter and photographer for The Tribune Courier in Marshall County, in the heart of Kentucky's Western Lakes region. After 5 years, she moved to the rival Marshall County Messenger, where she was responsible for all news content, layout, and design. She returned to The Tribune Courier in a similar capacity in 1979. In 1988, she became the editor of the weekly Herald Ledger in Eddyville, a position she held until the local ownership sold the paper in 1991.

Bobbie then joined the largest newspaper in far Western Kentucky, The Paducah Sun, a daily with a circulation of 31,000. With the Sun, Bobbie served as a general assignment reporter. In this position, she worked in Marshall, Lyon, and other lakes-area counties. Besides the usual broad assortment of news she covered in her day-to-day duties, Bobbie covered certain continuing stories, and developed an in-depth knowledge in these areas that was widely recognized. Among these were the Land Between the Lakes and the role of the Tennessee Valley Authority in LBL and Western Kentucky. During this time, Bobbie earned broad respect in the region she covered, as well as at TVA headquarters in Knoxville and Washington.

I have not only been a regular reader of Bobbie's, but have often been covered in her stories. Over the years, I have had the opportunity to get to