know if I can be of any assistance in the future.

Sincerely,

ROBERT T. SCULLY,
Executive Director.

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AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. GRAMS. Mr. PRESIDENT, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to meet for a hearing on ''Reducing Medical Error: A look at the IoM report'' during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, January 26, 2000, at 9:30 a.m.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, January 26, 2000, to conduct a hearing on the renomination of Alan Greenspan to Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

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ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

NATIONAL BIOTECHNOLOGY MONTH

● Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, shortly before the first session of the 106th Congress adjourned, I introduced, and the Senate passed, a resolution designating January 2000 as ''National Biotechnology Month.'' I rise today to formally recognize National Biotechnology Month here in the Senate.

While back in Minnesota, I had the opportunity to meet with some of my constituents who are in the biotechnology industry. Whether it's agricultural, medical, or environmental applications of biotechnology, Minnesota is a leader in the field.

Here are some characteristics of the biotechnology industry nationally:

Over 200 million people worldwide have been helped by the more than 80 biotechnology drug products and vaccines approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

There are more than 350 biotechnology drug products and vaccines currently in human clinical trials and hundreds more in early development in the United States. These medicines are designed to treat various cancers, Alzheimer's, heart disease, multiple sclerosis, AIDS, obesity and other conditions.

Biotechnology will help us feed the world by developing new and better agriculture commodities that are disease and pest resistant and offer higher yields as well.

Environmental biotechnology products make it possible to more efficiently clean up hazardous waste without the use of caustic chemicals.

Industrial biotechnology applications have led to cleaner processes with lower production of wastes and lower energy consumption, in such industrial sectors as chemicals, pulp and paper, textiles, food and fuels, metals and minerals and energy. For example, much of the denim produced in the United States is finished using biotechnology enzymes.

DNA fingerprinting, a biotech process, has dramatically improved criminal investigation and forensic medicine, as well as afforded significant advances in anthropology and wildlife management.

There are 1,283 biotechnology companies in the United States-many in Minnesota.

Market capitalization, the amount of money invested in the O.S. biotechnology industry, increased 4 percent in 1998, from $93 billion to (97 billion.

Approximately one-third of biotech companies employ fewer than 50 employees. More than two-thirds employ fewer than 135 people.

The U.S. biotechnology industry currently employs more than 153,000 people in high-wage, high-value jobs.

Biotechnology is one of the most research-intensive industries in the world. The U.S. biotech industry spent $9.9 billion in research and development in 1998. The top five biotech companies spent an average of $121,400 per employee on R&D.

Mr. President, biotechnology plays an extremely important part in my life because a little over a year ago I had an artificial valve implanted in my heart to correct a condition I had for years. Without the research and commitment of this industry, I might not have had that option available to me.

I have always been a believer in biomedical and basic scientific research and the advances we will see in the future will be testimony to the importance and foresight of the investment we make today—and I have no doubt the future holds great promise.●

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ELIZABETH GLASER PEDIATRIC AIDS FOUNDATION

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President. I have spoken in this Chamber before about the exemplary life of Elizabeth Glaser and the work of the Pediatric AIDS Foundation, which bears her name. I rise today to again speak about Elizabeth and her remarkable work and life.

In 1986, Elizabeth and her husband, Paul, discovered that she and her two children were infected with HIV as a result of a blood transfusion following a difficult childbirth. In 1988, following the death of their daughter, Ariel, to AIDS she founded a foundation to raise money for scientific research for pediatric AIDS. At the time there was little coordinated research focused on the effect of this disease on children or pharmaceutical testing of protocols for pediatric AIDS.

In 1994, Elizabeth succumbed to this terrible disease after a long and courageous battle.

Today, eleven years after its founding, the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation has raised more than $85 million in support of AIDS research. This has lead to a new and greater understanding of HIV/AIDS and its effects on children.

Among the more exciting and promising breakthroughs this research has provided is the drug Nevirapine. Last year, a study in Uganda showed that Nevirapine could prevent almost half of HIV transmissions from mothers to infants—and at a fraction of the cost of other, less effective, treatments.

Mr. President, some 1,800 children are infected with HIV each day. The United Nations reports that 33.6 million people are infected with HIV or have developed AIDS; more than two-thirds of these people live in Sub-Saharan Africa. As the nature and emographis of HIV/AIDS evolves, the work of groups like the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation is a pioneer in its field, richly deserving of the support and attention it receives.

Elizabeth Glaser remans a source of strength and inspiration to all of us. And her good works continue to reap benefits for countless thousands of people.●

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TRIBUTE TO MR. BOB EDDLEMAN

● Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I take this opportunity to salute the outstanding public service of a conservationist and member of the agriculture community in the state of Indiana.

After 42 years of service, Bob Eddleman, Indiana State Conservationist for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service, retired at the end of December. In his role as public servant, Bob set an example for everyone with his steadfast concern for conservation and dedication to the preservation of natural resources of his home state.

Mr. Eddleman was born and raised on a farm in Crawford County, Indiana. He was an active member of 4–H and Future Farmers of America and took an interest in activities relating to the conservation of soil and water resources. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture at Purdue University and a Master of Public Administration from the University of Oklahoma.

His career of federal service began in 1957 as a student trainee for the USDA Soil Conservation Service in English, Indiana. After serving as a soil conservationist, a district conservationist and an area conservationist in Indiana, his career path took him to New York as assistant state conservationist and then back to the Midwest as deputy state conservationist in Illinois. In 1980 Bob returned to the Hoosier state as state conservationist.