

national parks, monuments, and recreational areas, and our association has members actively involved in providing transportation services at several national parks.

All of us know the danger that congestion and increases in traffic pose for the future of these sites and locations. Your continued sponsorship of the Transit in Parks Act is an important step in helping ensure that America's natural beauty and historic treasures remain a continuous part of our nation's future. We have members throughout the country whose experiences support the principle that public transit investments in and near national parks and public lands can improve mobility, support the economic vitality of these parks' "gateway communities," and make dramatic improvements in the experiences of park visitors, employees, and community residents alike.

As an illustration of this point, enclosed is an article recently published in our Community Transportation magazine that discusses public transportation as part of the solution to traffic congestion and mobility issues in Acadia, Yosemite and Zion National Parks. These success stories could be replicated in many other communities under your Transit in Parks proposal.

We appreciate your dedicated efforts and initiative in this regard, and look forward to helping you advance this important piece of legislation.

Sincerely,

DALE J. MARSICO,
Executive Director.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 831. Mr. BOND (for himself, Mr. ROBERTS, and Mr. HELMS) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1052, to amend the Public Health Service Act and the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to protect consumers in managed care plans and other health coverage.

SA 832. Mr. FRIST (for himself, Mr. BREAU, and Mr. JEFFORDS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1052, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 833. Mr. WARNER proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1052, supra.

SA 834. Ms. SNOWE (for herself, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. NELSON, of Nebraska, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. BAUCUS, Ms. STABENOW, and Mr. CHAFFEE) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1052, supra.

SA 835. Mr. BROWNBACK submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1052, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 836. Mr. BROWNBACK submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1052, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 837. Mr. BROWNBACK submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1052, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 838. Mrs. HUTCHISON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 1052, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 839. Mrs. HUTCHISON (for herself and Mrs. CLINTON) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 1052, supra.

SA 840. Mr. ENZI proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1052, supra.

SA 841. Mr. SANTORUM submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1052, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 842. Mr. DEWINE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1052, supra.

SA 843. Mr. GRAMM (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1052, supra.

SA 844. Mr. SPECTER proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1052, supra.

SA 845. Mr. GRASSLEY proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1052, supra.

SA 846. Mr. NICKLES (for himself and Mr. ENSIGN) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1052, supra.

SA 847. Mr. BROWNBACK proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1052, supra.

SA 848. Mr. ENSIGN proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1052, supra.

SA 849. Mr. ENSIGN proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1052, supra.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 831. Mr. BOND (for himself, Mr. ROBERTS, and Mr. HELMS) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1052, to amend the Public Health Service Act and the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to protect consumers in managed care plans and other health coverage; as follows:

On page 154, between lines 2 and 3, insert the following:

“(11) MINIMUM SHARE OF SETTLEMENT OF AWARD.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), a participant or beneficiary (or the estate of such participant or beneficiary) shall receive not less than 85 percent of any award made as a result of a cause of action brought by the participant or beneficiary (or estate) under this subsection, after subtracting the amount of any attorneys' fees from the total amount of such award.

“(B) EXCEPTION.—This paragraph shall not apply where the amount awarded as a result of a cause of action brought by a participant or beneficiary (or estate) under this subsection is less than \$100,000.

“(C) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph:

“(i) ATTORNEYS' FEES.—The term ‘attorneys' fees’ means any compensation for the direct or indirect representation or other legal work performed in connection with a cause of action brought under this subsection. Such term shall not include reimbursements for any expenses incurred in connection with such representation or work.

“(ii) AWARD.—The term ‘award’ means the sum of—

“(I) any monetary consideration provided to a participant or beneficiary (or the estate of such participant or beneficiary) by a fiduciary of a group health plan, a health insurance issuer offering health insurance coverage in connection with a group health plan, or an agent of the plan, issuer, or plan sponsor in connection with a cause of action brought under this subsection, including any monetary consideration provided for in any—

“(aa) final court decision;

“(bb) court order;

“(cc) settlement agreement;

“(dd) arbitration procedure; or

“(ee) alternative dispute resolution procedure (including mediation); plus

“(II) any attorney's fees awarded under subsection (g)(1) with respect to the participant or beneficiary (or estate); less

“(III) any reimbursement for any expenses incurred in connection with direct or indirect representation or other legal work performed in connection with a cause of action under this subsection.

On page 169, between lines 12 and 13, insert the following:

“(11) MINIMUM SHARE OF SETTLEMENT OF AWARD.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), a participant or beneficiary (or the estate of such participant or beneficiary) shall receive not less than 85 percent of any award made as a result of a cause of action brought by the participant or beneficiary (or estate) under this subsection, after subtracting the amount of any attorneys' fees from the total amount of such award.

“(B) EXCEPTION.—This paragraph shall not apply where the amount awarded as a result of a cause of action brought by a participant or beneficiary (or estate) under this subsection is less than \$100,000.

“(C) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph:

“(i) ATTORNEYS' FEES.—The term ‘attorneys' fees’ means any compensation for the direct or indirect representation or other legal work performed in connection with a cause of action brought under this subsection. Such term shall not include reimbursements for any expenses incurred in connection with such representation or work.

“(ii) AWARD.—The term ‘award’ means the sum of—

“(I) any monetary consideration provided to a participant or beneficiary (or the estate of such participant or beneficiary) by a fiduciary of a group health plan, a health insurance issuer offering health insurance coverage in connection with a group health plan, or an agent of the plan, issuer, or plan sponsor in connection with a cause of action brought under this subsection, including any monetary consideration provided for in any—

“(aa) final court decision;

“(bb) court order;

“(cc) settlement agreement;

“(dd) arbitration procedure; or

“(ee) alternative dispute resolution procedure (including mediation); less

“(II) any reimbursement for any expenses incurred in connection with direct or indirect representation or other legal work performed in connection with a cause of action under this subsection.”

SA 832. Mr. FRIST (for himself, Mr. BREAU, and Mr. JEFFORDS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1052, to amend the Public Health Service Act and the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to protect consumers in managed care plans and other health coverage; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 105, line 2, after “treatment” insert the following: “The name of the designated decision-maker (or decision-makers) appointed under section 502(n)(2) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 for purposes of making final determinations under section 103 and approving coverage pursuant to the written determination of an independent medical reviewer under section 104.”

Beginning on page 139, strike line 21 and all that follows through line 14 on page 171, and insert the following:

SEC. 302. AVAILABILITY OF COURT REMEDIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 502 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1132) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(n) CAUSE OF ACTION RELATING TO DENIAL OF A CLAIM FOR HEALTH BENEFITS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—

“(A) FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH EXTERNAL MEDICAL REVIEW.—With respect to an action commenced by a participant or beneficiary (or the estate of the participant or beneficiary) in connection with a claim for benefits under a group health plan, if—