

procedures are a part of daily patient care.

And this quarter billion dollars cut in funding would be felt in Connecticut, in New Jersey, in Delaware, in Vermont, in South Dakota, in Montana—in all the States in which New York-trained doctors practice.

New York's teaching hospitals are an engine for the Nation's health care system. They are too crucial a resource to let struggle under the pressure of continued funding cuts. And I am committed to ensuring that this devastating cut does not happen this year.

As the Senate begins to craft Medicare provider legislation, I urge all my colleagues to stand with me in ensuring that any Medicare provider package includes a repeal of the IME cut.

Our teaching hospitals—and especially those in New York—are an engine for the Nation's health care system. I would have a very hard time supporting any Medicare provider package that does not include IME relief.

In conclusion, we need to train our doctors to be the best. Fifty percent of the residents trained in the United States are educated in just seven States. My State is home to 10 percent of the Nation's hospitals and trains 15 percent of our new doctors, the greatest percentage of any State. In fact, all over the country, 22 percent of the physicians practicing in Vermont and New Hampshire and 20 percent in Delaware were trained in New York. Well, that is an east coast State. Five to 6 percent of the physicians practicing in South Dakota and Montana were trained in New York hospitals.

In 1997, there were dramatic cuts in money to teaching hospitals.

There is not a State that hasn't benefited from the great training doctors have received in our New York teaching hospitals, or in other teaching hospitals throughout. Besides, the teaching hospitals are at the core of our medical research industry. They brought 10 percent to the NIH grants. Yet in the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, we dramatically slashed funding for teaching hospitals. This year, they face another 15-percent cut. That could mean \$750 million to the teaching hospitals in New York. Well, that funding is a lifeline for our medical centers, the great research, and the great physicians which we are able and blessed to have in this country.

So I am here to join my colleague from New Jersey and my colleague from New York, Senator CLINTON, as well as others who are coming to the Chamber to join this effort, to stand firm in saying that we need to provide the help for the teaching hospitals. We cannot allow this next cut from the Balanced Budget Act to go into effect. We should not allow any kinds of benefits and other kinds of changes in the Medicare Program to occur without taking into account our teaching hospitals.

Many of us on both sides of the aisle will be working long and hard to see that that happens.

I yield the floor.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the Democrats have used all their time. In fact, the time until 12:15 that we set aside should be used by the minority. I have talked to my friend from Wyoming. Senator BAUCUS is planning to be here at 12:15 to give his opening statement on this important trade bill. We have had good discussion today, and I look forward to the Republicans coming out.

EULOGY OF THE DOG

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I talked to my brother a couple of weeks ago. My brother is 22 months younger than I. We are very close. I talk to him as often as I can. He lives alone in rural Nevada.

The last time I talked to my brother Larry he was very despondent. His dog had died—Smokey. The dog was almost a cartoon caricature, little short legs, a great big stomach. We used to make fun of my brother's dog, but he loved this dog. My brother was very emotional on the phone. He felt bad about his dog having died.

We all know that yesterday Senator BYRD's dog Billy died. My brother's dog was Smokey. This caused me to reflect, of course, as we all do in our lives, on the past. My brother's dog was Smokey, and the dog I grew up with was Smokey, a wonderful dog, part Chow, a great dog. He was a great fighter and protector of us. He could appear very mean, but he wasn't mean at all. But he was somebody I grew up with in rural Nevada. He was a companion and a friend. I still remember him warmly, our dog Smokey.

When I reflected on Senator BYRD yesterday, I remembered the speeches he gave on the floor where he talked about Billy Byrd, his dog. It was obvious he cared a great deal about his dog.

Senator BYRD, on this floor, with the memory that he has—and I cannot match that—one day I heard him recite this on the Senate floor. It was April 23, 1990, and this comes from the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. He, by memory, gave the "Eulogy of the Dog" by Senator George G. Vest.

Senator Vest served in this body for 24 years. He is really not remembered for what he did in the Senate, but he is remembered for what he did as a lawyer, because George Vest represented a farmer whose dog named Drum was shot by another farmer. A lawsuit was filed against this man for having killed his dog Drum. George Vest is remembered for the closing statement that he gave to the jury regarding his dog.

This is very short and I will read this into the RECORD. I cannot do it, as Senator BYRD did, from memory. In doing this, those of us who had animals, like my Smokey and my brother's Smokey and Senator BYRD's Billy Byrd, the little poodle he had, will reflect on really what good friends these dogs have been

to us. So, again, I do this in memory of Billy Byrd, Senator BYRD's and Erma's friend. This was given to the jury on September 23, 1870. Mr. President, this speech is so memorable that, in 1958, the town of Warrensburg, MO, where the speech took place, erected a bronze statue to honor old Drum and the orator, George G. Vest:

Gentlemen of the jury. The best friend a man has in the world may turn against him and become his enemy. His son or daughter whom he has reared with loving care may prove ungrateful. Those who are nearest and dearest to us, those whom we trust with our happiness and our good name, may become traitors to their faith. The money that a man has he may lose. It flies away from him perhaps when he needs it most. A man's reputation may be sacrificed in a moment of ill-considered action. The people who are prone to fall on their knees to do us honor when success is with us may be the first to throw the stone of malice when failure settles its cloud upon our heads. The one absolutely unselfish friend that a man can have in this selfish world, the one that never deserts him, the one that never proves ungrateful or treacherous, is the dog.

Gentlemen of the jury, a man's dog stands by him in prosperity and in poverty, in health and in sickness. He will sleep on the cold ground when the wintry winds blow and the snow drives fiercely, if only he can be near his master's side. He will kiss the hand that has no food to offer, he will lick the wounds and sores that come in encounter with the roughness of the world. He guards the sleep of his pauper master as if he were a prince.

When all other friends desert, he remains. When riches take wings and reputation falls to pieces, he is as constant in his love as the sun in its journey through the heavens. If fortune drives the master forth an outcast into the world, friendless and homeless, the faithful dog asks no higher privilege than that of accompanying him, to guard him against danger, to fight against his enemies. And when the last scene of all comes, and death takes his master in its embrace and his body is laid in the cold ground, no matter if all other friends pursue their way, there by his graveside will the noble dog be found, his head between his paws and his eyes sad but open, in alert watchfulness, faithful and true, even unto death.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming is recognized.

TRADE PROMOTION AUTHORITY

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, we have heard a number of topics discussed this morning which, of course, is the purpose of morning business and that is fine. We will, however, at the expiration of this time, move back into the topic that is before us—the one that seems to me is of major importance right now, the issue of which we are required to take some action within the next week is trade promotion authority.

It is accompanied with several other bills, and so it has become a little more difficult to understand and more difficult to pass, in fact, because of the leverages. I think we ought to focus on trade, creating jobs, and to the extent that trade stimulates our economy, and to talk a bit about that. The President has had this on his priority list