

Medicare+Choice beneficiaries. While the federal government requires Medicare, under the traditional fee-for-service program, to reimburse health centers for their cost to deliver care to beneficiaries, the same requirement does not exist for Medicare+Choice plans. This bill would require Medicare, like the Medicaid program, to provide wrap-around payments covering the difference between the amount paid to the health center under the managed care arrangement and the amount the health center would have received under traditional Medicare.

By making these four straightforward changes, we will be able to enhance the care that all Medicare beneficiaries receive, especially those living in underserved communities. And we will ensure that Medicare patients are not diluting federal funding intended to help the 41 million Americans that were uninsured in 2001.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CORZINE, Mr. DAYTON, Mr. DODD, Mr. KERRY, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. STABENOW, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mrs. BOXER):

S.J. Res. 11. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relative to equal rights for women and men; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, today, Senators MURRAY, CANTWELL, CORZINE, DAYTON, DODD, KERRY, LIEBERMAN, SCHUMER, STABENOW, CLINTON, DURBIN, LANDRIEU, HARKIN, FEINGOLD, SARBANES, MIKULSKI, FEINSTEIN, BOXER and I are re-introducing the Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution. In doing so, we reaffirm our strong commitment to equal rights for men and women.

Adoption of the ERA is essential to guarantee that the freedoms protected by our Constitution apply equally to men and women. From the beginning of our history as a Nation, women have had to wage long and difficult battles to win the rights that men possess automatically because they are male. In 1920, we amended the Constitution to guarantee women the right to vote, and we must do so again to eliminate discrimination against women. A constitutional amendment is necessary to do so, because existing statutory prohibitions against discrimination have clearly failed to give women the assurance of equality with men.

Despite passage of the Equal Pay Act and the Civil Rights Act in the 1960s, discrimination against women continues to permeate the workforce and the vast majority of areas of the economy. Today, women earn less than 75 cents for each dollar earned by men, and the gap is even greater for women of color. In the year 2000, African American women earned just 64 per-

cent of the earnings of white men, and Hispanic women earned only 52 percent. Women with college and professional degrees have achieved advances in a number of professional and managerial occupations in recent years—yet more than 60 percent of working women are still clustered in a narrow range of traditionally female, traditionally low-paying occupations, and female-headed households continue to dominate the bottom rungs of the economic ladder.

The routine discrimination that so many women so often face proves that there is still a need for the ERA today. A bolder effort is clearly needed to enable Congress and the States to live up to our commitment of full equality. The ERA alone cannot remedy all discrimination, but it will clearly strengthen the ongoing efforts of women across the country to obtain equal treatment.

We know from the failed ratification experiences of the past that achieving the ERA's adoption will not be easy. But its extraordinary significance requires us to continue the battle. I urge my colleagues to approve the ERA in this Congress, and join the battle for ratification in the States. Women have waited long enough for full recognition of their equal rights by the Constitution.

I ask unanimous consent that the text of our joint resolution be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the joint resolution was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S.J. RES. 11

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the following article is proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which shall be valid to all intents and purposes as part of the Constitution when ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several States:

"ARTICLE—

"SECTION 1. Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.

"SECTION 2. Congress shall have the power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

"SECTION 3. This article shall take effect two years after the date of ratification."

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 92—DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 17, 2003 AS "CONSTITUTION DAY"

Mr. DEWINE submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 92

Whereas the Constitution of the United States of America was signed on September 17, 1787, by 39 delegates from 12 States;

Whereas the Constitution was subsequently ratified by each of the original 13 States;

Whereas the Constitution was drafted in order to form a more perfect Union, establish

justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty for the citizens of the United States;

Whereas the Constitution has provided the means and structure for this Nation and its citizens to achieve a level of prosperity, liberty, security, and justice that is unparalleled among nations;

Whereas the Constitution's contributions to the welfare of the human race reach far beyond the borders of the United States;

Whereas the Senate continues to strive to preserve and strengthen the values and rights bestowed by the Constitution upon the United States of America and its citizens;

Whereas the preservation of such values and rights in the hearts and minds of American citizens would be advanced by official recognition of the signing of the Constitution: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate:

(1) designates September 17, 2003, as "Constitution Day"; and

(2) calls upon the people of the United States to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies and respect.

SENATE RESOLUTION 93—COMMENDING JERI THOMSON FOR HER SERVICE TO THE UNITED STATES SENATE

Mr. DASCHLE (for himself and Mr. FRIST) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 93

Whereas Jeri Thomson was elected the thirtieth Secretary of the Senate on July 12, 2001;

Whereas Jeri Thomson served the Senate during a truly historic time and ensured that the Senate continued its work for the country despite experiencing the longest dislocation in the history of the Senate due to the largest bioterrorism attack in our Nation's history;

Whereas Jeri Thomson's dedicated service enabled the Senate to break ground for a new Capitol Visitor Center, ensuring future generations will continue to have safe access to "The People's House"; and

Whereas, as an elected officer, Jeri Thomson has continuously upheld the highest standards of professionalism and, in the tradition of the Senate, has extended her exemplary service to all Members of the Senate and their families: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends Jeri Thomson for her extraordinary contributions to the Senate and her country; and

(2) expresses its deep appreciation for her continuing service.

SEC. 2. The Secretary of the Senate shall transmit a copy of this resolution to Jeri Thomson.

SENATE RESOLUTION 94—COMMENDING ALFONSO C. LENHARDT FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE UNITED STATES SENATE

Mr. DASCHLE (for himself and Mr. FRIST) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 94

Whereas Alfonso C. Lenhardt ("Al") was elected the thirty-sixth Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper for the United States Senate and began his service on September 4, 2001;