

own tax preparation software and e-filing program at the taxpayers' expense. Such a program would have needlessly duplicated the resources and investments of the private sector. Instead, the Free File Alliance came into being, helping preserve voluntary compliance.

This Alliance provides free electronic tax preparation and e-filing services to lower income, disadvantaged and underserved taxpayers. In its first 3 years of existence, the Free File Alliance has donated some 10 million tax returns to American taxpayers and has helped significantly increase the number of e-filed tax returns. The success of this unique public-private partnership has been achieved at no cost to the taxpayers.

This alliance has benefited the American public. It has allowed the IRS to focus its resources and efforts on its congressionally authorized mission and objectives. The budget simply does not have room for waste or duplication, and the Free File public-private partnership has met an urgent need in the most cost-effective way possible.

There are long-standing program management issues that need to be corrected in the IRS oversight of the Free File program. For the first 3 years, the Service failed to make necessary management reforms. Congress has provided specific direction in terms of taxpayer protections, but the needed reforms have still not been put in place.

This amendment is fully consistent with all of the previous Congressional direction. It provides that the IRS and the Department of Treasury do not waiver from this direction. It will also ensure that the IRS does not provide all aspects of tax functions, including tax preparation services. That kind of conflict of interest cannot ever be permitted. The American people expect us to look out for their interests in such matters, to ensure fairness and balance in the system, and to protect their rights to voluntary compliance.

This amendment and accompanying report language should get the Free File program on track to achieve its intended purposes and objectives, and ensure that the IRS keeps its energies and resources focused on critical core missions, rather than spending precious public funds to try to expand them.

This is a basic good government, taxpayer-focused measure, and I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting this amendment.

#### NOTICE OF INTENT

Mr. DAYTON. Mr. President, in accordance with rule V of the standing rules of the Senate, I hereby give notice in writing of my intention to move to suspend Paragraph 4 of Rule XVI for the purpose of proposing to the Bill, H.R. 3058, the Transportation, Treasury, and Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Bill, the following amendment: No. 2143.

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Text of Amendments.")

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate turn to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to no more than 10 minutes.

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

#### BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. REID. Mr. President, as we pause to observe Breast Cancer Awareness Month, I would like to focus on the need to study the causes of this frightening disease, including the possible link between breast cancer and the environment.

Women diagnosed with breast cancer inevitably all ask the same question: Why me?

The unfortunate truth in all too many instances is, we don't know. Less than 30 percent of breast cancers are explained by known risk factors.

We don't know if the environment plays a role in the development of breast cancer. Studies have explored the effect of isolated environmental factors such as diet, pesticides, and even electromagnetic fields. In most cases, the results have been inconclusive. Furthermore, there are many other factors that are suspected to play a role that have yet to be studied.

We must find answers. While there is much we don't know, it is clear that a better understanding of the role the environment plays in the development of breast cancer could help to improve our understanding of the causes of breast cancer and could lead to prevention strategies.

For several years now, I have worked to pass bipartisan legislation, The Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Act, which would give scientists the tools they need to better understand any link between breast cancer and the environment. The Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Act would dedicate \$30 million a year for 5 years for the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, NIEHS, to award grants to study the relationship between environmental factors and breast cancer. Under a competitive, peer-reviewed grant-making process that involves patient advocates, the NIEHS Director would award grants for the development and operation of up to eight centers for the purpose of conducting multi-disciplinary research.

To date, there has been only a limited research investment to study the role of the environment in the development of breast cancer—but we are making progress. Over the past several years, I have worked with my colleagues on the Senate Appropriations Committee to include appropriations language that has allowed the NIEHS to award grants to four research centers to begin to study the prenatal-to-adult environmental exposures that may predispose a woman to breast cancer.

This is a promising step in the right direction, but it is only a down payment on the task at hand. Moreover, the research strategy for these grants does not follow the nationally focused, collaborative, and comprehensive model as outlined in the Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Act.

More research must be done to determine the impact of the environment on breast cancer. If we miss promising research opportunities because Congress has failed to act, millions of women and their families will face difficult questions about breast cancer . . . and we won't have the answers.

These women and their families deserve answers. That's why we must work together to pass this bill, which enjoys broad bipartisan support. I urge my colleagues to observe Breast Cancer Awareness Month and to support the quest for answers about this deadly disease by supporting the Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Act.

Mr. CORZINE. Mr. President, I rise today in observance of National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Today, 3 million American women are living with this disease. In 2005, an additional 200,000 women are expected to be diagnosed with invasive breast cancer and over 40,000 will die from this disease. While in recent years we have seen significant advances in breast cancer research, scientists are still researching many questions that remain unanswered regarding the causes and prevention of this disease.

I am particularly concerned about the likely impact that environmental factors have in contributing to the prevalence of breast cancer. That is why I support the bipartisan Breast Cancer Environmental Research Act, S. 757, which would provide \$30 million a year for 5 years for the development and operation of multi-institutional, multi-disciplinary research centers to study environmental factors potentially linked to breast cancer. There is a clear need for research. We owe it to breast cancer survivors and victims to pass this legislation.

Over the past several years, New Jersey has consistently ranked in the top 10 states in the Nation for breast cancer incidence and mortality. That is why I feel especially strongly about supporting further progress and future advancements in the fight against this awful disease that will only continue to cause suffering among American women if we fail to act.

In addition to passing S. 757, we must also increase funding for the National Institutes of Health, NIH, the National Cancer Institute, NCI, and the Centers for Disease Control, CDC, all of which have played a major role in the development of improved treatment. Despite the critical role these agencies play in developing tools to fight and prevent cancer, the President and Republican-led Congress have significantly underfunded breast cancer initiatives at NIH, NCI, and CDC. We need to do more.