

State or local bar associations for the benefit of the bar association membership; or

(iii) seminars of any length conducted by, and on the campus of an institute of higher education or by national bar associations or State or local bar associations, where a judge is a presenter and at which judges constitute less than 25 percent of the participants.

(3) "national bar association" means a national organization that is open to general membership to all members of the bar; and

(4) "State or local bar association" means a State or local organization that is open to general membership to all members of the bar in the specified geographic region.

(b) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 240 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Judicial Conference of the United States shall promulgate regulations to apply section 7353(a) of title 5, United States Code, to prohibit the solicitation or acceptance of anything of value in connection with a private judicial seminar.

(c) EXCEPTION.—The prohibition under the regulations promulgated under subsection (b) shall not apply if—

(1) the judge participates in a private judicial seminar as a speaker, panel participant, or otherwise presents information;

(2) Federal judges are not the primary audience at the private judicial seminar; and

(3) the thing of value accepted is—

(A) reimbursement from the private judicial seminar sponsor of reasonable transportation, food, or lodging expenses on any day on which the judge speaks, participates, or presents information, as applicable;

(B) attendance at the private judicial seminar on any day on which the judge speaks, participates, or presents information, as applicable; or

(C) anything excluded from the definition of a gift under regulations of the Judicial Conference of the United States under sections 7351 and 7353 of title 5, United States Code, as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

#### SEC. 4. RECUSAL LISTS.

Section 455 of title 28, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(g)(1) Each justice, judge, and magistrate of the United States shall maintain a list of all financial interests that would require disqualification under subsection (b)(4).

"(2) Each list maintained under paragraph (1) shall be made available to the public at the office of the clerk for the court at which a justice, judge, or magistrate is assigned."

By Mrs. CLINTON (for herself and Mr. NELSON of Florida):

S. 2203. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to eliminate cost-sharing under part D of such title for certain full-benefit dual eligible individuals; to the Committee on Finance.

Mrs. CLINTON. Mr. President, today I rise to introduce legislation to address yet another serious flaw in the Medicare prescription drug benefit that has come to light.

On January 1, the new Medicare prescription drug benefit went into effect. Overnight, millions of seniors and disabled Americans found themselves thrown into a confusing and complex transition.

Some of our poorest and most vulnerable beneficiaries, those in assisted living facilities, have found themselves suddenly forced to produce copayments to get the medications they need.

These are beneficiaries with serious mental illnesses who have been stabilized on medications, and people with developmental and physical disabilities who have little or no incomes and no way to afford the medicines that they depend on.

The bill I am introducing will fix this problem by waiving copayments for this group of vulnerable beneficiaries and reimbursing them for any copayments they have already been forced to shoulder.

This is just one of so many problems we have seen plaguing this program. The first 26 days of this program have been a disaster for far too many seniors and disabled across New York and across the country.

We have heard reports from our poorest seniors, who were being charged hundreds of dollars for drugs. We have heard reports of disabled individuals asked to provide doctor's notes certifying a need for their medications and of beneficiaries leaving pharmacies without the drugs they depend on to keep them healthy.

As a result of problems with computer systems, phone lines, and the inability of Medicare and private plans to provide correct information to those on the front lines of care, millions of people around the country have faced problems receiving this new benefit.

I am working on all fronts to help Medicare beneficiaries weather this transition. Before this program went into effect, it was clear that those dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid, our poorest and most vulnerable seniors and disabled, would have a particular challenge navigating this transition. I was very concerned that many these Medicare recipients would walk up to their pharmacy counters on January 1 and be unable to get their prescriptions filled.

In anticipation of these problems, I introduced legislation in December to keep these Medicare recipients from falling through the cracks by stepping up outreach and education to pharmacists and providing reimbursement to pharmacists who are charged a transaction fee to access beneficiary information through Medicare. I also cosponsored legislation to give Medicare beneficiaries more time to enroll in the new program.

And I issued a resource guide, now available in both English and Spanish, to help New Yorkers navigate this new program. To date more than 75,000 copies of the guide have been distributed.

Since the new program went into effect, I have repeatedly urged the Bush administration to address the problems plaguing this program. And last week, I introduced comprehensive legislation along with several of my Senate colleagues, that includes my bill to help pharmacists help their customers, and makes the other fixes I have been calling for: provisions to improve outreach and education, fix problems with drug plans transition programs, protect the benefits of seniors who also have cov-

erage from a retiree drug plan, and make sure that States and low income beneficiaries are reimbursed for excessive costs they have been forced to shoulder by the inept implementation of the new benefit.

We owe it to our seniors and disabled Americans to get this right. And I will keep fighting to ensure that we do.

#### SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 354—HONORING THE VALUABLE CONTRIBUTIONS OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS IN THE UNITED STATES

Mr. VITTER submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 354

Whereas Catholic schools in the United States have received international acclaim for academic excellence while providing students with lessons that extend far beyond the classroom;

Whereas Catholic schools present a broad curriculum that emphasizes the lifelong development of moral, intellectual, physical, and social values in the young people of the United States;

Whereas Catholic schools in the United States today educate 2,420,590 students and maintain a student-to-teacher ratio of 15 to 1;

Whereas the faculty members of Catholic schools teach a highly diverse body of students;

Whereas more than 27.1 percent of school children enrolled in Catholic schools are minorities, and more than 13.6 percent are non-Catholics;

Whereas Catholic schools saved the United States \$19,000,000,000 in educational funding during fiscal year 2005;

Whereas Catholic schools produce students strongly dedicated to their faith, values, families, and communities by providing an intellectually stimulating environment rich in spiritual, character, and moral development; and

Whereas in the 1972 pastoral message concerning Catholic education, the National Conference of Catholic Bishops stated, "Education is one of the most important ways by which the Church fulfills its commitment to the dignity of the person and building of community. Community is central to education ministry, both as a necessary condition and an ardently desired goal. The educational efforts of the Church, therefore, must be directed to forming persons-in-community; for the education of the individual Christian is important not only to his solitary destiny, but also the destinies of the many communities in which he lives.": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals of Catholic Schools Week, an event cosponsored by the National Catholic Educational Association and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops that recognizes the vital contributions of thousands of Catholic elementary and secondary schools in the United States; and

(2) congratulates Catholic schools, students, parents, and teachers across the United States for their ongoing contributions to education, and for the vital role they play in promoting and ensuring a brighter, stronger future for this Nation.