

As the General Accounting Office has reported, Y2K could have a devastating impact on the provision of public services. These include air traffic control, Social Security and Medicare payments, supervision of the financial system, monitoring of nuclear facilities, and a wide variety of other services. And let's not forget the Nation's defense. We are all proud of our modern military with its smart weapons and computerized battlefields. But a technology-dependent military is subject to the same computer hazards as everyone else.

Unfortunately, Mr. President, many agencies are way behind schedule in fixing the Y2K problem. According to GAO, "unless agency progress improves dramatically, a substantial number of mission-critical systems will not be compliant in time."

So, Mr. President, this is truly an emergency, and it's critical that we act as soon as possible. Unlike many problems we face in the Congress, this one can't be delayed or postponed. We can't set up a commission. We can't put it off until the next Congress. On January 1, 2000, the problem will hit, whether we like it or not. And we have to do everything we can to prepare.

Mr. President, let me commend my colleagues on the Appropriations Committee, and throughout the Senate, for approving emergency funding to address the Y2K problem. I wish we had done so earlier. Unfortunately, there are many Members in the House of Representatives who strongly oppose treating this funding as an emergency. And they have created serious obstacles to allocating the funding. I urge them to reconsider their opposition, and am hopeful they will.

Beyond increasing funding, Mr. President, there are other steps that the Federal government must consider to address the Y2K problem. For example, we need to reform laws that discourage businesses from sharing relevant information with each other. We need to ensure that businesses accurately report on their compliance efforts to the SEC and investors. We need to support small businesses' efforts to fix their computers. I have actively supported these types of legislative initiatives. But I recognize that they are not sufficient. We also need to communicate better with our constituents about the problem, so that all Americans can prepare.

Mr. President, given differing views on the actual risks, the only wise thing is to prepare for the worst. When a hurricane approaches, we never know exactly where it will hit, or how destructive it will be. But that doesn't stop us from evacuating and boarding up our homes in expectation of the worst case scenario. Sometimes, those preparations prove unnecessary. And, if the hurricane does hit, there will also be cleanup costs later. But the better one prepares, the more efficient, and less expensive, the cleanup will be. And the same is true for Y2K.

So, Mr. President, I would strongly urge this Congress to focus serious attention on Y2K, and to strongly support all funding needed to solve the problem. This is an emergency, and the time to act is now. We shouldn't panic. But we must prepare. Even if nobody knows the exact dimensions of the problem, this is one threat that we ignore at our peril.●

CORRECTION TO THE LIST OF OBJECTIONABLE PROVISIONS IN THE FISCAL YEAR 1999 INTERIOR APPROPRIATIONS BILL

● Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I wish to make a clarification to my list of objectionable provisions to the Senate passed version of the FY'99 Interior Appropriations bill.

I was pleased to learn that the Indian health facility that is designated to be constructed on the Hopi reservation in Arizona was requested for funding in this year's budget. I had previously objected to this item in my pork list, not based on the merits of the project, but what appeared to be an unrequested, directed earmark.

The Hopi Health Center in Polacca, Arizona is requested for funding at the level of \$14,400,000 for construction of Indian health facilities, which is consistent with the budget request. I will remove this item as an objectionable provision.

I assure Chairman Wayne Taylor and the Hopi Tribe that I continue to be supportive of establishing an Indian health center for the Hopi community.

TAIWAN'S NATIONAL DAY

● Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I rise today to offer my congratulations to President Lee Teng-hui and the people of the Republic of China on Taiwan on the occasion of their National Day which will occur October 10. It is a deep honor for me to join in the celebration of this momentous occasion.

The remarkable achievements of Taiwan continue to tell a powerful story of how democracy can grow in Asia, and that it is compatible with a commitment to capitalism. Taiwan's ability to survive the Asian financial crisis better than any other free economy in the region is just another example of the significance of Taiwan's leadership. Quite simply, Taiwan's economic and political miracles never cease to amaze me.

It is a true honor for me to have a long-standing, very personal friendship with Taiwan. My own state of West Virginia has benefitted from Taiwan's commitment to the U.S. in profound and long-lasting ways. I am more committed than ever to the people of Taiwan to keep building on a relationship that holds so much more promise in the years ahead. I know that we will continue to look to Taiwan to continue setting an example in their commitment to democracy, to vibrant economic ties with the U.S. and the rest of the world, and to peace.●

ELLEN BERLINER

● Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, with more than 4 million Americans suffering from Alzheimer's disease at a cost to our society of more than \$100 billion annually, it is time we take a moment to reflect on the work of those who are dedicating their energies to helping do something about this terrible disease.

One of those people is Ellen Berliner. Ms. Berliner, who lives in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, took care of her husband with Alzheimer's disease for 13 years. For those of us who have not been a caregiver for an Alzheimer patient, it is difficult to comprehend what the experience is like. It has been described as the "36 hour day" or the "endless funeral" because the demands are greater and more stressful than what most of us can deal with in a normal 24 hour day, and the losses and emotional strain are enormous. Ms. Berliner, like so many other Americans, stepped up to the challenge of caregiving and performed courageously out of love for her husband and her family.

But, Ms. Berliner didn't stop there. Drawing on her pain and struggles as a caregiver, she decided to do something to help others. In 1988, she helped create the Greater Pittsburgh chapter of the Alzheimer's Association and became its founding Board President. In the past ten years, she has contributed more than 16,000 hours of volunteer service to the chapter and to the families in the greater Pittsburgh area. She has developed support groups and services to help families. She has been active in advocacy to help improve the policies that affect the lives of families and people suffering from Alzheimer's. And, she has stuffed envelopes and made phone calls to help raise the necessary funds to support the work of this important charity.

Ms. Berliner has a long history of community service. In 1974 she co-founded the Women's Center and Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh. The center, which provides a safe haven for battered women, was one of the first in the nation. For her work with battered women and for other community services, Ms. Berliner was nominated for the Jefferson Award of the American Institute for Public Service in 1992. In 1996, Ms. Berliner received the "New Person Award" given by the Thomas Merton Center for People Over 70. The award is given in appreciation of life-long works for peace and social justice.

Mr. President, I bring Ms. Berliner to the attention of this body because I believe we should shine a light on the good works of our citizens, heroic work really, that is done without personal gain and with no desire for public recognition. Our nation has grown strong because of people like Ellen Berliner who use their own time and resources to make life a little better for the rest of us.

So, I say "thank you" to Ms. Ellen Berliner for helping the people of Pittsburgh deal with the devastation caused by Alzheimer's disease, and for being a

role model to her peers and to future generations.●

#### BIG SKY AIRLINES TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY

● Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate a small business in my state, Big Sky Airlines, on their 20th Anniversary.

Big Sky Airlines commenced scheduled passenger service on September 11, 1978. The initial flight flew from Billings to Helena with continuing service to Kalispell. The aircraft was a Hadley-Paige Jetstream with a seating capacity of 19.

Today, Big Sky operates a fleet of six nineteen-passenger Metro III aircraft, with service to 12 cities in Montana and Spokane, Washington. The company operates out of its hub in Billings and provides connecting opportunities from Eastern and Central Montana to its markets in the west. The Montana cities are Glasgow, Glendive, Miles City, Wolf Point and Sidney in the east. Havre and Lewistown in central Montana and Great Falls, Helena, Missoula, Kalispell and Spokane in the west. All of the eastern and central Montana service is operated under the Essential Air Service subsidy contract with the Department of Transportation.

Big Sky Airlines has been through a lot in their 20 years of providing service in Montana. They've had their good times and bad. However, through it all they continued to provide service to remote areas that would have been further isolated from the Nation's economic centers without them. The Essential Air Service program is critical to these communities. Without this service, these communities would be seriously hampered in their efforts to attract new business or even to retain those they now have, resulting in further strain on local economies and loss of jobs.

In my visits to the state, I frequently fly on Big Sky Airlines. In our state, to many cities, it's the ONLY way to fly. I've had lots of experiences, I could tell you about. However, I'd rather talk about the many families I've seen reunited as the Big Sky plane lands in those rural communities.

I'd like to congratulate the Board of Big Sky Airlines and their chairman, Jon Marchi for their foresight and perseverance. I'd also like to congratulate the officers of the company: Kim Champney, the President and CEO, and Craig Denney, the Executive Vice President and Chief Operating officer. Kim has only been there a short time, but is moving the company in exciting new directions. I've personally seen Craig load the luggage, check in the passengers and send the airplane on its way. He knows how to do every job in the company and do it well.

I'd also like to congratulate John Rabenberg and the other members of the Essential Air Service task force for the hard work they do in their communities for this program.

Big Sky Airlines currently employs 103 people throughout its system (all in Montana). And you can tell it's a good company to work for. Whether you are checking in at the counter, or watching the pilots get ready to take-off, they are very customer service oriented. It's a pleasure to fly with them, and Mr. President, it's a pleasure for me today to congratulate them on their 20th Anniversary and to wish them many more years of flying the big sky of Montana.●

#### DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

● Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I rise today to raise awareness of a startlingly common problem occurring every 15 seconds across our nation—and that is the issue of domestic violence. October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and I would like to take this opportunity to discuss the devastating impact of domestic violence on individuals, families and our communities.

Few people want to tell the dark secrets of their family. Though many keep incidents of domestic violence secret, it is a sad part of our national landscape. Through the efforts of medical researchers, law enforcement officers, advocates, and victims, more attention is now being paid. In the last two years alone, according to the National Library of Medicine, approximately 500 articles have been written on domestic violence in prominent journals and periodicals.

Despite these efforts, many remain uncomfortable talking about domestic violence. According to the Department of Justice Violence Against Women Office, domestic violence is a crime that is frequently underreported to law enforcement authorities. Victims often live in fear and do not share their troubled secrets. They fear threats, additional violence and more pain.

The U.S. Department of Justice estimates that 3 to 4 million women are battered each year by their husbands or boyfriends. Data published by the Commonwealth Fund shows that women are more often the victims of domestic violence than victims of burglary, muggings or other physical crimes combined. The National Crime Victimization Survey indicates that from 1991 to 1996, approximately half of female victims of domestic violence were physically injured.

Unfortunately, only one in five of those injured victims sought treatment at a medical facility. As a physician, I know that our health care delivery systems can be critical links in identifying cases of domestic violence. In a 1990 study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association, 22 to 35% of women treated in emergency rooms were there for injuries related to ongoing abuse. Health care providers can have a significant impact in identifying such cases, and we must give them the tools to help us address the problem.

Another sad truth is that domestic violence crosses all racial, gender, age and economic boundaries. Children, men and the elderly are also victims. Child abuse is 15 times more likely to occur in families where domestic violence is present. In the late 1980's, reports of elder abuse increased by almost 20% nationally. With these staggering numbers before us, it is apparent that domestic violence necessitates a coordinated community response with partners at the local, state and federal levels.

That's why I am particularly heartened by efforts in Tennessee to address the issue. The Tennessee Task Force Against Domestic Violence is dedicated to ending violence in the lives of women and children through their network of coalitions and shelters. The Task Force has partnered with the Tennessee Medical Association to educate health care providers. They also work closely with law enforcement authorities. My home town of Nashville, for example, has the largest domestic violence division of any police department in the country. Working together with the Task Force, the city's police department has seen an increase in the number of calls from victims who now have more confidence in the system. Knoxville, Chattanooga and Memphis have similar efforts underway. I am proud of my fellow Tennesseans for the example they are setting and the models they are creating. They are sending a clear message that domestic violence is wrong and has no place in our society.

We are working to send a similar message at the federal level. I have authored three bills which contain provisions to address domestic violence. S. 1754, the "Health Professions Education Partnerships Act of 1998," passed the Senate by unanimous consent in July. Among other things, it requests that the Institute of Medicine examine and make recommendations regarding the training needs of health professionals with respect to detection and referral of victims. In S. 1722, the "Women's Health Research and Prevention Amendments of 1998," and in S. 2330, the "Patients' Bill of Rights," we authorize federal funding for community programs on domestic violence through the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act. I have recently joined my colleagues Senators DOMENICI and STEVENS to cosponsor S. 2395, the "Prescription for Abuse Act," which will help health care providers to identify, address and prevent domestic violence.

Domestic violence warrants our full and responsive consideration. I urge my colleagues to take time during October—Domestic Violence Awareness Month—to determine what more we can do to address this challenge. Together we can send a clear message that domestic violence must continue to be addressed comprehensively, creatively, and compassionately.●