

tried to write this legislation so that existing private and state dollars can be leveraged, rather than displaced, by Federal funds.

Over the last two decades, the instability and lack of funding has resulted in a steady decline in the number of poison control centers in the United States. In 1978, there were over 600 poison control centers; now, there are 75. This trend has jeopardized the capacity of poison control centers to provide equitable services to all Americans. As a result, more people may die, more people may be injured and the costs for treating poisonings may increase.

For example, in 1991, Louisiana closed its poison center and referred all calls to Alabama. After its closing, Louisiana found that "the cost attributable to unnecessary emergency department visits was more than three times the amount allocated to operate the poison control center each year." Louisiana also found that medically treated poisonings, those treated in emergency rooms or by physicians, increased 42%. It reopened its poison control center.

My office has consulted with a number of experts on how we can best improve poison control operations on a national scale, and my legislation contains a number of their suggestions.

Here's what the bill does.

It establishes a national toll-free number to ensure that all Americans have access to poison control center services. This number is then automatically routed to the center designated to cover the caller's region. This system will improve access to poison control center services for everyone. It will also simplify efforts to educate parents and the public about what to do in the event of a poisoning exposure and how to do it quickly.

It begins a nationwide media campaign to educate the public and health care providers about poison prevention, and advertise the new, nationwide toll-free number. I've seen the great work done by some non-profit groups, and how effective their public health campaigns have been. That's what I'd like to see here.

It establishes a grant program to stabilize the funding mechanism and prevent certified regional poison control centers from closing. This program will support activities to prevent and treat poisonings; develop standard education programs; develop standard patient management protocols for commonly encountered toxic exposures; improve and expand the poison control data collection system; and improve national toxin exposure surveillance.

Mr. President, I have always been a supporter of the prevention and treatment services provided by poison control centers. As a member of the Congressional Prevention Coalition, I hope to increase awareness of this very important issue. Federal support for poison control centers will help ensure that all Americans continue to have access to quality poison control center services.

It will reduce the inappropriate use of emergency medical services and other costly health care services.

And, most importantly, it will save lives.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that this statement and the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 1862

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Poison Control Center Enhancement and Awareness Act".

#### SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Each year more than 2,000,000 poisonings are reported to poison control centers throughout the United States. More than 90 percent of these poisonings happen in the home. 53 percent of poisoning victims are children younger than 6 years of age.

(2) Poison centers are life-saving and cost-effective public health services. For every dollar spent on poison control centers, \$7 in medical costs are saved. The average cost of a poisoning exposure call is \$31.28, while the average cost if other parts of the medical system are involved is \$932. Over the last 2 decades, the instability and lack of funding has resulted in a steady decline in the number of poison control centers in the United States. Currently, there are 75 such centers.

(3) Stabilizing the funding structure and increasing accessibility to poison control centers will increase the number of United States residents who have access to a certified poison control center, and reduce the inappropriate use of emergency medical services and other more costly health care services.

#### SEC. 3. DEFINITION.

In this Act, the term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

#### SEC. 4. ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATIONAL TOLL-FREE NUMBER.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide coordination and assistance to regional poison control centers for the establishment of a nationwide toll-free phone number to be used to access such centers.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section, \$2,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 1999 through 2001.

#### SEC. 5. ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONWIDE MEDIA CAMPAIGN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a national media campaign to educate the public and health care providers about poison prevention and the availability of poison control resources in local communities and to conduct advertising campaigns concerning the nationwide toll-free number established under section 4.

(b) CONTRACT WITH ENTITY.—The Secretary may carry out subsection (a) by entering into contracts with 1 or more nationally recognized media firms for the development and distribution of monthly television, radio, and newspaper public service announcements.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section, \$600,000 for each of the fiscal years 1999 through 2003.

#### SEC. 6. ESTABLISHMENT OF A GRANT PROGRAM.

(a) REGIONAL POISON CONTROL CENTERS.—The Secretary shall award grants to certified regional poison control centers for the pur-

poses of achieving the financial stability of such centers, and for preventing and providing treatment recommendations for poisonings.

(b) OTHER IMPROVEMENTS.—The Secretary shall also use amounts received under this section to—

(1) develop standard education programs;

(2) develop standard patient management protocols for commonly encountered toxic exposures;

(3) improve and expand the poison control data collection systems; and

(4) improve national toxic exposure surveillance.

(c) CERTIFICATION.—Except as provided in subsection (d), the Secretary may make a grant to a center under subsection (a) only if the center has been certified by a professional organization in the field of poison control, and the Secretary has approved the organization as having in effect standards for certification that reasonably provide for the protection of the public health with respect to poisoning.

(d) WAIVER OF CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may grant a waiver of the certification requirement of subsection (a) with respect to a noncertified poison control center that applies for a grant under this section if such center can reasonably demonstrate that the center will obtain such a certification within a reasonable period of time as determined appropriate by the Secretary.

(2) RENEWAL.—The Secretary may only renew a waiver under paragraph (1) for a period of 3 years.

(e) SUPPLEMENT NOT SUPPLANT.—Amounts made available to a poison control center under this section shall be used to supplement and not supplant other Federal, State, local or private funds provided for such center.

(f) MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT.—A poison control center, in utilizing the proceeds of a grant under this section, shall maintain the expenditures of the center for activities of the center at a level that is equal to not less than the level of such expenditures maintained by the center for the fiscal year preceding the fiscal year for which the grant is received.

(g) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary may impose a matching requirement with respect to amounts provided under a grant under this section if the Secretary determines appropriate.

(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section, \$25,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 1999 through 2001.

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 358

At the request of Mr. DEWINE, the names of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. McCONNELL) and the Senator from New York (Mr. D'AMATO) were added as cosponsors of S. 358, a bill to provide for compassionate payments with regard to individuals with blood-clotting disorders, such as hemophilia, who contracted human immunodeficiency virus due to contaminated blood products, and for other purposes.

S. 775

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 775, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude gain or loss from the sale of livestock from the

computation of capital gain net income for purposes of the earned income credit.

S. 1344

At the request of Mr. BROWNBAC, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. THOMAS) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. CHAFEE) were added as cosponsors of S. 1344, a bill to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to target assistance to support the economic and political independence of the countries of South Caucasus and Central Asia.

S. 1406

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. LOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1406, a bill to amend section 2301 of title 38, United States Code, to provide for the furnishing of burial flags on behalf of certain deceased members and former members of the Selected Reserve.

S. 1481

At the request of Mr. DEWINE, the names of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. HOLLINGS) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. MACK) were added as cosponsors of S. 1481, a bill to amend the Social Security Act to eliminate the time limitation on benefits for immunosuppressive drugs under the medicare program, to provide for continued entitlement for such drugs for certain individuals after medicare benefits end, and to extend certain medicare secondary payer requirements.

S. 1621

At the request of Mr. GRAMS, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. BENNETT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1621, a bill to provide that certain Federal property shall be made available to States for State use before being made available to other entities, and for other purposes.

S. 1677

At the request of Mr. CHAFEE, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. FRIST) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1677, a bill to reauthorize the North American Wetlands Conservation Act and the Partnerships for Wildlife Act.

S. 1710

At the request of Mr. COCHRAN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1710, a bill to provide for the correction of retirement coverage errors under chapters 83 and 84 of title 5, United States Code.

S. 1722

At the request of Mr. FRIST, the names of the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. COVERDELL), the Senator from Utah (Mr. BENNETT), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. BROWNBAC), and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. BREAUX) were added as cosponsors of S. 1722, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to revise and extend certain programs with respect to women's health research and prevention activities at the National Institutes of Health and the

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

S. 1723

At the request of Mr. ABRAHAM, the names of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. THURMOND) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SANTORUM) were added as cosponsors of S. 1723, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to assist the United States to remain competitive by increasing the access of the United States firms and institutions of higher education to skilled personnel and by expanding educational and training opportunities for American students and workers.

S. 1724

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. GREGG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1724, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the information reporting requirement relating to the Hope Scholarship and Lifetime Learning Credits imposed on educational institutions and certain other trades and businesses.

#### SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 77

At the request of Mr. SESSIONS, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of Senate Concurrent Resolution 77, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress that the Federal government should acknowledge the importance of at-home parents and should not discriminate against families who forego a second income in order for a mother or father to be at home with their children.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 176

At the request of Mr. DOMENICI, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID), the Senator from Michigan (Mr. ABRAHAM), and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. THURMOND) were added as cosponsors of Senate Resolution 176, a resolution proclaiming the week of October 18 through October 24, 1998, as "National Character Counts Week."

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 189

At the request of Mr. TORRICELLI, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) were added as cosponsors of Senate Resolution 189, a resolution honoring the 150th anniversary of the United States Women's Rights Movement that was initiated by the 1848 Women's Rights Convention held in Seneca Falls, New York, and calling for a national celebration of women's rights in 1998.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 1481

At the request of Mr. DEWINE the names of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. HOLLINGS) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. MACK) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 1481 intended to be proposed to S. 1173, a bill to authorize funds for construction of highways, for highway safety programs, and for mass transit programs, and for other purposes.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 2081

At the request of Mr. CRAIG the name of the Senator from New Hampshire

(Mr. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2081 intended to be proposed to Treaty No. 105-36, Protocols to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the accession of Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic. These protocols were opened for signature at Brussels on December 16, 1997, and signed on behalf of the United States of America and other parties to the North Atlantic Treaty.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 2082

At the request of Mr. CRAIG the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2082 intended to be proposed to Treaty No. 105-36, Protocols to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the accession of Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic. These protocols were opened for signature at Brussels on December 16, 1997, and signed on behalf of the United States of America and other parties to the North Atlantic Treaty.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 2083

At the request of Mrs. HUTCHISON the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2083 proposed to S. 1768, an original bill making emergency supplemental appropriations for recovery from natural disasters, and for overseas peacekeeping efforts, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes.

#### SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 87—TO CORRECT THE ENROLLMENT OF S. 419

Mr. JEFFORDS submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

#### S. CON. RES. 87

*Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring).* That, in the enrollment of the bill (S. 419) to provide surveillance, research, and services aimed at prevention of birth defects, and for other purposes, the Secretary of the Senate shall make the following corrections:

(1) In section 1 of the bill, strike "1997" and insert "1998".

(2) In section 2 of the bill:

(A) In subsection (d) of section 317C of the Public Health Service Act (as proposed to be amended by such section 2) strike "1998" and insert "1999".

(B) In subsection (f) of section 317C of the Public Health Service Act (as proposed to be amended by such section 2) strike "1998" and all that follows through "2001" and insert "1999, \$40,000,000 for fiscal year 2000, and such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 2001 and 2002".

#### AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED

#### 1998 EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT FOR RECOVERY FROM NATURAL DISASTERS, AND FOR OVERSEAS PEACEKEEPING EFFORTS

#### FEINGOLD AMENDMENT NO. 2121

Mr. FEINGOLD proposed an amendment to the bill (S. 1768) making emergency supplemental appropriations for