

EC-3425. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Inspector General Act from the period October 1, 1995 through March 31, 1996; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-656. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the Legislature of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

"RESOLUTION

"Whereas, at the end of the Korean war in nineteen hundred and fifty-three over eight thousand American troops were unaccounted for; and

"Whereas, historically, the position of the United States Government has been that there were no longer any surviving prisoners of war from the Korean war in North Korea; and

"Whereas, a recent Department of Defense report acknowledges that between ten and fifteen prisoners of war from the Korean war have been sighted, still alive and being held in North Korea; and

"Whereas, many more of the eight thousand troops still unaccounted for may still be alive and held in North Korea; and

"Whereas, recent evidence indicates that these prisoners of the war wish to return to the United States; and

"Whereas, the Korean war has been over for more than forty years and the prisoners are now becoming elderly, making swift action imperative: Now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Massachusetts senate respectfully urges the Congress of the United States to take immediate action to determine the presence of American prisoners of war in North Korea and to ensure the prompt return of any such prisoners to the United States; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be transmitted forthwith by the clerk of the Senate to the President of the United States, to the Presiding Officer of each branch of Congress and to each Member thereof from the Commonwealth."

POM-657. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Delaware; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 38

"Whereas improving patient access to quality health care is a paramount national goal; and

"Whereas the key to improved health care, especially for persons with serious unmet medical needs, is the rapid approval of safe and effective new drugs, biological products, and medical devices; and

"Whereas minimizing the delay between discovery and eventual approval of a new drug, biological product, or medical device derived from research conducted by innovative pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies could improve the lives of millions of Americans; and

"Whereas current limitations on the dissemination of information about pharmaceutical products reduce the availability of information to physicians, other health care professionals, and patients, and unfairly limit the right of free speech guaranteed by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution; and

"Whereas the current rules and practices governing the review of new drugs, biological

products, and medical devices by the United States Food and Drug Administration can delay approvals and are unnecessary expensive: Now, therefore be it

Resolved by the house of representatives of the 138th General Assembly of the State of Delaware (the senate concurring therein), That the State Legislature respectfully urges the Congress of the United States to address this important issue by enacting comprehensive legislation to facilitate the rapid review and approval of innovative new drugs, biological products, and medical devices, without compromising patient safety or product effectiveness; and be it further,

Resolved, That copies of this Resolution be transmitted forthwith by the Clerk of the House or Secretary of the Senate to the President of the United States, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and President of the United States Senate, and to each member of the United States Senate and the United States House of Representative."

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second time by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER (for himself and Mr. MACK):

S. 1963. A bill to establish a demonstration project to study and provide coverage of routine patient care costs for medicare beneficiaries with cancer who are enrolled in an approved clinical trial program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BINGAMAN (for himself and Mr. HOLLINGS):

S. 1964. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage under part B of the medicare program of medical nutrition therapy services of registered dietitians and nutrition professionals; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HATCH (for himself, Mr. BIDEN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. D'AMATO, Mr. KYL, Mr. REID, and Mr. ASHCROFT):

S. 1965. A bill to prevent the illegal manufacturing and use of methamphetamine; ordered held at the desk.

By Mr. CAMPBELL (for himself, Mr. CHAFEE, and Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN):

S. 1966. A bill to extend the legislative authority for the Black Revolutionary War Patriots Foundation to establish a commemorative work; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. BROWN:

S. 1967. A bill to provide that members of the Armed Forces who performed services for the peacekeeping efforts in Somalia shall be entitled to tax benefits in the same manner as if such services were performed in a combat zone, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. FAIRCLOTH:

S. 1968. A bill to reorder United States budget priorities with respect to United States assistance to foreign countries and international organizations; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. JEFFORDS (for himself, Mr. BRADLEY, Mrs. KASSEBAUM, Mr. KERREY, Mr. COHEN, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. CHAFEE, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 1969. A bill to establish a Commission on Retirement Income Policy; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER (for himself and Mr. MACK):

S. 1963. A bill to establish a demonstration project to study and provide coverage of routine patient care costs for medicare beneficiaries with cancer who are enrolled in an approved clinical trial program; to the Committee on Finance.

THE MEDICARE CANCER CLINICAL TRIAL COVERAGE ACT OF 1996

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, today, I am introducing legislation to continue the effort to expand treatment options for older Americans who happen to have cancer. I am especially pleased my colleague from Florida, Senator MACK, is joining me as an original cosponsor. Senator MACK is a vigorous and persistent advocate for cancer research and improvements in patient care for those with cancer. He has been fighting this battle for a long time.

Our bipartisan sponsorship, which is just a nice thing to happen around here anyway, is intended to say to the American people, especially to the millions of Medicare beneficiaries with cancer, that we in the Congress are, in fact, very, very serious about trying to be helpful.

Over 1.3 million people will be diagnosed with cancer this year. Over 11,000 of those people, newly diagnosed with cancer, will be people I represent, that is West Virginians. Cancer is, in fact, the second leading cause of death in West Virginia, second only to heart disease. This legislation is aimed at improving Medicare coverage, since Medicare beneficiaries account for more than half of all cancer diagnoses, and 60 percent of all cancer deaths.

Our bill deals with the very specific problem faced by Medicare beneficiaries who are currently prevented from receiving care that may extend or save their lives. To put it very simply and very bluntly, Americans over the age of 65 who are struck with cancer believe they should get the best shot in fighting their disease. The Medicare Cancer Clinical Trial Coverage Act of 1996, which is the bill I am introducing, is a bill to do something very targeted to give older Americans their best shot at fighting cancer. With this bill we want to tackle the frustrating, often anguishing problem faced by older Americans who are unable to participate in cancer clinical trials. Let me explain.

Consider the story of a West Virginian who was treated with an experimental drug for lung cancer, under a research trial approved by the National Cancer Institute. Because Medicare would not cover the cost of hospitalization required to administer the anticancer treatment, he decided he could only pay for one more treatment out of the money from his own pocket. This West Virginian could not bring himself to bankrupt his family, yet getting the additional treatments