

or receive services from, another home health agency within an episode period, the episode payment shall be prorated between home health agencies."

"(c) Prior to implementing the prospective system described in subsections (a) and (b) in a budget-neutral fashion, the Secretary shall first reduce, by 15 percent, the cost limits, per beneficiary limits, and actual costs, described in section 1861(v)(1)(L)(iv), as such limits are in effect on September 30, 1999."

SEC. 7189D. MAINTAINING SAVINGS RESULTING FROM TEMPORARY FREEZE ON PAYMENT INCREASES.

(a) **BASING UPDATES TO PER VISIT COST LIMITS ON LIMITS FOR FISCAL YEAR 1993.**—Section 1861(v)(1)(L)(iii) (42 U.S.C. 1395x(v)(1)(L)(iii)) is amended by adding at the end the following sentence: "In establishing limits under this subparagraph, the Secretary may not take into account any changes in the costs of the provision of services furnished by home health agencies with respect to cost reporting periods which began on or after July 1, 1994, and before July 1, 1996."

(b) **NO EXCEPTIONS PERMITTED BASED ON AMENDMENT.**—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall not consider the amendment made by subsection (a) in making any exemptions and exceptions pursuant to section 1861(v)(1)(L)(ii) of the Social Security Act.

SEC. 7189E. ELIMINATION OF PERIODIC INTERIM PAYMENTS FOR HOME HEALTH AGENCIES.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 1815(e)(2) (42 U.S.C. 1395g(e)(2)) is amended—

(1) by inserting "and" at the end of subparagraph (C);

(2) by striking subparagraph (D); and

(3) by redesignating subparagraph (E) as subparagraph (D).

(b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall apply to payments made on or after October 1, 1999.

SEC. 7189F. EFFECTIVE DATE.

Except as otherwise specifically provided, the amendments made by this subtitle shall apply to items and services provided on or after October 1, 1995.

Amend the table of contents for title VII accordingly.

Mr. CRAIG addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Idaho.

(The remarks of Mr. CRAIG pertaining to the introduction of S. 1374 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. MCCAIN addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, today, two of our colleagues on the other side of the aisle, Senators DODD and KERREY, held a press conference endorsing legislation that Senator FEINGOLD and I and Senator THOMPSON and others introduced some time ago. This follows on the heels of an announcement in the other body by Congresswoman SMITH and Congressman MARKEY of Massachusetts and Congressman SHAYS of support for this legislation as well, including announcement by the Speaker of the House that hearings would begin on the issue of campaign finance reform.

Mr. President, I welcome all of these initiatives and support. I believe that

the issue of campaign finance reform is one that is very important to the American people and becomes more important almost on a daily basis.

I wish to emphasize, after having been through this issue for a number of years, that if the issue is not bipartisan, then there will be no resolution to the campaign finance reform issue. And I worry sometimes that this legislation may tilt to one side or the other. That is why the Senator from Wisconsin and I have tried to maintain a balance as far as cosponsors are concerned.

If there is one lesson about reform in this body, and reform in the way we do business not only inside the Congress but in the way we conduct our campaigns, it is that any reform must be done on a bipartisan basis. I urge my colleagues who have similar ideas—I understand there are at least about 40 or 50 other campaign reform proposals now floating around—they engage it on a bipartisan basis, in which I and my friend from Wisconsin would be glad to join them.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

MEASURE PLACED ON CALENDAR—S. 1372

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XIV of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the clerk will read S. 1372 for a second time.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows.

A bill (S. 1372) to amend the Social Security Act to increase the earnings limit, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to further proceeding?

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard. The bill will be placed on the Legislative Calendar.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I would like to strongly associate myself with the remarks of the Senator from Arizona with regard to the recent news on our efforts on campaign finance reform.

Last week, we were extremely pleased to see a bipartisan group in the House essentially agree to introduce the kind of legislation that the Senator from Arizona and I have proposed.

Today, we are also pleased by the announcement of the support by the chairman of the Democratic National Committee and the chairman of the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee.

We are not so excited about the fact that these people happen to be leaders in the Democratic Party—that is good—but the more important thing is that it is another sign of the importance and the value of the bipartisan nature of this proposal.

The House proposal last week was bipartisan. Adding these two Senators to this group makes it another significant step in bringing both parties together

with regard to this issue. I have been very pleased with the quick response from various Senators on signing on to this bill. Week by week, we have added new people.

I also want to note the editorial endorsements that the Senator from Arizona alluded to. The Feingold-McCain-Thompson bill has been endorsed by the New York Times, the Washington Post, Los Angeles Times, Dallas Morning News, Milwaukee Journal, St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Kansas City Star, Houston Chronicle, Nashville Tennessean, the Boston Globe, and many others. Of course, this was added to last week in addition by the endorsement of Ross Perot, who has indicated a lot of support on this issue.

Today, the addition of the support of Senator BOB KERREY of Nebraska and Senator DODD of Connecticut helps us move in that direction.

It takes about 100 steps to pass this bill. It is a complicated, very controversial bill that has been a knotty problem for the Congress for many years, but I think we have taken about 25 or 35 of those steps already. These endorsements are very important today.

Senator DODD's response at the news conference to the question of, "Why do you think this bill has a chance of actually passing?" was right on target. The fact that this bill has Republican and Democrat cosponsors and represents the first truly bipartisan bill, the first truly bipartisan bill in nearly 10 years, automatically makes this effort different, dramatically different than past efforts.

Senator BOB KERREY of Nebraska also made an excellent point about nobody understanding the need for reform better than those of us who are charged with the responsibility of raising these awful amounts of money. So this is progress.

I want to emphasize what the Senator from Arizona did. It is only progress in the context of a continued bipartisan effort. If either party thinks they can gain political advantage by turning this into a partisan issue, all they will succeed in doing is killing this effort.

This effort can win. There is every sign that it will win and that the President would be willing to sign it. With that caveat, with that effort to make sure that this is a continuation of the effort of bipartisanship, I welcome their support, and I look forward to further support from Members on both sides of the aisle.

I thank the Senator from Arizona and the Chair, and I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who seeks recognition?

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.