

## NOMINATIONS DISCHARGED

The following nomination was discharged from the Committee on Finance pursuant to the order of March 22, 2002:

## DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Randal Quarles, of Utah, to be Deputy Under Secretary of the Treasury.

The following nomination was discharged from the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry pursuant to the order of March 22, 2002:

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Nancy Southard Bryson, of the District of Columbia, to be General Counsel of the Department of Agriculture.

The following nomination was discharged from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions pursuant to the order of March 22, 2002:

## DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Victoria A. Lipnic, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor.

## INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. BAYH:

S. 2066. A bill to prohibit United States assistance and commercial arms exports to countries and entities supporting international terrorism; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. BINGAMAN (for himself, Mr. BOND, and Mr. INOUE):

S. 2067. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to enhance the access of Medicare beneficiaries who live in medically underserved areas to critical primary and preventive health care benefits, to improve the Medicare+Choice program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. McCAIN (for himself, Mr. BAYH, Mr. CLELAND, Mrs. CARNAHAN, and Mr. LIEBERMAN):

S. 2068. A bill to further encourage and facilitate service in the Armed Forces of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. NELSON of Florida (for himself, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. CLELAND, and Mr. MILLER):

S. 2069. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a national cemetery for veterans in the Jacksonville, Florida, metropolitan area; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

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

S. 2070. A bill to amend part A of title IV to exclude child care from the determination of the 5-year limit on assistance under the temporary assistance to needy families program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire:

S. 2071. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to prohibit the collection of tolls from vehicles or military equipment under the actual physical control of a uniformed member of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. CORZINE (for himself, Mr. BINGAMAN, and Mr. BREAU):

S. 2072. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide States with the

option of covering intensive community mental health treatment under the Medicaid Program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CRAIG:

S. 2073. A bill to provide for the retroactive entitlement of Ed W. Freeman to Medal of Honor special pension; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

## SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. CONRAD:

S. Con. Res. 100. An original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2003 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for each of the fiscal years 2004 through 2012; from the Committee on the Budget; placed on the calendar.

## ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 940

At the request of Mr. DODD, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 940, a bill to leave no child behind.

S. 960

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. HOLLINGS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 960, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to expand coverage of medical nutrition therapy services under the Medicare program for beneficiaries with cardiovascular diseases.

S. 1343

At the request of Mr. CHAFEE, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1343, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide States with options for providing family planning services and supplies to individuals eligible for medical assistance under the Medicaid program.

S. 1409

At the request of Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1409, a bill to impose sanctions against the PLO or the Palestinian Authority if the President determines that those entities have failed to substantially comply with commitments made to the State of Israel.

S. 1777

At the request of Mrs. CLINTON, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1777, a bill to authorize assistance for individuals with disabilities in foreign countries, including victims of landmines and other victims of civil strife and warfare, and for other purposes.

S. 1924

At the request of Mr. LIEBERMAN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. TORRICELLI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1924, a bill to promote charitable giving, and for other purposes.

S. 2040

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr.

CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2040, a bill to provide emergency agricultural assistance to producers of the 2002 crop.

S. 2058

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2058, a bill to replace the caseload reduction credit with an employment credit under the program of block grants to States for temporary assistance for needy families, and for other purposes.

## STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. BINGAMAN (for himself, Mr. BOND, and Mr. INOUE):

S. 2067. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to enhance the access of Medicare beneficiaries who live in medically underserved areas to critical primary and preventive health care benefits to improve the Medicare+Choice program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, the legislation I am introducing today with Senators BOND and INOUE entitled the "Medicare Safety Net Access Act of 2002," or "Access 2002," would improve services for Medicare beneficiaries and protect a critical mission of health centers, to provide access to care to underserved rural, frontier, and inner-city communities.

Community health centers, CHC's, provide primary and preventive care to more than 700,000 medically underserved Medicare beneficiaries, including over 20,000 in New Mexico. Health centers also provide critical support services that help seniors more easily access care. In many cases, the local health center may be the only source of primary and preventive care for Medicare beneficiaries in a community.

While hundreds of thousands of Medicare beneficiaries turn to health centers for care, many centers struggle to provide services to these patients. Current Medicare regulations cause health centers significant financial losses that have a direct impact on access to care. In addition, the Medicare federally qualified health center, FQHC, benefit has not been modernized to include many of the new preventive and other services added to the Medicare package by Congress in recent years again undermining the critical role that health centers play in providing access to care.

To address these and other issues, Senators BOND, INOUE, and I are introducing the "Medicare Safety Net Access Act of 2002", also known as "Access 2002." The legislation would address the following problems.

With respect to payment issues, the bill ensures that Medicare covers the cost of providing care to Medicare beneficiaries at CHC's. Congress provides more than \$1.3 billion in section 330 funding to CHC's to provide care to