

Member of the Subcommittee, Ms. SNOWE, for co-sponsoring this resolution. I wish to also thank my colleagues Mr. HOLLINGS, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. FITZGERALD, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. REED, Mr. TORRICELLI, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. LUGAR, Mrs. BOXER and Mr. KENNEDY for co-sponsoring as well.

The IWC will meet in Japan from May 20 to 24, 2002. Despite an IWC moratorium on commercial whaling since 1985, Japan and Norway have harvested over 1000 minke whales since the moratorium was put in place. Whales are already under enormous pressure worldwide from collisions with ships, entanglement in fishing gear, coastal pollution, noise emanating from surface vessels and other sources. The need to conserve and protect these magnificent mammals is clear.

The IWC was formed in 1946 under the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling, Convention, in recognition of the fact that whales are highly migratory and that they do not belong to any one Nation. In 1982, the IWC agreed on an indefinite moratorium on all commercial whaling beginning in 1985. Unfortunately, Japan has been using a loophole that allows countries to issue themselves special permits for whaling under scientific purposes. The IWC Scientific Committee has not requested any of the information obtained by killing these whales and has stated that Japan's scientific whaling data is not required for management. At this meeting, Japan intends to propose to add an additional 100 whales to the whales it kills for scientific purposes. Japan's claim that it needs these whales for scientific purposes is ever more tenuous: last year, Japan unsuccessfully sought to obtain an exemption allowing 50 whales to be commercially hunted to provide economic assistance to specific vessels. This year, Japan is seeking to use these same vessels to kill the same number of whales, in the name of "science." The additional 50 whales include new species, sei whales. Norway, on the other hand, objects to the moratorium on whaling and openly pursues a commercial fishery for whales. Iceland, currently a nonparty, is proposing to join the Convention, but only if it is granted a reservation that exempts it from the ban on commercial whaling.

This resolution calls for the U.S. delegation to the IWC to remain firmly opposed to commercial whaling. In addition, this resolution calls for the U.S. to oppose the lethal taking of whales for scientific purposes unless such lethal taking is specifically authorized by the Scientific Committee of the Commission. The resolution calls for the U.S. to oppose the proposal to allow a non-member country to join the Convention with a reservation that would allow it to commercially whale. The resolution calls for the U.S. delegation to support an end to the illegal trade of whale meat and to support the

permanent protection of whale populations through the establishment of whale sanctuaries in which commercial whaling is prohibited.

SENATE RESOLUTION 269—EX-
PRESSING SUPPORT FOR LEGIS-
LATION TO STRENGTHEN AND
IMPROVE MEDICARE IN ORDER
TO ENSURE COMPREHENSIVE
BENEFITS FOR CURRENT AND
FUTURE RETIREES, INCLUDING
ACCESS TO A MEDICARE PRE-
SCRIPTION DRUG BENEFIT

Mr. CRAIG (for himself, Mr. COCHRAN, and Mr. INHOFE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Finance:

S. RES. 269

Whereas our nation's senior citizens and the disabled need and deserve the highest quality health care available;

Whereas the Medicare program has not fundamentally changed since its creation over 35 years ago and has not kept pace with recent improvements in health care delivery;

Whereas the Medicare Trustees report that the current system is not sustainable;

Whereas Medicare only provides limited access to many lifesaving and health enhancing pharmaceutical and biological medicines;

Whereas America's seniors need a comprehensive, voluntary outpatient prescription drug program under Medicare; and

Whereas Medicare prescription drug coverage can best be provided through comprehensive steps to modernize and strengthen the Medicare program: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) by September 30, 2002, the Senate should consider legislation to comprehensively modernize the Medicare program under which beneficiaries will be offered more choices, including outpatient prescription drug coverage;

(2) this legislation should ensure that the Medicare program's financial solvency is preserved and protected;

(3) this legislation should permit beneficiaries to choose from a variety of coverage options, including an option to continue benefits under the current plan as well as an option to choose from benefits offered by multiple competing, private insurance plans that rely on competition to control costs and improve quality; and

(4) this legislation should provide at least one option providing comprehensive outpatient prescription drug coverage to Medicare beneficiaries, including those having high prescription drug costs.

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I rise today to submit a Sense of the Senate Resolution expressing support for Medicare Reform and the addition of a prescription drug benefit. I am pleased that Senator THAD COCHRAN and Senator JAMES INHOFE are joining with me in this effort today.

The Medicare program is of vital importance to our Nation's seniors and has been providing them dependable, affordable and high quality health care for over 35 years. Despite this, I think we would all agree that the system has not kept pace with modern medicine or coverage available to those covered by private insurance. The practice of medicine has changed dramatically since

the inception of the Medicare program. The many new technologies and drugs that are available to our seniors today weren't even an option 35 years ago.

No senior should have to worry about whether he or she can afford the medicine they need to stay healthy. I am well aware that the rising cost of prescription medicine and prescription drug coverage is a great concern for today's seniors and tomorrow's retirees. Indeed, in some cases, prescription drugs are as important as a doctor's care. It is this reality that makes it so critical we focus our efforts on finding a solution.

As discussion continues, it is crucial we develop effective options for simultaneously modernizing and securing Medicare. We can not afford to add an expensive new comprehensive benefit without real reform to the program and we need to focus our attention on the necessary steps to ensure Medicare remains dependable and up to date.

This is why I am choosing to submit this Sense of the Senate Resolution expressing support for a prescription drug benefit and Medicare modernization. I am calling on the Senate to work to pass legislation on this issue before September 30, 2002 and to give current and future seniors the benefits they deserve. Included in this resolution are principles that I believe should be included in any Medicare or prescription drug legislation that passes this year. I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting these principles and working towards the goal of passing substantial Medicare reform.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND
PROPOSED

SA 3408. Mr. DAYTON (for himself and Mr. DORGAN) proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3401 proposed by Mr. BAUCUS (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY) to the bill (H.R. 3009) to extend the Andean Trade Preference Act, to grant additional trade benefits under that Act, and for other purposes.

SA 3409. Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. BAUCUS) proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3408 proposed by Mr. DAYTON (for himself and Mr. DORGAN) to the amendment SA 3401 proposed by Mr. BAUCUS (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY) to the bill (H.R. 3009) supra.

SA 3410. Mr. THOMPSON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3401 proposed by Mr. BAUCUS (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY) to the bill (H.R. 3009) supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3411. Mr. KENNEDY proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3401 proposed by Mr. BAUCUS (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY) to the bill (H.R. 3009) supra.

SA 3412. Mr. BAYH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3009, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3413. Mrs. LINCOLN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3009, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3414. Mr. BINGAMAN (for himself and Ms. SNOWE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3401 proposed by Mr. BAUCUS (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY) to the bill (H.R. 3009) supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.