

chairs stand empty, and individuals on the reservation are forced to travel long distances to receive these vital services. This also is the case on the neighboring Rosebud Indian reservation.

But this is not solely an Indian issue. It affects surrounding rural community hospitals, ambulance services, and other health care providers who work with IHS. For example, the Lake Andes-Wagner ambulance district in northeastern South Dakota is facing financial disaster, in part because they have not been reimbursed properly by the Indian Health Service.

This ambulance service offers emergency transport for citizens of Charles Mix County and Yankton Sioux tribal members, since the Wagner IHS hospital cannot afford to operate its own service. If this ambulance service shuts down, what will these residents—Indian and non-Indian—do when they face an emergency?

Bennett County Hospital in the southwestern part of South Dakota is located between the Pine Ridge and Rosebud Indian reservations, and suffers similar IHS reimbursement problems, as do other non-IHS providers in South Dakota and throughout rural America.

From 1998 to 2001, the most recent year for which IHS has data, IHS contract denials have increased 75 percent.

In his budget request for the next fiscal year, the President requested only \$1.99 billion for clinical services for Indians. This represents only a small increase over what the President requested for fiscal year 2003, and virtually no increase over what was finally included in the omnibus appropriations bill. We can and must do better.

The amendment I am proposing would increase funding for clinical services by \$2.9 billion over the President's request for fiscal year 2004. It is the minimal amount that is necessary to provide basic health care to the current IHS user population. The full cost over the next 10 years would be \$38.7 billion. The amendment also devotes an equal amount to deficit reduction, all offset by a corresponding decrease in the top tax rate reduction.

The amendment is cosponsored by Senators INOUE, BINGAMAN, DORGAN, MURRAY, WYDEN, JOHNSON, LEAHY, CANTWELL, REID, KENNEDY, and LIEBERMAN. It is also supported by a wide range of health organizations, native and non-native.

This budget resolution is a test of this Nation's priorities. Some will say that it doesn't matter, that it is purely symbolic. But the whole point of the budget resolution is to establish an enforceable fiscal framework and make room in our budget for needs that we believe are worthy of our national attention.

I know there are some in this body who honestly believe that it is more important to accelerate huge tax cuts for our Nation's wealthiest citizens than to provide Native Americans the health care they have been promised

but denied. Some defend that position by saying that someday, somehow, these Native Americans will benefit from the tax cuts extended to others, that the benefit will "trickle down" to them as well. It is their right to take that position, but they could not be more wrong.

A woman going into labor cannot wait for economic benefits to trickle down to her.

A child in respiratory distress cannot wait either. How is it possible that we can afford to delve deeper into debt to fund additional tax cuts for those doing relatively well in this country, but we cannot afford to dedicate a small fraction of that amount to fund the most basic health care services for some of the poorest people in America, today?

We must not tolerate this situation.

The problem is real; the solution is simple. Give the Indian Health Service the funds it needs to provide Native Americans the health benefits they were promised.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BURNS). The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GRAHAM of South Carolina. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CHAMBLISS). Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2001

• Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. In the last Congress Senator KENNEDY and I introduced the Local Law Enforcement Act, a bill that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

I would like to describe a terrible crime that occurred September 13, 2001 in Clarkston, GA. Four men cornered and assaulted a 22-year-old Sudanese man who was walking home late at night. The group of attackers stepped out in front of him and accused him of being involved in the terrorist attacks in New York. The men threatened, "You killed our people in New York. We want to kill you tonight." They shoved him against a wall and tried to stab him, slicing a hole in his shirt. Finally, when another Sudanese man rushed over to his friend's rescue, the four attackers fled.

I believe that Government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act is a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.●

TRIBUTE TO PAULETTE CAREY

• Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Paulette Carey who was selected as the Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW, National Citizenship Education Teacher Award winner for grades 6 through 8. She was chosen for her contributions as a teacher to classroom activities that have benefitted her students. Paulette was chosen among entries received from 53 VFW State and overseas headquarters.

As a teacher at Oldham County Middle School, Ms. Carey has demonstrated excellence in her classroom that has made all the difference in the lives of her students. Her commitment towards improving the quality of education in Kentucky's schools has proven her value as an educator.

I am glad that Paulette Carey chose to be a teacher in the Commonwealth of Kentucky, and it is a source of great pride to call attention to her excellence. The citizens from Oldham County are fortunate to call Paulette Carey one of their own. They are privileged to be served by such a fine educator. Her example should be followed by teachers across Kentucky.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Message from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

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-69. A resolution adopted by the Borough of Middlesex, State of New Jersey, relative to the releasing of first responder funds to municipalities; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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POM-70. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of New Mexico relative to fully funding the Federal Government's share of special education services in public schools; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 1

Whereas, since its enactment in 1975, the Federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act has helped millions of children with special needs receive a quality education and develop to their full capacities; and

Whereas, the Federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act has moved children