

of a civil action or claim against the United States under this chapter after such administrative remedies as required under section 8983(d) have been exhausted, but only to the extent judicial review is not precluded by any dispute resolution or other remedy under this chapter.

“§ 8992. Administrative functions

“(a) The Office shall prescribe regulations to carry out this chapter. The regulations may exclude an employee on the basis of the nature and type of employment or conditions pertaining to it.

“(b) The Office shall, as appropriate, provide for coordinated enrollment, promotion, and education efforts as appropriate in consultation with each qualified company. The information under this subsection shall include information relating to the vision benefits available under chapter 89, including the advantages and disadvantages of obtaining additional coverage under this chapter.”.

SEC. 4. TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.

The table of chapters for part III of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to chapter 89 the following:

“89A. Enhanced Dental Benefits 8951
“89B. Enhanced Vision Benefits 8981”.
SEC. 5. APPLICATION TO POSTAL SERVICE EMPLOYEES.

Section 1005(f) of title 39, United States Code, is amended in the second sentence by striking “chapters 87 and 89” and inserting “chapters 87, 89, 89A, and 89B”.

SEC. 6. REQUIREMENT TO STUDY HEALTH BENEFITS COVERAGE FOR DEPENDENT CHILDREN WHO ARE FULL-TIME STUDENTS.

Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Office of Personnel Management shall submit to Congress a report describing and evaluating options whereby benefits under chapter 89 of title 5, United States Code, could be made available to an unmarried dependent child under 25 years of age who is enrolled as a full-time student at an institution of higher education as defined under section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

SEC. 7. EFFECTIVE DATE.

The amendments made by this Act shall take effect on the date of enactment of this Act and shall apply to contracts that take effect with respect to the calendar year 2006.

AMENDING TITLE 21, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA OFFICIAL CODE

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 4302, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4302) to amend title 21, District of Columbia Official Code, to enact the provisions of the Mental Health Civil Commitment Act of 2002 which affect the Commission on Mental Health and require action by Congress in order to take effect.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 4302) was read the third time and passed.

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

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

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO RETIRING SENATORS

FRITZ HOLLINGS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I want to spend a few minutes talking about the Senators who will not be here when the Senate starts over again this January. The first I ever heard about Senator FRITZ HOLLINGS was while watching a TV program where Senator HOLLINGS was running for President, and he said, during a Presidential debate, when the issue of the day was whether there should be a nuclear freeze, which had been propounded by Alan Cranston, another candidate, when asked about the nuclear freeze, Senator HOLLINGS said, “Until a few days ago, I thought this was a new kind of dessert.” That wit is typical of FRITZ HOLLINGS.

Mr. President, FRITZ HOLLINGS is a man who is, as far as I am concerned, the epitome of what it means to be a Senator. He is a person who looks the role and is everything that I am not—tall, handsome, with flowing white hair, and very articulate. This is a man who was one of the original southern politicians who thought it was appropriate to start talking about the evils of segregation. FRITZ HOLLINGS is tall, handsome, with a great voice, a great sense of humor; and he is somebody for whom I have the greatest respect. I will miss him so much.

He, Peatsy, and I have traveled. He is someone who has been so good to the State of South Carolina. I have been to his home. He has given me a tour of Columbia, SC, where he is a legend in his own time. He showed me the place where he was born.

I want to extend through the magic of this television to everyone within the sound of my voice the fact that FRITZ HOLLINGS is a great Senator and will go down in the history of the Senate as one of the great Senators.

I also want FRITZ and Peatsy to know how much I care for them, and I appreciate very much their generosity and friendship to Landra and me over these many years.

JOHN BREAUX

JOHN BREAUX and I came to the Senate together. We served in the House together. He comes from a State that, of course, is famous for unpredictable politics, and JOHN has done every bit of his work to make sure that tradition is upheld.

When he was running for the Senate, as only JOHN BREAUX could do, his op-

ponent raised a question, and his opponent, who was somebody who also had served in the House of Representatives, said JOHN BREAUX can be bought. They would rush out to JOHN BREAUX and would say: Your opponent said you could be bought. How do you respond to that? JOHN BREAUX said: Well, I can be leased but I can't be bought. Who else, other than JOHN BREAUX, could get away with something like that?

He is a great person, a person of integrity, a person who came to the House of Representatives way back in 1972. He served in the Congress for 32 years. There is no one who is better at making a deal than JOHN BREAUX. I say this in the most positive way. Legislation is the art of compromise, consensus building, and JOHN BREAUX understood that to a T. We need more people such as JOHN BREAUX with the ability to reach across the aisle.

We will miss JOHN BREAUX, Mr. Problem Solver. I appreciate his and Lois's friendship over these years. I will miss him very much.

BOB GRAHAM

BOB GRAHAM and I came to the Senate together in 1986. He first ran for Governor 26 years ago. Since that time, and even before, he has spent hundreds of days working with regular Floridians in their jobs.

The thing we all see in BOB GRAHAM is the little notebooks he carries and everything he does he writes down. I am sure some day after we are long gone, a historian will review those, and BOB GRAHAM will be well known in the history books because he wrote the history of everything he has done for the last 25 or 30 years.

He was a great Governor for the Sunshine State. He has been a tremendous Senator. I served with him from the time we came here on the Environment and Public Works Committee. He has certainly been tremendous on that committee. He is a detail man. He is a person, for example, who worked on the Everglades. He was tireless, persistent, and so smart. He has become an expert on foreign affairs and foreign intelligence. He served as chairman of the Intelligence Committee. He has written a book on the subject. His knowledge and contributions in that area will be hard to replace.

I certainly will miss the Senator from Florida. It is just too bad he decided not to run for reelection.

JOHN EDWARDS

I ask everyone to pull out this week's People magazine, if they have one—if not, get a copy of it—because that tells the story of JOHN and Elizabeth EDWARDS. The story is directed toward Elizabeth because she has now been stricken with breast cancer, but it tells in some detail about this wonderful family.

He was the Vice Presidential candidate and is someone who has tremendous ability. I am a trial lawyer. He is a trial lawyer. He has made such a distinct impression on the country with his oratorical skills. We know why he was a great trial lawyer.