

and encouraging the celebration of "Korean American Day".

S. RES. 320

At the request of Mr. ENSIGN, the names of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. ALLEN), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. FEINGOLD), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 320, a resolution calling the President to ensure that the foreign policy of the United States reflects appropriate understanding and sensitivity concerning issues related to human rights, ethnic cleansing, and genocide documented in the United States record relating to the Armenian Genocide.

AMENDMENT NO. 2579

At the request of Mr. BAYH, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2579 proposed to S. 1042, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2006 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2599

At the request of Mr. CONRAD, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2599 intended to be proposed to S. 2020, an original bill to provide for reconciliation pursuant to section 202(b) of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2006.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. NELSON of Florida:

S. 2080. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to prohibit physicians and other health care practitioners from charging a membership or other incidental fee (or requiring purchase of other items or services) as a prerequisite for the provision of an item or service to a medicare beneficiary; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Equal Access to Medicare Act of 2005 to combat the growing practice of health care often called "concierge" medicine. As my colleagues may recall I introduced similar legislation in the past two sessions of Congress to deal with the growing problem of doctors shutting down their practices and opening new ones, only accepting those patients willing to pay a membership fee. These fees range from \$60 to \$15,000 annually. By charging these extraneous and unwarranted dues or requiring patients to purchase non-Medicare covered services, doctors can shrink their practices, maintain a high profit margin, and continue billing Medicare, all on the backs of low and middle-income beneficiaries.

This is a dangerous model that causes significant disparities in the

care available to Medicare beneficiaries. A doctor receiving Medicare reimbursement should not be allowed to turn away Medicare beneficiaries who cannot or choose not to pay membership fees or fees for other non-Medicare covered services. My bill simply prevents Medicare from providing payments to doctors who charge their patients membership fees or any other incidental or extraneous fees, or who require the purchase of non-Medicare covered services as a condition for the provision of Medicare covered services.

Since the introduction of this bill in 2001, the practice has been expanding with versions in many States. According to a recent GAO report, the number of physicians practicing concierge medicine has increased by more than 10 times in the past 5 years. As an increasing number of Medicare beneficiaries voice their concerns, it is time for Congress to act. Should this practice proliferate, a doctor shortage for low and middle-income Medicare beneficiaries is likely, exacerbating an already ailing health care marketplace.

I must emphasize that this bill does not interfere with the ability of doctors to limit the size of their practices or to be adequately compensated; it simply applies the same standard private insurance companies apply to their providers—that doctors may not select patients based upon willingness or ability to pay an entrance fee.

I hope my colleagues will join me in helping Medicare keep its promise of accessibility to seniors who have paid a lifetime of "premiums."

I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2080

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Equal Access to Medicare Act of 2005".

SEC. 2. PROHIBITION OF INCIDENTAL FEES AND REQUIRED PURCHASE OF NONCOVERED ITEMS OR SERVICES UNDER MEDICARE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1842 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395u) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(u) PROHIBITION OF INCIDENTAL FEES OR REQUIRING PURCHASE OF NONCOVERED ITEMS OR SERVICES.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—A physician, practitioner (as described in subsection (b)(18)(C)), or other individual may not—

"(A) charge a membership fee or any other incidental fee to a medicare beneficiary (as defined in section 1802(b)(5)(A)); or

"(B) require a medicare beneficiary (as so defined) to purchase a noncovered item or service as a prerequisite for the provision of a covered item or service to the beneficiary under this title.

"(2) CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to apply the prohibition under paragraph (1) to a physician, practitioner, or other individual described in such subsection who does not accept any funds under this title."

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply to membership fees and other charges made, or purchases of items and services required, on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

By Mr. SUNUNU (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. ROCKFELLER, Ms. MUKOWSKI, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. STABENOW, and Mr. SALAZAR):

S. 2082. A bill to amend the USA PATRIOT Act to extend the sunset of certain provisions of that Act and the lone wolf provision of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 to March 31, 2006; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, On a September morning 4 years ago nearly 3,000 lives were lost on American soil, and our lives as Americans changed in an instant. In the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks, Congress moved swiftly to pass anti-terrorism legislation. The fires were still smoldering at Ground Zero in New York City when the USA PATRIOT Act became law on October 30, 2001, just 6 weeks after the attacks.

Many of us here in the Senate today worked together in a spirit of bipartisan unity and resolve to craft a bill that we had hoped would make us safer as a nation. Freedom and security are always in tension in our society, and especially so in those somber weeks after the attacks, and we tried our best to strike the right balance.

One of the fruits of that bipartisanism was the PATRIOT Act's sunset provisions. These key provisions set an expiration date of December 31, 2005, on certain government powers that had great potential to affect the civil liberties of the American people. Republican House Majority Leader Dick Arney and I insisted on these sunsets to ensure that Congress would revisit the PATRIOT Act within a few years and consider refinements to protect the rights and liberties of all Americans more effectively, and we prevailed.

Sadly, the Bush administration and the Republican congressional leadership have squandered key opportunities to improve the PATRIOT Act. The House-Senate conference report filed last week by Republican lawmakers falls short of what the American people expect and deserve from us. The bipartisan Senate bill, which the Senate Judiciary Committee and then the Senate adopted unanimously, struck a far better balance.

The reauthorization of the PATRIOT Act must have the confidence of the American people. The Congress should not rush ahead to enact flawed legislation to meet a deadline that is within our power to extend. We owe it to the American people to get this right.

The way forward to a sensible and workable bipartisan bill is clear. Today I am pleased to join with Senator SUNUNU and others to introduce a bill to extend the sunsets on the expiring PATRIOT Act powers until March 31, 2006. Our bill also extends for three

months the so-called “lone wolf” FISA surveillance authority, which Congress enacted last year as part the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act.

The deadline that Congress imposed to ensure oversight and accountability should not now become a barrier to achieving bipartisan compromise and the best bill we can forge together. This is a vital debate, and these are vital issues to all Americans. If a brief extension is needed to produce a better bill that will better serve all of our citizens, then by all means, let us give ourselves that time. I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2082

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. EXTENSION OF SUNSET OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE USA PATRIOT ACT AND THE LONE WOLF PROVISION OF THE INTELLIGENCE REFORM AND TERRORISM PREVENTION ACT OF 2004.

Section 224(a) of the Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism (USA PATRIOT ACT) Act of 2001 (Public Law 107-56; 115 Stat. 295) is amended by striking “December 31, 2005” and inserting “March 31, 2006”.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 330—RELATIVE TO THE DEATH OF EUGENE JOSEPH MCCARTHY, FORMER UNITED STATES SENATOR FOR THE STATE OF MINNESOTA

Mr. FRIST (for himself, Mr. REID, Mr. COLEMAN, Mr. DAYTON, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. BAYH, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. BOND, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. BURNS, Mr. BURR, Mr. BYRD, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CHAFEE, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. COBURN, Mr. COCHRAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CORZINE, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DEMINT, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. DODD, Mrs. DOLE, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ENSIGN, Mr. ENZI, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. GREGG, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. HATCH, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. INOUE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KERRY, Mr. KOHL, Mr. KYL, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. LOTT, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. MCCONNELL, Ms. MIKULSKI, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, Mr. OBAMA, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. REED, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. SANTORUM, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. SCHU-

MER, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. SMITH, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. SPECTER, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. SUNUNU, Mr. TALENT, Mr. THOMAS, Mr. THUNE, Mr. VITTER, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. WARNER, and Mr. WYDEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 330

Whereas Eugene J. McCarthy devoted many years of his life to teaching in public high schools and other institutions of higher learning in the service of the youth of our Nation;

Whereas Eugene J. McCarthy served in the House of Representatives from 1949 to 1959;

Whereas Eugene J. McCarthy served the people of Minnesota with distinction from 1959 to 1971 in the United States Senate;

Resolved, That the Senate has heard with profound sorrow and deep regret the announcement of the death of the Honorable Eugene J. McCarthy, former member of the United States Senate.

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate communicate these resolutions to the House of Representatives and transmit an enrolled copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

Resolved, That when the Senate adjourns today, it stand adjourned as a further mark of respect to the memory of the Honorable Eugene J. McCarthy.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 68—DESIGNATING MAY 20, 2006, AS “NEGRO LEAGUERS RECOGNITION DAY.”

Mr. NELSON of Florida (for himself and Mr. TALENT) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. CON. RES. 68

Whereas even though African Americans were excluded from playing in the major leagues of their time with their white counterparts, the desire of many African Americans to play baseball could not be repressed;

Whereas Major League Baseball did not fully integrate its league until July 1959;

Whereas African Americans began organizing their own professional baseball teams in 1885;

Whereas the skills and abilities of Negro League players eventually made Major League Baseball realize the need to integrate the sport;

Whereas six separate baseball leagues, known collectively as the “Negro Baseball Leagues”, were organized by African Americans between 1920 and 1960;

Whereas the Negro Baseball Leagues included exceptionally talented players who played the game at its highest level;

Whereas on May 20, 1920, the Negro National League, the first successful Negro League, played its first game;

Whereas Andrew “Rube” Foster, on February 13, 1920, at the Paseo YMCA in Kansas City, Missouri, founded the Negro National League and also managed and played for the Chicago American Giants, and later was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame;

Whereas Leroy “Satchel” Paige, who began his long career in the Negro Leagues and did not make his Major League debut until the age of 42, is considered one of the greatest pitchers the game has ever seen, and during his long career thrilled millions of baseball fans with his skill and legendary showboating, and was later inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame;

Whereas Josh Gibson, who was the greatest slugger of the Negro Leagues, tragically died

months before the integration of baseball, and was later inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame;

Whereas Jackie Robinson, whose career began with the Negro League Kansas City Monarchs, became the first African American to play in the Major Leagues in April 1947, was named Major League Baseball Rookie of the Year in 1947, subsequently led the Brooklyn Dodgers to 6 National League pennants and a World Series championship, and was later inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame;

Whereas Larry Doby, whose career began with the Negro League Newark Eagles, became the first African American to play in the American League in July 1947, was an All-Star 9 times in Negro League and Major League Baseball, and was later inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame;

Whereas John Jordan “Buck” O’Neil was a player and manager of the Negro League Kansas City Monarchs, became the first African American coach in the Major Leagues with the Chicago Cubs in 1962, served on the Veterans Committee of the National Baseball Hall of Fame, chairs the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum Board of Directors, and has worked tirelessly to promote the history of the Negro Leagues; and

Whereas by achieving success on the baseball field, African American baseball players helped break down color barriers and integrate African Americans into all aspects of society in the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—

(1) designates May 20, 2006, as “Negro Leaguers Recognition Day”; and

(2) recognizes the teams and players of the Negro Baseball Leagues for their achievements, dedication, sacrifices, and contributions to both baseball and our Nation.

Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. President, I, along with Senator TALENT, proudly submit a resolution recognizing May 20, 2006 as, “Negro Leaguers Recognition Day.”

Since 1885, long before Major League Baseball was integrated in 1947, African Americans were organizing their own professional leagues. These leagues did not succeed because of racial prejudice and lack of adequate financial backing. However, this changed dramatically with the inception of the first successful Negro league. On May 20, 1920, the Negro National League played its first game. Its creation was the result of the efforts of an African American player and manager named Andrew “Rube” Foster. Mr. Foster’s success inspired the formation of other leagues.

As a result, on October 3, 1924, the first Negro League World Series game was played between the Kansas City Monarchs of the Negro National League and Hilldale of Philadelphia of the Eastern Colored League. This historic and exhaustive first series lasted ten games, covered a span of almost three weeks, and was played in four different cities. In the end, Kansas City claimed the championship.

But the lasting legacy of the Negro leagues, as the six separate leagues between 1920 and 1960 are collectively known, are the tremendous baseball players they produced. Some of the names we know and some we don’t. Among them is Jackie Robinson, the first African American to break the