

should be a basic right. With our current economic prosperity and the extraordinary recent advances in medicine, we should be able to guarantee that right to all Americans.

The extraordinary advances in health care in recent decades have not been shared by all our citizens. Minority communities suffer disproportionately from higher rates of death from cancer, stroke, and heart disease, as well as from higher rates of HIV/AIDS, diabetes, and other severe health problems. African American men who contract prostate cancer are more than twice as likely to die from it as white men. Vietnamese American women are five times more likely than white women to contract cervical cancer. Hispanic women are twice as likely to contract cervical cancer. Native Hawaiian men are 13 percent more likely to contract lung cancer. Alaskan Native women are 72 percent more likely to contract colon cancer and rectal cancer. In addition, African Americans and Hispanic Americans are more likely to be diagnosed with cancer after the disease has reached an advanced stage. For African Americans, the result is a 35 percent higher death rate.

The reality of poverty clearly affects the nation's health. Nearly 20 million white Americans live below the poverty line and many live in rural areas such as Appalachia, where 46 percent of counties are designated as health professions shortage areas and high rates of poverty contribute to health disparity outcomes. The lack of a health care facilities or benefits often means poor health care and often a poor prognosis for what might have been a preventable or curable condition. In the Appalachia regions of Kentucky, Tennessee, and West Virginia, the rates of the five top causes of death in the U.S. all exceeded the national, average in 1997. Lack of availability and access to health care for poor and underserved regions often goes hand in hand with higher morbidity and mortality rates. Higher rates of heart disease in white males between the ages of 35 and 64 and cervical cancer in white females are also found in Appalachia. We must find better answers to identify and overcome the barriers to care that lead to dire outcomes in underserved communities.

While we have continued to make progress in the reduction of child poverty, child mortality, teenage pregnancy, and juvenile violence, we continue to see wide disparities by race and income, with communities of color and those in poverty lagging behind others. Infant mortality rate has declined nationally from 10.9 infant deaths for every 1,000 live births in 1983 to 7.2 in 1998. But among African Americans, the rate is 13.7—more than twice the rate of any other group. In addition, far too many people across this nation lack the health insurance that is necessary for access to basic health care. Over one-third of Hispanic Americans are uninsured, the highest rate

among all ethnic groups and two and a half times the rate of 14% for whites. Nearly one-fourth of African Americans, and about one-fifth of Asian Americans are also uninsured.

In Massachusetts, significant progress has been made in improving the overall health status and access to health care. We are one of a handful of states in the country to devote the tobacco settlement money entirely to health care. Yet our significant commitment to health care is not translating into equal access or improved health status for all of our citizens. Health status differs by racial/ethnic group and by income group and the differences are reflected in the alarming discrepancy in mortality rates. The infant mortality rate for African-Americans is 11.7—over twice as high as the overall statewide rate of 5.3.

The same pattern exists for the HIV/AIDS-related mortality rate, which is more than six times greater for African-Americans and more than four times greater for Hispanics. African American women are more likely to lose their lives to breast cancer, and nearly six times as many Asian-American women and nearly two times as many Hispanic women have never taken a Pap test, which is essential in detection cervical cancer. Clearly, too many citizens are not benefitting from the advances made in science, medicine, and the economy.

The Minority Health and Health Disparities Research and Education Act addresses the biomedical, behavioral, economic, institutional, and environmental factors that have caused health disparities in communities of color and in undeserved communities around our nation. It provides needed resources for research, data collection, medical education, and public awareness, in order to understand the root causes of diseases and poor health outcomes and to develop strategies to meet the health needs of these vulnerable communities. Each of these aspects has an important role to play in the reduction and eventual elimination of the unacceptable disparities that now exist.

Title I of the bill establishes a Center for Research on Minority Health and Health Disparities at the National Institutes of Health. It also provides resources to educational institutions to train minority individuals as biomedical research professionals.

Title II focuses on identifying, evaluating, and disseminating information on the factors that contribute to health disparities.

Title III addresses the critical need for trained and culturally competent health care professionals by providing resources to develop effective educational support.

Title IV enhances the collection of data on race and ethnicity to determine what steps the federal government should take to ensure that all necessary information is collected.

Title V provides funding for a public awareness and information campaign

to inform minority communities of the health conditions that are affecting them disproportionately and of the programs and services available to them.

Passage of the Minority Health and Health Disparities Research and Education Act demonstrates our strong commitment a healthier future for all our citizens. America has the resources to accomplish this goal and I urge the Senate to achieve it.

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be agreed to, 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 amendment (No. 4349) was agreed to.

The bill (S. 1880), as amended, was passed.

THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF SCIENCE AND ENERGY

Mr. BROWNBACK. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of H.R. 4940, which is at the desk.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4940) to designate the museum operated by the Secretary of Energy at Oak Ridge, Tennessee, as the American Museum of Science and Energy, and for other purposes.

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

AMENDMENT NO. 4348

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, Senators MURKOWSKI, FRIST, and BINGAMAN have an amendment at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kansas (Mr. BROWNBACK), for Mr. MURKOWSKI, for himself, Mr. FRIST, and Mr. BINGAMAN, proposes an amendment numbered 4348.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, reading of the amendment is dispensed with.

The amendment is as follows:

“SECTION 1. DESIGNATION OF AMERICAN MUSEUM OF SCIENCE AND ENERGY.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Museum—

“(1) is designated as the ‘American Museum of Science and Energy’; and

“(2) shall be the official museum of science and energy of the United States.

“(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the Museum is deemed to be a reference to the ‘American Museum of Science and Energy’.

“(c) PROPERTY OF THE UNITED STATES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The name ‘American Museum of Science and Energy’ is declared the property of the United States.

“(2) USE.—The Museum shall have the sole right throughout the United States and its possessions to have and use the name ‘American Museum of Science and Energy’.

“(3) EFFECT ON OTHER RIGHTS.—This subsection shall not be construed to conflict or interfere with established or vested rights.

“SEC. 2. AUTHORITY.

“To carry out the activities of the Museum, the Secretary may—

“(1) accept and dispose of any gift, devise, or bequest of services or property, real or personal, that is—

“(A) designated in a written document by the person making the gift, devise, or bequest as intended for the Museum; and

“(B) determined by the Secretary to be suitable and beneficial for use by the Museum;

“(2) operate a retail outlet on the premises of the Museum for the purpose of selling or distributing items (including mementos, food, educational materials, replicas, and literature) that are—

“(A) relevant to the contents of the Museum; and

“(B) informative, educational, and tasteful;

“(3) collect reasonable fees where feasible and appropriate;

“(4) exhibit, perform, display, and publish materials and information of or relating to the Museum in any media or place;

“(5) consistent with guidelines approved by the Secretary, lease space on the premises of the Museum at reasonable rates and for uses consistent with such guidelines; and

“(6) use the proceeds of activities authorized under this section to pay the costs of the Museum.

“SEC. 3. MUSEUM VOLUNTEERS.

“(a) **AUTHORITY TO USE VOLUNTEERS.**—The Secretary may recruit, train, and accept the services of individuals or entities as volunteers for services or activities related to the Museum.

“(b) **STATUS OF VOLUNTEERS.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in paragraph (2), service by a volunteer under subsection (a) shall not be considered Federal employment.

“(2) **EXCEPTIONS.**—

“(A) **FEDERAL TORT CLAIMS ACT.**—For purposes of chapter 171 of title 28, United States Code, a volunteer under subsection (a) shall be treated as an employee of the government (as defined in section 2671 of that title).

“(B) **COMPENSATION FOR WORK INJURIES.**—For purposes of subchapter I of chapter 81 of title 5, United States Code, a volunteer described in subsection (a) shall be treated as an employee (as defined in section 8101 of title 5, United States Code).

“(c) **COMPENSATION.**—A volunteer under subsection (a) shall serve without pay, but may receive nominal awards and reimbursement for incidental expenses, including expenses for a uniform or transportation in furtherance of Museum activities.

“SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.

“For purposes of this Act:

“(1) **MUSEUM.**—The term ‘Museum’ means the museum operated by the Secretary of

Energy and located at 300 South Tulane Avenue in Oak Ridge, Tennessee.

“(2) **SECRETARY.**—The term ‘Secretary’ means the Secretary of Energy or a designated representative of the Secretary.”

Mr. BROWNBACk. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be agreed to, 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 amendment (No. 4348) was agreed to.

The bill (H.R. 4940), as amended, was passed.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. BROWNBACk. Mr. President, in executive session, I ask unanimous consent that the following nominations be discharged from the respective committees and, further, the Senate proceed to their consideration, en bloc, along with the following nominations on the calendar. They are as follows:

From the Governmental Affairs Committee, Don Harrel and Thomas Fink;

From the Foreign Relations Committee, Marc Nathanson, Norman Pattiz, Tom Korologos, and Robert Ledbetter;

On the calendar, Nos. 547, 548, 549, 642, 643, 700, 701, 702, and 703.

I further ask unanimous consent that the nominations be confirmed, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, any statements relating to the nominations appear at this point in the RECORD, the President be immediately notified of the Senate’s action, and the Senate then return to legislative session.

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

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

FEDERAL RETIREMENT THRIFT INVESTMENT BOARD

Don Harrell, of New York, to be a Member of the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board for a term expiring September 25, 2002.

Thomas A. Fink, of Alaska, to be a Member of the Federal Retirement Thrift Invest-

ment Board for a term expiring October 11, 2003.

BROADCASTING BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Marc B. Nathanson, of California, to be a Member of the Broadcasting Board of Governors for a term expiring August 13, 2001.

Marc B. Nathanson, of California, to be Chairman of the Broadcasting Board of Governors.

Norman J. Pattiz, of California, to be a Member of the Broadcasting Board of Governors for a term expiring August 13, 2001.

Tom C. Korologos, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Broadcasting Board of Governors for a term expiring August 13, 2001.

Robert M. Ledbetter, Jr. of Mississippi, to be a Member of the Broadcasting Board of Governors for a term expiring August 13, 2003.

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

Alan Craig Kessler, of Pennsylvania, to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service for a term expiring December 8, 2008.

OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

Amy L. Comstock, of Maryland, to be Director of the Office of Government Ethics for a term of five years.

FEDERAL LABOR RELATIONS AUTHORITY

Carol Waller Pope, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Federal Labor Relations Authority for a term expiring July 1, 2004.

BROADCASTING BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Edward E. Kaufman, of Delaware, to be a Member of the Broadcasting Board of Governors for a term expiring August 13, 2003.

Alberto J. Mora, of Florida, to be a Member of the Broadcasting Board of Governors for a term expiring August 13, 2003.

PEACE CORPS

Mark L. Schneider, of California, to be Director of the Peace Corps.

THE JUDICIARY

John Ramsey Johnson, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years.

Gerald Risher, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years.

POSTAL RATE COMMISSION

George, A. Omas, of Mississippi, to be a Commissioner of the Postal Rate Commission for a term expiring October 14, 2006.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will return to legislative session.