

(1) Subsection (a) of section 6012 of such Code is amended by inserting after paragraph (9) the following new paragraph:

“(10) Every individual liable for a premium under section 59B.”.

(2) The table of parts for subchapter A of chapter 1 of such Code is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

“Part VIII. MediKIDS premium.”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to months beginning after December 2001, in taxable years ending after such date.

**SEC. 4. REFUNDABLE CREDIT FOR COST-SHARING EXPENSES UNDER MEDIKIDS PROGRAM.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subpart C of part IV of subchapter A of chapter 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to refundable credits) is amended by redesignating section 35 as section 36 and by inserting after section 34 the following new section:

**“SEC. 35. COST-SHARING EXPENSES UNDER MEDIKIDS PROGRAM.**

“(a) ALLOWANCE OF CREDIT.—In the case of an individual who has a MediKid (as defined in section 59B) at any time during the taxable year, there shall be allowed as a credit against the tax imposed by this subtitle an amount equal to 50 percent of the amount paid by the taxpayer during the taxable year as cost-sharing under section 2202(b)(4) of the Social Security Act.

“(b) LIMITATION BASED ON ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME.—The amount of the credit which would (but for this subsection) be allowed under this section for the taxable year shall be reduced (but not below zero) by an amount which bears the same ratio to such amount of credit as the excess of the taxpayer's adjusted gross income for such taxable year over the exemption amount (as defined in section 59B(d)) bears to such exemption amount.”.

(b) TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Paragraph (2) of section 1324(b) of title 31, United States Code, is amended by inserting before the period “or from section 35 of such Code”.

(2) The table of sections for subpart C of part IV of subchapter A of chapter 1 of such Code is amended by striking the last item and inserting the following new items:

“Sec. 35. Cost-sharing expenses under MediKIDS program.

“Sec. 36. Overpayments of tax.”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2001.

**SEC. 5. FINANCING FROM TOBACCO LIABILITY PAYMENTS.**

Amounts that are recovered by the United States in the civil action brought on September 22, 1999, under the Medical Care Recovery Act, the Medicare Secondary Payer provisions, and section 1962 of title 18, United States Code, in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia against the industry engaged in the production and sale of tobacco products and persons engaged in public relations and lobbying for such industry and that are attributable to the expenditures of the Department of Health and Human Services for tobacco-related illnesses shall be deposited in the MediKIDS Trust Fund established under section 2204(a) of the Social Security Act, as added by section 2(a) of the MediKIDS Health Insurance Act of 2000.

**SEC. 6. REPORT ON LONG-TERM REVENUES.**

Within one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Treasury shall propose a gradual schedule of progressive tax changes to fund the program under title XXII of the Social Security Act, as the number of enrollees grows in the out-years.

**MEDIKIDS HEALTH INSURANCE ACT OF 2000—  
SUMMARY AND DESCRIPTION OF THE BILL**

There are still 11 million uninsured children in America. Children are the least expensive segment of our population to insure, they are the least able to have any control over whether or not they have health insurance, and maintaining their health is integral to their educational success and their futures in our society.

We will soon introduce the MediKIDS Health Insurance Act of 2000 to end the disgrace of allowing our children to survive without the basic health protections they need to thrive.

The MediKIDS Health Insurance Act of 2000 will create a new Medicare type program called MediKIDS, tailored to the health needs of children. The MediKIDS program will be separate from Medicare and will have no financial impact on the existing program.

The cornerstone of the new program will be automatic enrollment into MediKIDS at birth. Beginning in 2002, every child will be automatically enrolled in MediKIDS health insurance coverage at birth, and their parents will be assessed a small annual premium with their taxes. Parents who have another source of health insurance for their children are exempt from this premium. Babies initially enrolled in MediKIDS who are determined to be eligible for S-CHIP or Medicaid can be enrolled into the appropriate other program.

As each year brings a new cohort of babies into the program, the program will grow to ensure a source of health insurance to every child in America by the year 2020. (Future Congresses will be able to speed up the extension of coverage to children of all ages if they find it desirable to accelerate the process of the program.) There will be no means testing, no outreach problems, and the program will exist as a safety net of health insurance for children, regardless of income. It will cover their health needs through changes in their parents' employment, marital status, or access to private insurance.

**DETAILS OF THE MEDIKIDS HEALTH INSURANCE**

**ACT OF 2000**

**Enrollment**

Automatic enrollment into MediKIDS at birth for every child born after 12/31/2001.

At the time of enrollment, materials describing the coverage and a MediKIDS health insurance card will be issued to the parent(s) of legal guardian(s).

Once enrolled, children will remain enrolled in MediKIDS until they reach the age of 23.

During periods of equivalent coverage by other sources, whether private insurance, or government programs such as Medicaid or S-CHIP, there will be no premium charged for MediKIDS.

During any lapse in other insurance coverage, MediKIDS will automatically cover the child's health insurance needs (and premium will be owed for those months).

**Benefits**

Based on Medicare core benefits, plus the Medicaid Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT) benefits for children.

Prescription drug benefit.

The Secretary of HHS shall further develop age-appropriate benefits as needed as the program matures, and as funding support allows.

The Secretary shall include provisions for annual reviews and updates to the benefits, with input from the pediatric community.

**Premiums**

Parents will be responsible for a small premium, one-fourth of the annual average cost per child, to be collected at income tax filing.

Parents will be exempt from the premium if their children are covered by comparable alternate health insurance. That coverage can be either private insurance or enrollment in other federal programs.

Families up to 150% of poverty will owe no premium. Families between 150% and 300% of poverty will receive a graduated discount in the premium. Each family's obligation will be capped at 5% of total income.

**Cost-sharing (co-pays, deductibles)**

No cost-sharing for preventive and well child care.

No obligations up to 150% of poverty.

From 150% to 300% of poverty, a graduated refundable credit for cost-sharing expenses.

**Financing**

During the first few years, costs can be fully covered by tobacco settlement monies, budget surplus, or other funds as agreed upon, such as a portion of the surplus in the child immunizations liability trust fund.

During this time, the Secretary of Treasury has time to develop a package of progressive, gradual tax changes to fund the program, as the number of enrollees grows in the out-years.

**Miscellaneous**

To the extent that the states save money from the enrollment of children into MediKIDS, they will be required to maintain those funding levels in other programs and services directed at the Medicaid population, which can include expanding eligibility for such services.

At the issuance of legal immigration papers for a child born after 12/31/01, that child will be automatically enrolled in the MediKIDS health insurance program.

If you would like to get more information about the legislation, or to join as an original cosponsor, please contact Deborah Veres with Senator Rockefeller at 4-7993.●

**ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS**

**S. 764**

At the request of Mr. THURMOND, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. ALLARD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 764, a bill to amend section 1951 of title 18, United States Code (commonly known as the Hobbs Act), and for other purposes.

**S. 808**

At the request of Mr. JEFFORDS, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. ROBB) was added as a cosponsor of S. 808, a bill to amend The Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax incentives for land sales for conservation purposes.

**S. 1322**

At the request of Mr. ROBB, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1322, a bill to prohibit health insurance and employment discrimination against individuals and their family members on the basis of predictive genetic information or genetic services.

**S. 1333**

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1333, a bill to expand homeownership in the United States.

**S. 1361**

At the request of Mr. STEVENS, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON) was added as a cosponsor of

S. 1361, a bill to amend the Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act of 1977 to provide for an expanded Federal program of hazard mitigation, relief, and insurance against the risk of catastrophic natural disasters, such as hurricanes, earthquakes, and volcanic eruptions, and for other purposes.

S. 1396

At the request of Mr. FITZGERALD, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. THURMOND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1396, a bill to amend section 4532 of title 10, United States Code, to provide for the coverage and treatment of overhead costs of United States factories and arsenals when not making supplies for the Army, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. FITZGERALD, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was withdrawn as a cosponsor of S. 1396, *supra*.

S. 1464

At the request of Mr. HAGEL, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BOND) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. CAMPBELL) were added as cosponsors of S. 1464, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to establish certain requirements regarding the Food Quality Protection Act of 1996, and for other purposes.

S. 1539

At the request of Mr. DODD, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1539, a bill to provide for the acquisition, construction, and improvement of child care facilities or equipment, and for other purposes.

S. 1558

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. L. CHAFEE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1558, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a tax credit for holders of Community Open Space bonds the proceeds of which are used for qualified environmental infrastructure projects, and for other purposes.

S. 1656

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1656, a bill to amend title XXI of the Social Security Act to permit children covered under a State child health plan (SCHIP) to continue to be eligible for benefits under the vaccine for children program.

S. 1762

At the request of Mr. COVERDELL, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1762, a bill to amend the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to provide cost share assistance for the rehabilitation of structural measures constructed as part of water resources projects previously funded by the Secretary under such Act or related laws.

S. 1776

At the request of Mr. CRAIG, the name of the Senator from Montana

(Mr. BURNS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1776, a bill to amend the Energy Policy Act of 1992 to revise the energy policies of the United States in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, advance global climate science, promote technology development, and increase citizen awareness, and for other purposes.

S. 1777

At the request of Mr. CRAIG, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. BURNS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1777, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide incentives for the voluntary reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and to advance global climate science and technology development.

S. 1805

At the request of Mr. ROBB, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1805, a bill to restore food stamp benefits for aliens, to provide States with flexibility in administering the food stamp vehicle allowance, to index the excess shelter expense deduction to inflation, to authorize additional appropriations to purchase and make available additional commodities under the emergency food assistance program, and for other purposes.

S. 1921

At the request of Mr. CAMPBELL, the names of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. ALLARD), and the Senator from Alaska (Mr. STEVENS) were added as cosponsors of S. 1921, a bill to authorize the placement within the site of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial of a plaque to honor Vietnam veterans who died after their service in the Vietnam war, but as a direct result of that service.

S. 1941

At the request of Mr. DODD, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. ABRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1941, a bill to amend the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 to authorize the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to provide assistance to fire departments and fire prevention organizations for the purpose of protecting the public and firefighting personnel against fire and fire-related hazards.

S. 1983

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1983, a bill to amend the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978 to increase the amount of funds available for certain agricultural trade programs.

S. 2044

At the request of Mr. INOUE, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SANTORUM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2044, a bill to allow postal patrons to contribute to funding for domestic violence programs through the voluntary purchase of specially issued postage stamps.

At the request of Mr. CAMPBELL, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr.

INOUE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2044, *supra*.

S. 2183

At the request of Mr. GRAMS, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2183, a bill to ensure the availability of spectrum to amateur radio operators.

S. 2277

At the request of Mr. ROTH, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2277, a bill to terminate the application of title IV of the Trade Act of 1974 with respect to the People's Republic of China.

S. 2307

At the request of Mr. DORGAN, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CONRAD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2307, a bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to encourage broadband deployment to rural America, and for other purposes.

S. 2311

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2311, a bill to revise and extend the Ryan White CARE Act programs under title XXVI of the Public Health Service Act, to improve access to health care and the quality of health care under such programs, and to provide for the development of increased capacity to provide health care and related support services to individuals and families with HIV disease, and for other purposes.

S. 2357

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2357, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to permit retired members of the Armed Forces who have a service-connected disability to receive military retired pay concurrently with veterans' disability compensation.

S. 2365

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2365, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to eliminate the 15 percent reduction in payment rates under the prospective payment system for home services.

S. 2386

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the names of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CONRAD), the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER), the Senator from Florida (Mr. GRAHAM), and the Senator New Jersey (Mr. TORRICELLI) were added as cosponsors of S. 2386, a bill to extend the Stamp Out Breast Cancer Act.

S. 2416

At the request of Mr. ASHCROFT, the names of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. HAGEL) and the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2416, a bill to designate the Federal building located at 2201 C Street, Northwest, in the District of Columbia, which serves as headquarters for the Department of State,

as the "Harry S. Truman Federal Building."

S. 2417

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. THOMAS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2417, a bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to increase funding for State nonpoint source pollution control programs, and for other purposes.

S. 2434

At the request of Mr. L. CHAFEE, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. BYRD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2434, a bill to provide that amounts allotted to a State under section 2401 of the Social Security Act for each of fiscal years 1998 and 1999 shall remain available through fiscal year 2002.

S. 2444

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2444, a bill to amend title I of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, the Public Health Service Act, and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to require comprehensive health insurance coverage for childhood immunization.

S. 2486

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the names of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) and the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID) were added as cosponsors of S. 2486, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to improve access to benefits under the TRICARE program; to extend and improve certain demonstration programs under the Defense Health Program; and for other purposes.

S. CON. RES. 60

At the request of Mr. FEINGOLD, the names of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. DASCHLE) and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE) were added as cosponsors of S. Con. Res. 60, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that a commemorative postage stamp should be issued in honor of the U.S.S. *Wisconsin* and all those who served aboard her.

S. CON. RES. 103

At the request of Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 103, a concurrent resolution honoring the members of the Armed Forces and Federal civilian employees who served the Nation during the Vietnam era and the families of those individuals who lost their lives or remain unaccounted for or were injured during that era in Southeast Asia or elsewhere in the world in defense of United States national security interests.

S. RES. 248

At the request of Mr. ROBB, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. ABRAHAM), the Senator from Montana (Mr. BURNS), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), the Senator

from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI), the Senator from Washington (Mr. GORTON), the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY), the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH), the Senator from Florida (Mr. MACK), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. SMITH), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. SMITH), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. THURMOND), and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. HUTCHINSON) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 248, a resolution to designate the week of May 7, 2000, as "National Correctional Officers and Employees Week."

S. RES. 294

At the request of Mr. ABRAHAM, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CONRAD) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 294, a resolution designating the month of October 2000 as "Children's Internet Safety Month."

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 108—DESIGNATING THE WEEK BEGINNING ON APRIL 30, 2000, AND ENDING ON MAY 6, 2000, AS "NATIONAL CHARTER SCHOOLS WEEK"

Mr. LIEBERMAN (for himself, Mr. GREGG, and Mr. KERRY) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. CON. RES. 108

Whereas charter schools are public schools authorized by a designated public body and operating on the principles of accountability, parent flexibility, choice, and autonomy;

Whereas in exchange for the flexibility and autonomy given to charter schools, they are held accountable by their sponsors for improving student achievement and for their financial and other operations;

Whereas 36 States, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico have passed laws authorizing charter schools;

Whereas 35 States, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico will have received more than \$350,000,000 in grants from the Federal Government by the end of the current fiscal year for planning, startup, and implementation of charter schools since their authorization in 1994 under title X, part C of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 8061 et seq.);

Whereas 32 States, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico are serving approximately 350,000 students in more than 1,700 charter schools during the 1999 to 2000 school year;

Whereas charter schools can be vehicles both for improving student achievement for students who attend them and for stimulating change and improvement in all public schools and benefiting all public school students;

Whereas charter schools in many States serve significant numbers of students with lower income, students of color, and students with disabilities;

Whereas the Charter Schools Expansion Act of 1998 (Public Law 105-278) amended the Federal grant program for charter schools authorized by title X, part C of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 8061 et seq.) to strengthen account-

ability provisions at the Federal, State, and local levels to ensure that charter public schools are of high quality and are truly accountable to the public;

Whereas 7 of 10 charter schools report having a waiting list;

Whereas students in charter schools nationwide have similar demographic characteristics as students in all public schools;

Whereas charter schools have enjoyed broad bipartisan support from the Administration, the Congress, State governors and legislatures, educators, and parents across the Nation; and

Whereas charter schools are laboratories of reform and serve as models of how to educate children as effectively as possible: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) acknowledges and commends the charter school movement for its contribution to improving our Nation's public school system;

(2) designates the week beginning on April 30, 2000, and ending on May 6, 2000, as "National Charter Schools Week"; and

(3) requests that the President issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States to observe the week by conducting appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities to demonstrate support for charter schools in communities throughout the Nation.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 109—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING THE ONGOING PERSECUTION OF 13 MEMBERS OF IRAN'S JEWISH COMMUNITY

Mr. SCHUMER (for himself, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. SMITH of Oregon, and Mr. DODD) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. CON. RES. 109

Whereas on the eve of the Jewish holiday of Passover 1999, 13 Jews, including community and religious leaders in the cities of Shiraz and Isfahan, were arrested by the authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran and accused of spying for the United States and Israel;

Whereas three of 13 defendants were tried in the first week in May 2000, in trials that were closed to all independent journalists, outside media, international observers, and family members;

Whereas no evidence was brought forth at these trials other than taped "confessions", and no formal charges have yet been filed;

Whereas Jews in Iran are prohibited from holding any positions that would give them access to state secrets;

Whereas the judge in the case also serves as prosecutor, chief investigator, and arbiter of punishment;

Whereas United States Secretary of State Albright has identified the case of the 13 Jews in Shiraz as "one of the barometers of United States-Iran relations";

Whereas countless nations and leading international human rights organizations have expressed their concern for the 13 Iranian Jews and especially their human rights under the rule of law;

Whereas President Mohammad Khatami was elected on a platform of moderation and reform;

Whereas the United States has recently made goodwill overtures toward Iran, including lifting restrictions on the import of Iranian foodstuffs and crafts, promising steps toward the return of assets frozen since 1979,