

SENATE RESOLUTION 253—TO EXPRESS THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE FEDERAL INVESTMENT IN BIOCHEMICAL RESEARCH SHOULD BE INCREASED BY \$2,700,000,000 IN FISCAL YEAR 2001

Mr. SPECTER (for himself, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. MACK, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. FRIST, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. HUTCHINSON, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. COCHRAN, and Mr. SANTORUM) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Appropriations:

S. RES. 253

Whereas past investments in biomedical research have resulted in better health, an improved quality of life for all Americans and a reduction in national health care expenditures;

Whereas the Nation's commitment to biomedical research has expanded the base of scientific knowledge about health and disease and revolutionized the practice of medicine;

Whereas the Federal Government represents the single largest contribution to biomedical research conducted in the United States;

Whereas biomedical research continues to play a vital role in the growth of this Nation's biotechnology, medical device, and pharmaceutical industries;

Whereas the origin of many of the new drugs and medical devices currently in use is based in biomedical research supported by the National Institutes of Health;

Whereas women have traditionally been under represented in medical research protocols, yet are severely affected by diseases including breast cancer, which will kill over 43,300 women this year, ovarian cancer which will claim another 14,500 lives; and osteoporosis and cardiovascular disorders;

Whereas research sponsored by the National Institutes of Health is responsible for the identification of genetic mutations relating to nearly 100 diseases, including Alzheimer's disease, cystic fibrosis, Huntington's disease, osteoporosis, many forms of cancer, and immune deficiency disorders;

Whereas many Americans still face serious and life-threatening health problems, both acute and chronic;

Whereas neurodegenerative diseases of the elderly, such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease threaten to destroy the lives of millions of Americans, overwhelm the Nation's health care system, and bankrupt the Medicare and Medicaid programs;

Whereas 2.7 million Americans are currently infected with the hepatitis C virus, an insidious liver condition that can lead to inflammation, cirrhosis, and cancer as well as liver failure;

Whereas 297,000 Americans are now suffering from AIDS and hundreds of thousands more with HIV infection;

Whereas cancer remains a comprehensive threat to any tissue or organ of the body at any age, and remains a top cause of morbidity and mortality;

Whereas the extent of psychiatric and neurological diseases poses considerable challenges in understanding the workings of the brain and nervous system;

Whereas recent advances in the treatment of HIV illustrate the promise research holds for even more effective, accessible, and affordable treatments for persons with HIV;

Whereas infants and children are the hope of our future, yet they continue to be the most vulnerable and under served members of our society;

Whereas approximately one out of every six American men will develop prostate cancer and over 40,000 men will die from prostate cancer each year;

Whereas diabetes, both insulin and non-insulin forms, afflict 16 million Americans and places them at risk for acute and chronic complications, including blindness, kidney failure, atherosclerosis and nerve degeneration;

Whereas the emerging understanding of the principles of biomimetics have been applied to the development of hard tissue such as bone and teeth as well as soft tissue, and this field of study holds great promise for the design of new classes of biomaterials, pharmaceuticals, diagnostic and analytical reagents;

Whereas research sponsored by the National Institute of Health will map and sequence the entire human genome by 2003, leading to a new era of molecular medicine that will provide unprecedented opportunities for the prevention, diagnoses, treatment, and cure of diseases that currently plague society;

Whereas the fundamental way science is conducted is changing at a revolutionary pace, demanding a far greater investment in emerging new technologies, research training programs, and in developing new skills among scientific investigators; and

Whereas most Americans show overwhelming support for an increased Federal investment in biomedical research: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This resolution may be cited as the "Biomedical Revitalization Resolution of 2000".

SEC. 2. SENSE OF THE SENATE.

It is the sense of the Senate that funding for the National Institutes of Health should be increased by \$2,700,000,000 in fiscal year 2001 and that the budget resolution appropriately reflect sufficient funds to achieve this objective.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, this morning President Clinton announced the budget for the administration for fiscal year 2001. It has a large number of new programs and has a very substantial increase in spending, up to \$1.835 trillion. In examining the budget as to its applicability to the Departments of Labor, Health, Human Services and Education on items which I chair, the appropriations subcommittee, I am concerned about the number of new programs.

On Education, there are 19 new programs. In the Department of Labor, there are nine new programs. It is a matter of concern when the President proposes programs which have mandates directing the local school districts as to what they should be doing without giving discretion to local school districts as to specific needs which they might have which might be in a somewhat different category. For example, this year the 19 new programs will increase expenditures by \$2 billion 951 million—almost \$3 billion. Let's put it that way, round it up a little bit.

Within these programs, there is a new program for school renovation of \$1.3 billion. While there may be some merit to that specific kind of program, it may well be that the local school district could better use that money, depending upon local needs, for matters such as a science program, for lab-

oratory equipment, for computers, for teacher training depending upon what the needs are in the local school district.

Last year, we had a considerable amount of controversy on the President's program for new teachers, a commendable objective, but it may well be that there are many school districts where the needs for some alternative programs are more pressing there. So I express a concern about the budget with its increased spending up to \$1.835 trillion, and the mandate of a great many new programs which have not been authorized by the appropriate authorizing committees in the Congress.

When it comes to the question of paying for these programs, the President has proposed raising the caps by some \$62 billion, but it is highly questionable whether that raise in the caps will accommodate all the programs which he has proposed. I think there is agreement between the Congress and the administration that Social Security and Medicare have to be kept inviolate and that there not be expenditures which would threaten Social Security.

On the face and on the figures, the President's budget does not invade Social Security, but there is the lurking possibility that Social Security could be invaded with the tremendous number of new programs which the President has proposed.

Last year, when the President came forward with his budget, he had proposals for some \$18 billion in offsets: Federal tobacco revenues of \$6 billion, FAA user fees of \$1 billion, and so on, down to some \$18 billion, none of which materialized. So when we take a look at the President's proposed offsets, we have to take them with more than a grain of salt as to whether they ever will materialize.

The President has proposed this year to have offsets for penalties for tobacco companies where they fail to live up to the reduction on teenage smoking. The administration's budget will cut youth smoking in half by charging the tobacco industry an assessment for every underage smoker, with an estimated penalty of \$3,000 for each underage smoker. It does not pick up until some of the out years.

This is an illustration of where the President is proposing alleged cuts which may well never materialize.

There is one item where the Clinton administration budget is not adequately funded, and that is for the National Institutes of Health. In 1997, the sense-of-the-Senate resolution called for a doubling of the NIH budget over a 5-year period.

During the course of the last 3 years, very substantial advances have been made on funding for the National Institutes of Health, although we are not quite yet on target. That has been a

real battle because although the Senate passed a sense-of-the-Senate resolution in 1997 calling for doubling within 5 years, when the issue has come before the budget resolution on amendments sponsored by Senator HARKIN, who is the ranking Democrat, and myself as chairman of the relevant appropriations subcommittee, those increases in funding have been rejected. But with a sharp pencil and with very substantial help from staff on allocation of funding, we have succeeded in increasing the funding for the National Institutes of Health by more than \$5 billion over the last 3 years.

Three years ago, the Senate passed an increase of \$950 million. It was pared down somewhat in conference to \$907 million. Two years ago, we increased NIH funding by some \$2 billion, and last year we increased National Institutes of Health funding by \$2.3 billion.

It is true the National Institutes of Health is the crown jewel of the Federal Government. In fact, it may be the only jewel of the Federal Government. This year, with a long list of cosponsors who are being added incrementally each day—and I expect quite a few more by the end of the day, and more even before Senator HARKIN, the principal cosponsor, and I offer this for a budget resolution—we are proposing an increase in funding of \$2.7 billion, which is the minimal amount necessary to keep funding for the National Institutes of Health on a track to approximate the goal of doubling NIH funding over the 5-year period.

In addition to Senator HARKIN and myself, we have cosponsorship by Senator MACK, Senator MIKULSKI, Senator FRIST, Senator SCHUMER, Senator COLLINS, Senator DEWINE, Senator SARBANES, and Senator HUTCHINSON. The advances which have been made by NIH over the course of the past several years have truly been astounding with the projection that Parkinson's may be on the verge of being solved within a 5-year period, enormous advances on Alzheimer's, enormous advances on a variety of cancer problems—breast cancer, prostate cancer, cervical cancer—enormous advances on heart disease. As a capital investment in the health of America, there is no better investment. As a capital investment for cutting costs for Medicare and Medicaid, there is no better investment.

Last year, the Clinton administration proposed an increase of some \$300 million which was far under the mark. That was raised by Congress to \$2.3 billion and signed into law by the President.

This year, I think, noting the strong congressional support, the administration has proposed an increase of \$1 billion in NIH funding, but that, too, is short of the mark on meeting the objective of doubling NIH funding within a 5-year period.

I have sought recognition today to submit, with my distinguished colleague Senator HARKIN, an important resolution calling for increased funding

for the National Institutes of Health, to keep us on track to double NIH funding by 2002. Specifically, the resolution which we are offering today calls for the fiscal year 2001 Budget Resolution to include an additional \$2.7 billion in the health account, to be allocated for biomedical research at the National Institutes of Health.

As chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee for Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies, I have said many times that the National Institutes of Health is the crown jewel of the Federal Government—perhaps the only jewel of the Federal government. We all remain enthralled by the advances realized by the National Institutes of Health, which has spawned innumerable breakthroughs in our knowledge and treatment for diseases such as cancer, Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, severe mental illnesses, diabetes, osteoporosis, heart disease, and many others. It is clear that a substantial investment in the NIH is crucial to allow the continuation of these advances into the next decade.

On May 21, 1997, the Senate passed a Sense of the Senate resolution submitted by our distinguished colleague, Senator MACK, which stated that funding for the National Institutes of Health should be doubled over five years. Regrettably, even though that resolution was passed by an overwhelming vote of 98 to nothing, when the budget resolution was considered on the Senate floor, the appropriate health account had a reduction of \$100 million. That led to the introduction of an amendment to the resolution by myself and Senator HARKIN. We sought to add in \$1.1 billion to carry out the expressed sense of the Senate. Our amendment, however, was defeated 63–37. We were extremely disappointed that while the Senate had expressed its druthers on a resolution, they were simply unwilling to put up the actual dollars to accomplish this vital goal.

The following year, during debate on the fiscal year 1999 Budget Resolution, Senator HARKIN and I again introduced an amendment which called for a \$2 billion increase for the National Institutes of Health, and which provided sufficient resources in the budget to accomplish this. While we gained more support on this vote than in the previous year, our amendment was again defeated, this time by a vote of 57–41. Not to be deterred, Senator HARKIN and I again went to work with our Subcommittee and we were able, by making economies and establishing priorities, to add an additional \$2 billion to the NIH account for fiscal year 1999, which at the time was the largest increase in history.

Most recently, for fiscal year 2000, Senator HARKIN and I again introduced an amendment to the Budget Resolution which would have added \$1.4 billion to the health accounts, over and above the \$600 million which had been already been provided by the Budget

Committee. Despite this amendment's defeat by a vote of 47–52, we were able to provide, through the maximization of our limited resources, a \$2.3 billion increase for fiscal year 2000—truly an historic accomplishment.

In 1981, when I was first elected to the Senate, NIH funding was less than \$3.6 billion; for fiscal year 2000, it is \$17.9 billion, a 95% inflation-adjusted increase. Through several years and several Subcommittee Chairs—Senator Weicker, Senator CHILES, Senator HARKIN, and myself—the budgets were always tight and frequently faced Administration-proposed cuts. Still, we managed to increase NIH funding tremendously. This resolution seeks to reiterate the intent of the Senate to double our investment in the National Institutes of Health: we must provide \$2.7 billion to stay on track to reach that goal. I believe that this goal can be achieved if we make the proper allocation of our resources.

Our investment has resulted in tremendous advances in medical research. A new generation of AIDS drugs are reducing the presence of the AIDS virus in HIV infected persons to nearly undetectable levels. Death rates from cancer have begun a steady decline. The human genome is on track to be 90 percent mapped by this spring, and fully sequenced by 2003. We are seeing the advent of a relatively new field of pharmacogenomics, which seeks to solve whether there is something about an individual's genetic instructions which prevent them from metabolizing a particular drug as intended. In essence, drugs may soon be designed to fit the patient's genetic makeup. I anxiously await the results of all of these avenues of remarkable research.

I, like millions of Americans, have benefitted tremendously from the investment we have made in the National Institutes of Health. But to continue that commitment takes actual dollars, not just the discussion of dollars. That is why we offer this resolution today—to call upon the Budget Committee to add \$2.7 billion to the health accounts so we can carry forward the important work of the National Institutes of Health.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED

NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS COVENANT IMPLEMENTATION ACT

MURKOWSKI (AND AKAKA) AMENDMENT NO. 2807

Mr. MURKOWSKI (for himself and Mr. AKAKA) proposed an amendment to the bill (S. 1052) to implement further the Act (Public Law 94-241) approving the Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 29, lines 20–21, strike “regard to” and insert “counting against”.