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105TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. CON. RES. 86

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring)

SECTION 1. CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 1999.

(a) DECLARATION.—Congress determines and declares that this resolution is the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 1999 including the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2000, 2001, 2002, and 2003 as required by section 301 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 and revising the budgetary levels for fiscal year 1998 set forth in the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 1998 as authorized by section 304 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this concurrent resolution is as follows:

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TITLE I—LEVELS AND AMOUNTS

SEC. 101. RECOMMENDED LEVELS AND AMOUNTS.

The following budgetary levels are appropriate for the fiscal years 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002 and 2003.

(1) FEDERAL REVENUES.—For purposes of the enforcement of this resolution—

(A) The recommended levels of Federal revenues are as follows:

Fiscal year 1998: $1,262,400,000,000.

Fiscal year 1999: $1,300,200,000,000.

Fiscal year 2000: $1,325,800,000,000.

Fiscal year 2001: $1,369,400,000,000.

Fiscal year 2002: $1,431,900,000,000.

Fiscal year 2003: $1,486,900,000,000.

(B) The amounts by which the aggregate levels of Federal revenues should be changed are as follows:

Fiscal year 1998: $0.

Fiscal year 1999: $0.

Fiscal year 2000: $0.

Fiscal year 2001: $0.

Fiscal year 2002: $0.

Fiscal year 2003: $0.

(C) The amounts for Federal Insurance Contributions Act revenues for hospital insurance within the recommended levels of Federal revenues are as follows:

Fiscal year 1998: $117,700,000,000.

Fiscal year 1999: $123,900,000,000.

Fiscal year 2000: $129,700,000,000.

Fiscal year 2001: $135,300,000,000.

Fiscal year 2002: $141,400,000,000.

Fiscal year 2003: $148,100,000,000.

(2) NEW BUDGET AUTHORITY.—For purposes of the enforcement of this resolution, the appropriate levels of total new budget authority are as follows:

Fiscal year 1998: $1,374,700,000,000.

Fiscal year 1999: $1,425,300,000,000.

Fiscal year 2000: $1,471,100,000,000.

Fiscal year 2001: $1,513,200,000,000.

Fiscal year 2002: $1,547,200,000,000.

Fiscal year 2003: $1,615,800,000,000.

(3) BUDGET OUTLAYS.—For purposes of the enforcement of this resolution, the appropriate levels of total budget outlays are as follows:

Fiscal year 1998: $1,358,000,000,000.

Fiscal year 1999: $1,408,400,000,000.

Fiscal year 2000: $1,450,100,000,000.

Fiscal year 2001: $1,490,000,000,000.

Fiscal year 2002: $1,507,000,000,000.

Fiscal year 2003: $1,579,200,000,000.

(4) DEFICITS.—For purposes of the enforcement of this resolution, the amounts of the deficits are as follows:

Fiscal year 1998: −$95,600,000,000.

Fiscal year 1999: −$108,200,000,000.

Fiscal year 2000: −$124,300,000,000.

Fiscal year 2001: −$120,600,000,000.

Fiscal year 2002: −$75,100,000,000.

Fiscal year 2003: −$92,300,000,000.

(5) PUBLIC DEBT.—The appropriate levels of the public debt are as follows:

Fiscal year 1998: $5,482,000,000,000.

Fiscal year 1999: $5,668,300,000,000.

Fiscal year 2000: $5,868,700,000,000.

Fiscal year 2001: $6,064,400,000,000.

Fiscal year 2002: $6,220,000,000,000.

Fiscal year 2003: $6,392,700,000,000.

SEC. 102. SOCIAL SECURITY.

(a) SOCIAL SECURITY REVENUES.—For purposes of Senate enforcement under sections 302, 602, and 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the amounts of revenues of the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance

Trust Fund and the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund are as follows:

Fiscal year 1998: $417,300,000,000.

Fiscal year 1999: $438,200,000,000.

Fiscal year 2000: $457,800,000,000.

Fiscal year 2001: $477,100,000,000.

Fiscal year 2002: $497,900,000,000.

Fiscal year 2003: $520,700,000,000.

(b) SOCIAL SECURITY OUTLAYS.—For purposes of Senate enforcement under sections 302, 602, and 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the amounts of outlays of the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund are as follows:

Fiscal year 1998: $313,300,000,000.

Fiscal year 1999: $212,600,000,000.

Fiscal year 2000: $331,600,000,000.

Fiscal year 2001: $344,100,000,000.

Fiscal year 2002: $355,700,000,000.

Fiscal year 2003: $369,400,000,000.

SEC. 103. MAJOR FUNCTIONAL CATEGORIES.

Congress determines and declares that the appropriate levels of new budget authority, budget outlays, new direct loan obligations, and new primary loan guarantee

commitments for fiscal years 1998 through 2003 for each major functional category are:

(1) National Defense (050):

Fiscal year 1998:

(A) New budget authority, $267,700,000,000.

(B) Outlays, $268,100,000,000.

Fiscal year 1999:

(A) New budget authority, $270,500,000,000.

(B) Outlays, $265,500,000,000.

Fiscal year 2000:

(A) New budget authority, $274,300,000,000.

(B) Outlays, $268,000,000,000.

Fiscal year 2001:

(A) New budget authority, $280,800,000,000.

(B) Outlays, $269,700,000,000.

Fiscal year 2002:

(A) New budget authority, $288,600,000,000.

(B) Outlays, $272,100,000,000.

Fiscal year 2003:

(A) New budget authority, $296,800,000,000.

(B) Outlays, $279,800,000,000.

(2) International Affairs (150):

Fiscal year 1998:

(A) New budget authority, $15,200,000,000.

(B) Outlays, $14,100,000,000.

Fiscal year 1999:

(A) New budget authority, $14,600,000,000.

(B) Outlays, $14,200,000,000.

Fiscal year 2000:

(A) New budget authority, $14,300,000,000.

(B) Outlays, $14,700,000,000.

Fiscal year 2001:

(A) New budget authority, $15,100,000,000.

(B) Outlays, $14,500,000,000.

Fiscal year 2002:

(A) New budget authority, $15,200,000,000.

(B) Outlays, $14,500,000,000.

Fiscal year 2003:

(A) New budget authority, $15,200,000,000.

(B) Outlays, $14,400,000,000.

(3) General Science, Space, and Technology (250):

Fiscal year 1998:

(A) New budget authority, $18,000,000,000.

(B) Outlays, $17,700,000,000.

Fiscal year 1999:

(A) New budget authority, $18,300,000,000.

(B) Outlays, $17,900,000,000.

Fiscal year 2000:

(A) New budget authority, $17,800,000,000.

(B) Outlays, $17,900,000,000.

Fiscal year 2001:

(A) New budget authority, $17,700,000,000.

(B) Outlays, $17,600,000,000.

Fiscal year 2002:

(A) New budget authority, $17,300,000,000.

(B) Outlays, $17,400,000,000.

Fiscal year 2003:

(A) New budget authority, $17,000,000,000.

(B) Outlays, $17,000,000,000.

(4) Energy (270):

Fiscal year 1998:

(A) New budget authority, $500,000,000.

(B) Outlays, $1,000,000,000.

Fiscal year 1999:

(A) New budget authority, $600,000,000.

(B) Outlays, $300,000,000.

Fiscal year 2000:

(A) New budget authority, $600,000,000.

(B) Outlays, $0.

Fiscal year 2001:

(A) New budget authority, $500,000,000.

(B) Outlays, −$200,000,000.

Fiscal year 2002:

(A) New budget authority, $400,000,000.

(B) Outlays, −$400,000,000.

Fiscal year 2003:

(A) New budget authority, $400,000,000.

(B) Outlays, −$400,000,000.

(5) Natural Resources and Environment (300):

Fiscal year 1998:

(A) New budget authority, $24,200,000,000.

(B) Outlays, $23,000,000,000.

Fiscal year 1999:

(A) New budget authority, $23,400,000,000.

(B) Outlays, $23,400,000,000.

Fiscal year 2000:

(A) New budget authority, $23,300,000,000.

(B) Outlays, $23,500,000,000.

Fiscal year 2001:

(A) New budget authority, $23,000,000,000.

(B) Outlays, $23,400,000,000.

Fiscal year 2002:

(A) New budget authority, $22,900,000,000.

(B) Outlays, $23,000,000,000.

Fiscal year 2003:

(A) New budget authority, $22,900,000,000.

(B) Outlays, $22,900,000,000.

(6) Agriculture (350):

Fiscal year 1998:

(A) New budget authority, $11,800,000,000.

(B) Outlays, $10,800,000,000.

Fiscal year 1999:

(A) New budget authority, $12,000,000,000.

(B) Outlays, $10,500,000,000.

Fiscal year 2000:

(A) New budget authority, $11,600,000,000.

(B) Outlays, $9,900,000,000.

Fiscal year 2001:

(A) New budget authority, $10,300,000,000.

(B) Outlays, $8,700,000,000.

Fiscal year 2002:

(A) New budget authority, $10,200,000,000.

(B) Outlays, $8,500,000,000.

Fiscal year 2003:

(A) New budget authority, $10,400,000,000.

(B) Outlays, $8,800,000,000.

(7) Commerce and Housing Credit (370):

Fiscal year 1998:

(A) New budget authority, $7,300,000,000.

(B) Outlays, $700,000,000.

Fiscal year 1999:

(A) New budget authority, $4,200,000,000.

(B) Outlays, $3,200,000,000.

Fiscal year 2000:

(A) New budget authority, $15,100,000,000.

(B) Outlays, $10,000,000,000.

Fiscal year 2001:

(A) New budget authority, $15,300,000,000.

(B) Outlays, $11,000,000,000.

Fiscal year 2002:

(A) New budget authority, $15,600,000,000.

(B) Outlays, $11,800,000,000.

Fiscal year 2003:

(A) New budget authority, $14,900,000,000.

(B) Outlays, $11,700,000,000.

(8) Transportation (400):

Fiscal year 1998:

(A) New budget authority, $46,000,000,000.

(B) Outlays, $42,500,000,000.

Fiscal year 1999:

(A) New budget authority, $51,500,000,000.

(B) Outlays, $42,800,000,000.

Fiscal year 2000:

(A) New budget authority, $51,800,000,000.

(B) Outlays, $44,700,000,000.

Fiscal year 2001:

(A) New budget authority, $52,100,000,000.

(B) Outlays, $45,700,000,000.

Fiscal year 2002:

(A) New budget authority, $51,400,000,000.

(B) Outlays, $45,800,000,000.

Fiscal year 2003:

(A) New budget authority, $52,000,000,000.

(B) Outlays, $46,900,000,000.

(9) Community and Regional Development (450):

Fiscal year 1998:

(A) New budget authority, $8,700,000,000.

(B) Outlays, $11,200,000,000.

Fiscal year 1999:

(A) New budget authority, $8,700,000,000.

(B) Outlays, $10,900,000,000.

Fiscal year 2000:

(A) New budget authority, $7,900,000,000.

(B) Outlays, $9,700,000,000.

Fiscal year 2001:

(A) New budget authority, $7,600,000,000.

(B) Outlays, $8,900,000,000.

Fiscal year 2002:

(A) New budget authority, $7,600,000,000.

(B) Outlays, $8,100,000,000.

Fiscal year 2003:

(A) New budget authority, $7,600,000,000.

(B) Outlays, $8,100,000,000.

(10) Education, Training, Employment, and Social Services (500):

Fiscal year 1998:

(A) New budget authority, $61,300,000,000.

(B) Outlays, $56,100,000,000.

Fiscal year 1999:

(A) New budget authority, $63,050,000,000.

(B) Outlays, $61,006,000,000.

Fiscal year 2000:

(A) New budget authority, $63,350,000,000.

(B) Outlays, $62,740,000,000.

Fiscal year 2001:

(A) New budget authority, $64,550,000,000.

(B) Outlays, $63,849,000,000.

Fiscal year 2002:

(A) New budget authority, $64,950,000,000.

(B) Outlays, $63,750,000,000.

Fiscal year 2003:

(A) New budget authority, $68,450,000,000.

(B) Outlays, $67,150,000,000.

(11) Health (550):

Fiscal year 1998:

(A) New budget authority, $136,200,000,000.

(B) Outlays, $132,000,000,000.

Fiscal year 1999:

(A) New budget authority, $145,800,000,000.

(B) Outlays, $143,700,000,000.

Fiscal year 2000:

(A) New budget authority, $152,600,000,000.

(B) Outlays, $151,600,000,000.

Fiscal year 2001:

(A) New budget authority, $161,500,000,000.

(B) Outlays, $160,400,000,000.

Fiscal year 2002:

(A) New budget authority, $170,100,000,000.

(B) Outlays, $169,900,000,000.

Fiscal year 2003:

(A) New budget authority, $181,200,000,000.

(B) Outlays, $181,100,000,000.

(12) Medicare (570):

Fiscal year 1998:

(A) New budget authority, $199,200,000,000.

(B) Outlays, $199,700,000,000.

Fiscal year 1999:

(A) New budget authority, $210,300,000,000.

(B) Outlays, $210,900,000,000.

Fiscal year 2000:

(A) New budget authority, $221,800,000,000.

(B) Outlays, $221,100,000,000.

Fiscal year 2001:

(A) New budget authority, $239,400,000,000.

(B) Outlays, $242,300,000,000.

Fiscal year 2002:

(A) New budget authority, $251,200,000,000.

(B) Outlays, $248,800,000,000.

Fiscal year 2003:

(A) New budget authority, $273,400,000,000.

(B) Outlays, $273,600,000,000.

(13) Income Security (600):

Fiscal year 1998:

(A) New budget authority, $229,500,000,000.

(B) Outlays, $234,700,000,000.

Fiscal year 1999:

(A) New budget authority, $243,300,000,000.

(B) Outlays, $248,100,000,000.

Fiscal year 2000:

(A) New budget authority, $257,300,000,000.

(B) Outlays, $259,400,000,000.

Fiscal year 2001:

(A) New budget authority, $268,500,000,000.

(B) Outlays, $266,700,000,000.

Fiscal year 2002:

(A) New budget authority, $279,200,000,000.

(B) Outlays, $274,200,000,000.

Fiscal year 2003:

(A) New budget authority, $289,800,000,000.

(B) Outlays, $282,400,000,000.

(14) Social Security (650):

Fiscal year 1998:

(A) New budget authority, $12,000,000,000.

(B) Outlays, $12,200,000,000.

Fiscal year 1999:

(A) New budget authority, $12,600,000,000.

(B) Outlays, $12,800,000,000.

Fiscal year 2000:

(A) New budget authority, $13,100,000,000.

(B) Outlays, $13,100,000,000.

Fiscal year 2001:

(A) New budget authority, $12,500,000,000.

(B) Outlays, $12,500,000,000.

Fiscal year 2002:

(A) New budget authority, $14,500,000,000.

(B) Outlays, $14,500,000,000.

Fiscal year 2003:

(A) New budget authority, $15,300,000,000.

(B) Outlays, $15,300,000,000.

(15) Veterans Benefits and Services (700):

Fiscal year 1998:

(A) New budget authority, $42,600,000,000.

(B) Outlays, $42,500,000,000.

Fiscal year 1999:

(A) New budget authority, $42,800,000,000.

(B) Outlays, $43,300,000,000.

Fiscal year 2000:

(A) New budget authority, $43,400,000,000.

(B) Outlays, $44,000,000,000.

Fiscal year 2001:

(A) New budget authority, $44,800,000,000.

(B) Outlays, $45,200,000,000.

Fiscal year 2002:

(A) New budget authority, $46,200,000,000.

(B) Outlays, $46,600,000,000.

Fiscal year 2003:

(A) New budget authority, $48,200,000,000.

(B) Outlays, $48,600,000,000.

(16) Administration of Justice (750):

Fiscal year 1998:

(A) New budget authority, $25,100,000,000.

(B) Outlays, $22,500,000,000.

Fiscal year 1999:

(A) New budget authority, $25,800,000,000.

(B) Outlays, $24,600,000,000.

Fiscal year 2000:

(A) New budget authority, $24,500,000,000.

(B) Outlays, $24,900,000,000.

Fiscal year 2001:

(A) New budget authority, $24,500,000,000.

(B) Outlays, $24,800,000,000.

Fiscal year 2002:

(A) New budget authority, $24,700,000,000.

(B) Outlays, $24,300,000,000.

Fiscal year 2003:

(A) New budget authority, $25,000,000,000.

(B) Outlays, $24,200,000,000.

(17) General Government (800):

Fiscal year 1998:

(A) New budget authority, $14,500,000,000.

(B) Outlays, $14,300,000,000.

Fiscal year 1999:

(A) New budget authority, $14,400,000,000.

(B) Outlays, $13,400,000,000.

Fiscal year 2000:

(A) New budget authority, $13,900,000,000.

(B) Outlays, $13,800,000,000.

Fiscal year 2001:

(A) New budget authority, $13,600,000,000.

(B) Outlays, $13,800,000,000.

Fiscal year 2002:

(A) New budget authority, $13,400,000,000.

(B) Outlays, $13,600,000,000.

Fiscal year 2003:

(A) New budget authority, $13,500,000,000.

(B) Outlays, $13,500,000,000.

(18) Net Interest (900):

Fiscal year 1998:

(A) New budget authority, $291,600,000,000.

(B) Outlays, $291,600,000,000.

Fiscal year 1999:

(A) New budget authority, $300,100,000,000.

(B) Outlays, $300,100,000,000.

Fiscal year 2000:

(A) New budget authority, $301,700,000,000.

(B) Outlays, $301,700,000,000.

Fiscal year 2001:

(A) New budget authority, $302,100,000,000.

(B) Outlays, $302,100,000,000.

Fiscal year 2002:

(A) New budget authority, $302,600,000,000.

(B) Outlays, $302,600,000,000.

Fiscal year 2003:

(A) New budget authority, $304,900,000,000.

(B) Outlays, $304,900,000,000.

(19) Allowances (920):

Fiscal year 1998:

(A) New budget authority, −$0.

(B) Outlays, −$0.

Fiscal year 1999:

(A) New budget authority, −$300,000,000.

(B) Outlays, −$1,900,000,000.

Fiscal year 2000:

(A) New budget authority, −$1,200,000,000.

(B) Outlays, −$4,600,000,000.

Fiscal year 2001:

(A) New budget authority, −$2,700,000,000.

(B) Outlays, −$3,000,000,000.

Fiscal year 2002:

(A) New budget authority, −$3,800,000,000.

(B) Outlays, −$7,000,000,000.

Fiscal year 2003:

(A) New budget authority, −$5,400,000,000.

(B) Outlays, −$5,000,000,000.

(20) Undistributed Offsetting Receipts (950):

Fiscal year 1998:

(A) New budget authority, −$36,700,000,000.

(B) Outlays, −$36,700,000,000.

Fiscal year 1999:

(A) New budget authority, −$36,300,000,000.

(B) Outlays, −$36,300,000,000.

Fiscal year 2000:

(A) New budget authority, −$36,000,000,000.

(B) Outlays, −$36,000,000,000.

Fiscal year 2001:

(A) New budget authority, −$37,900,000,000.

(B) Outlays, −$37,900,000,000.

Fiscal year 2002:

(A) New budget authority, −$45,000,000,000.

(B) Outlays, −$45,000,000,000.

Fiscal year 2003:

(A) New budget authority, −$35,700,000,000.

(B) Outlays, −$35,700,000,000.

TITLE II—BUDGETARY RESTRAINTS AND RULEMAKING

SEC. 201. TAX CUT RESERVE FUND.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In the Senate, revenue and spending aggregates may only be reduced and allocations may be reduced only for legislation that reduces revenues by providing family tax relief (including relief from the ''marriage penalty'' and support for child care expenses incurred by all parents), and incentives to stimulate savings, investment, job creation, and economic growth (including community renewal initiatives) if such legislation will not increase the deficit or reduce the surplus for—

(1) fiscal year 1999;

(2) the period of fiscal years 1999–2003; or

(3) the period of fiscal years 2004–2008.

(b) REVISED ALLOCATIONS.—Upon the consideration of legislation pursuant to subsection (a), the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may file with the Senate appropriately revised allocations under section 302(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 and revised aggregates to carry out this section. These revised allocations and aggregates shall be considered for the purposes of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 as allocations and aggregates contained in this resolution.

SEC. 202. TOBACCO RESERVE FUND.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In the Senate, revenue aggregates may be increased for legislation which reserves the Federal share of receipts from tobacco legislation only for the Medicare Hospital Insurance Trust Fund.

(b) REVISED AGGREGATES.—Upon the consideration of legislation pursuant to subsection (a), the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may file increased aggregates to carry out this section. These aggregates shall be considered for the purposes of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 as the aggregates contained in this resolution.

(c) APPLICATION OF SECTION 202 OF H. CON. RES. 67.—For the purposes of enforcement of section 202 of H. Con. Res. 67 (104th Congress) with respect to this resolution, the increase in receipts resulting from tobacco legislation shall not be taken into account.

SEC. 203. SEPARATE ENVIRONMENTAL ALLOCATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In the Senate, revenue and spending aggregates may be increased and allocations may be increased only for legislation that reauthorizes and reforms the Superfund program to facilitate the cleanup of hazardous waste sites if such legislation will not increase the deficit or reduce the surplus for—

(1) fiscal year 1999;

(2) the period of fiscal years 1999–2003; or

(3) the period of fiscal years 2004–2008.

(b) REVISED AGGREGATES.—In the Senate, after the Committee on Environment and Public Works reports a bill (or after the submission of a conference report thereon) to reform the Superfund program to facilitate the cleanup of hazardous waste sites that does not exceed—

(1) $200,000,000 in budget authority and outlays for fiscal year 1999; and

(2) $1,000,000,000 in budget authority and outlays for the period of fiscal years 1999 through 2003;

the chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may increase the appropriate aggregates and the appropriate allocations of budget authority in this resolution by the amounts provided in that bill for that purpose and the outlays flowing in all years from such budget authority. These revised allocations and aggregates shall be considered for the purposes of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 as the allocations and aggregates contained in this resolution.

SEC. 204. DEDICATION OF OFFSETS TO TRANSPORTATION.

(a) SPENDING RESERVE.—In accordance with section 312(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 and for the purposes of title III of that Act, the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget may reserve the esti-

mated reductions in new budget authority and outlays resulting from changes in legislation affecting the programs specified in subsection (b), if contained in the Department of Transportation and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, for the purpose of offsetting—

(1) additional outlays not to exceed $1,300,000,000 in fiscal year 1999 and $18,500,000,000 for fiscal years 1999 through 2003 for discretionary highway programs as called for in the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1998; and

(2) additional budget authority not to exceed $1,000,000,000 in fiscal year 1999 and $5,000,000,000 for fiscal years 1999 through 2003 for discretionary transit programs as called for in the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1998.

(b) OFFSETS.—The following reductions in mandatory spending are reserved in function 920, Allowances, for purposes of subsection (a):

(1) For reductions in programs in function 350, Agriculture: For fiscal year 1999, $107,000,000 in budget authority and $107,000,000 in outlays; For fiscal years 1999–2003, $603,000,000 in budget authority and $598,000,000 in outlays.

(2) For reductions in programs in function 370, Commerce and Housing Credit: For fiscal year 1999, $242,000,000 in budget authority and $242,000,000 in outlays; For fiscal years 1999–2003, $1,195,000,000 in budget authority and $1,195,000,000 in outlays.

(3) For reductions in programs in function 500, Education, Training, Employment, and Social Services: For fiscal year 1999, $471,000,000 in budget authority and $424,000,000 in outlays; For fiscal years 1999–2003, $3,182,000,000 in budget authority and $3,079,000,000 in outlays.

(4) For reductions in programs in function 550, Health: For fiscal year 1999, $250,000,000 in budget authority and $250,000,000 in outlays; For fiscal years 1999–2003, $1,900,000,000 in budget authority and $1,900,000,000 in outlays.

(5) For reductions in programs in function 600, Income Security: For fiscal year 1999, $260,000,000 in budget authority and $260,000,000 in outlays; For fiscal years 1999–2003, $1,700,000,000 in budget authority and $1,700,000,000 in outlays.

(6) For reductions in programs in function 700, Veterans Benefits and Services: For fiscal year

1999, $500,000,000 in budget authority and $500,000,000 in outlays; For fiscal years 1999–2003, $10,500,000,000 in budget authority and $10,500,000,000 in outlays.

(c) SENSE OF THE SENATE ON VA COMPENSATION AND POST-SERVICE SMOKING-RELATED ILLNESSES.—

(1) FINDINGS.—The Senate finds that—

(A) the President has twice included in his budgets a prohibition on the entitlement expansion that the Department of Veterans Affairs (referred to as the ''VA'') is proposing to allow post-service smoking-related illness to be eligible for VA compensation;

(B) Congress has never acted on this entitlement expansion;

(C) the Congressional Budget Office and the Office of Management and Budget have concluded that this change in VA policy would result in at least $10,000,000,000 over 5 years and $45,000,000,000 over 10 years in additional mandatory costs to the VA;

(D) these increased number of claims and the resulting costs may present undue delay and hardship on veterans seeking claim review;

(E) the entitlement expansion apparently runs counter to all existing VA policy, including a statement by former Secretary Brown that ''It is inappropriate to compensate for death or disability resulting from veterans' personal choice to engage in conduct damaging to their health.''; and

(F) Secretary Brown's comment was recently reaffirmend by Acting Secretary of Veterans Affairs Togo West, who stated ''It has been the position of the Department and of my predecessor that the decision to use tobacco by service members is a personal decision and is not a requirement for military service. And that therefore to compensate veterans for diseases whose sole connection to service is a veteran's own tobacco use should not rest with the Government.''.

(2) SENSE OF THE SENATE.—It is the sense of the Senate that the function totals and assumptions underlying this resolution assume the following:

(A) The support of the President's proposal to not allow post-service smoking related illnesses to be eligible for VA.

(B) The study and report required by subparagraph (C) will be completed.

(C) The Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Office of Management and Budget, and the General Accounting Office are jointly required to—

(i) jointly study (referred to in this section as the ''study'') the VA General Counsel's determination and the resulting actions to change the compensation rules to include disability and death benefits for conditions related to the use of tobacco products during service; and

(ii) deliver an opinion as to whether illnesses resulting from post-service smoking should be considered as a compensable disability.

(D) The study should include—

(i) the estimated numbers of those filing such claims, the cost resulting from such benefits, the time necessary to review such claims, and how such a number of claims will affect the VA's ability to review its current claim load;

(ii) an examination of how the proposed change corresponds to prior VA policy relating to post-service actions taken by an individual; and

(iii) what Federal benefits, both VA and non-VA, former service members having smoking-related illnesses are eligible to receive.

(E) The study shall be completed no later than July 1, 1999.

(F) The Department of Veterans Affairs and the Office of Management and Budget shall report their finding to the Majority and Minority Leaders of the Senate and the chairmen and ranking minority members of the Senate Budget and Veterans' Affairs Committees.

SEC. 205. ADJUSTMENTS FOR LINE ITEM VETO LITIGATION.

If the Supreme Court rules that the Line Item Veto Act is unconstitutional, the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget may make appropriate adjustments to the allocations and aggregates in this resolution to reflect the effects of the President's cancellations becoming null and void.

SEC. 206. EXTENSION OF VIOLENT CRIME REDUCTION TRUST FUND.

(a) DISCRETIONARY LIMITS.—In the Senate, in this section and for the purposes of allocations made for the discretionary category pursuant to section 302(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the term ''discretionary spending limit'' means—

(1) with respect to fiscal year 1999—

(A) for the defense category: $271,570,000,000 in new budget authority and $266,635,000,000 in outlays;

(B) for the nondefense category: $255,450,000,000 in new budget authority and $289,547,000,000 in outlays; and

(C) for the violent crime reduction category: $5,800,000,000 in new budget authority and $4,953,000,000 in outlays;

(2) with respect to fiscal year 2000—

(A) for the discretionary category: $532,693,000,000 in new budget authority and $558,711,000,000 in outlays; and

(B) for the violent crime reduction category: $4,500,000,000 in new budget authority and $5,554,000,000 in outlays;

(3) with respect to fiscal year 2001—

(A) for the discretionary category: $537,632,000,000 in new budget authority and $558,415,000,000 in outlays; and

(B) for the violent crime reduction category: $4,400,000,000 in new budget authority and $5,981,000,000 in outlays; and

(4) with respect to fiscal year 2002—

(A) for the discretionary category: $546,574,000,000 in new budget authority and $556,269,000,000 in outlays; and

(B) for the violent crime reduction category: $4,500,000,000 in new budget authority and $4,530,000,000 in outlays;

as adjusted in strict conformance with subsection (b) of section 251 of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 and section 314 of the Congressional Budget Act.

(b) POINT OF ORDER IN THE SENATE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), it shall not be in order in the Senate to consider—

(A) a revision of this resolution or any concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal years 1999, 2000, 2001, or 2002 (or amendment, motion, or conference report on such a resolu-

tion) that provides discretionary spending in excess of the discretionary spending limit or limits for such fiscal year; or

(B) any bill or resolution (or amendment, motion, or conference report on such bill or resolution) for fiscal year 1999, 2000, 2001, or 2002 that would cause any of the limits in this section (or suballocations of the discretionary limits made pursuant to section 302(b) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974) to be exceeded.

(2) EXCEPTION.—This section shall not apply if a declaration of war by the Congress is in effect or if a joint resolution pursuant to section 258 of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 has been enacted.

(c) WAIVER.—This section may be waived or suspended in the Senate only by the affirmative vote of three-fifths of the Members, duly chosen and sworn.

(d) APPEALS.—Appeals in the Senate from the decisions of the Chair relating to any provision of this section shall be limited to 1 hour, to be equally divided between, and controlled by, the appellant and the manager of the concurrent resolution, bill, or joint resolution, as the case may be. An affirmative vote of three-fifths of the Members

of the Senate, duly chosen and sworn, shall be required in the Senate to sustain an appeal of the ruling of the Chair on a point of order raised under this section.

(e) DETERMINATION OF BUDGET LEVELS.—For purposes of this section, the levels of new budget authority, outlays, new entitlement authority, revenues, and deficits for a fiscal year shall be determined on the basis of estimates made by the Committee on the Budget of the Senate.

SEC. 207. EXERCISE OF RULEMAKING POWERS.

Congress adopts the provisions of this title—

(1) as an exercise of the rulemaking power of the Senate and the House of Representatives, respectively, and as such they shall be considered as part of the rules of each House, or of that House to which they specifically apply, and such rules shall supersede other rules only to the extent that they are inconsistent therewith; and

(2) with full recognition of the constitutional right of either House to change those rules (so far as they relate to that House) at any time, in the same manner, and to the same extent as in the case of any other rule of that House.

TITLE III—SENSE OF CONGRESS AND THE SENATE

SEC. 301. SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING PASSAGE OF THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE'S IRS RESTRUCTURING BILL.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Senate finds that—

(1) the House of Representatives passed H.R. 2676 on November 5, 1997;

(2) the Finance Committee of the Senate has held several days of hearings this year on Internal Revenue Service restructuring proposals;

(3) the hearings demonstrated many areas in which the House-passed bill could be improved;

(4) on March 31, 1998, the Senate Finance Committee voted 20–0 to report an Internal Revenue Service restructuring package that contains more oversight over the Internal Revenue Service, more accountability for employees, and a new arsenal of taxpayer protections; and

(5) the Senate Finance package includes the following items which were not included in the House bill—

(A) removal of the statutory impediments to the Commissioner of Internal Revenue's ef-

forts to reorganize the agency to create a more streamlined, taxpayer-friendly organization,

(B) the providing of real oversight authority for the Internal Revenue Service Oversight Board to help prevent taxpayer abuse,

(C) the creation of a new Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration to ensure independence and accountability,

(D) real, meaningful relief for innocent spouses,

(E) provisions which abate penalties and interest after 1 year so that the Internal Revenue Service does not profit from its own delay,

(F) provisions which ensure due process of law to taxpayers by granting them a right to a hearing before the Internal Revenue Service can pursue a lien, levy, or seizure,

(G) provisions which forbid the Internal Revenue Service from coercing taxpayers to extend the 10-year statute of limitations for collection,

(H) provisions which require the Internal Revenue Service to terminate employees who abuse taxpayers or other Internal Revenue Service employees,

(I) provisions which make the Taxpayer Advocate more independent, and

(J) provisions enabling the Commissioner of Internal Revenue to manage employees more effectively.

(b) SENSE OF THE SENATE.—It is the sense of the Senate that the assumptions underlying the functional totals in this budget resolution assume that the Senate shall, as expeditiously as possible, consider and pass an Internal Revenue Service restructuring bill which provides the most taxpayer protections, the greatest degree of Internal Revenue Service employee accountability, and enhanced oversight.

SEC. 302. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING THE SUNSET OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that a simple and fair Federal tax system is one that—

(1) applies a low tax rate, through easily understood laws, to all Americans;

(2) provides tax relief for working Americans;

(3) protects the rights of taxpayers and reduces tax collection abuses;

(4) eliminates the bias against savings and investment;

(5) promotes economic growth and job creation;

(6) does not penalize marriage or families; and

(7) provides for a taxpayer-friendly collections process to replace the Internal Revenue Service.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the provisions of this resolution assume that all taxes imposed under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 shall sunset for any taxable year beginning after December 31, 2001 (or in the case of any tax not imposed on the basis of a taxable year, on any taxable event or for any period after December 31, 2001) and that a new Federal tax system will be enacted that is both simple and fair as described in subsection (a) and that provides only those resources for the Federal Government that are needed to meet its responsibilities to the American people.

SEC. 303. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON THE TAX TREATMENT OF HOME MORTGAGE INTEREST AND CHARITABLE GIVING.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) current Federal income tax laws embrace a number of fundamental tax policies including long-standing encouragement for home ownership and charitable giving, expanded health and retirement benefits;

(2) the mortgage interest deduction is among the most important incentives in the income tax code

and promotes the American Dream of home ownership—the single largest investment for most families, and preserving it is critical for the more than 20,000,000 families claiming it now and for millions more in the future;

(3) favorable tax treatment to encourage gifts to charities is a longstanding principle that helps charities raise funds needed to provide services to poor families and others when government is simply unable or unwilling to do so, and maintaining this tax incentive will help charities raise money to meet the challenges of their charitable missions in the decades ahead;

(4) legislation has been proposed to repeal the entire income tax code at the end of the year 2001 without providing a specific replacement; and

(5) sunsetting the entire income tax code without describing a replacement threatens our Nation's future economic growth and unwisely eliminates existing tax incentives that are crucial for taxpayers who are often making the most important financial decisions of their lives.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the levels in this resolution assume that Congress supports the continued tax deductibility of home

mortgage interest and charitable contributions and that a sunset of the tax code that does not provide a replacement tax system that preserves this deductibility could damage the American dream of home ownership and could threaten the viability of nonprofit institutions.

SEC. 304. SENSE OF THE SENATE ON PRESERVATION OF SOCIAL SECURITY FOR THE FUTURE.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Senate finds that—

(1) Social Security is one of the Nation's most important income security programs;

(2) the preservation of Social Security both for those now retired and for future generations of working Americans is a vital national priority;

(3) the Trustees of the Federal Old Age and Survivors Insurance and Disability Insurance Trust Funds have reported to Congress that—

(A) the retirement of the baby boom generation will cause Social Security expenditures to accelerate rapidly beginning around 2010;

(B) Social Security expenditures will exceed Social Security revenues after 2012 and the trust funds will be depleted of reserves in 2029; and

(C) after 2029, tax revenues will be sufficient to cover only three-fourths of the benefits

promised under current law, and, by the end of the 75 year projection period, the annual deficit in the trust funds will reach 2.1 percent of the GDP;

(4) Alan Greenspan, Chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, has testified before Congress that Social Security's unfunded liability stands at around $3,000,000,000,000 and advised Congress to move expeditiously to reform the program so that current workers will have sufficient time to adjust to any changes in the program;

(5) the $124,000,000,000 in new domestic spending programs in the President's budget undermines Social Security by diverting resources from budget surpluses to a bigger government and more spending; and

(6) the Medicare Hospital Insurance program is projected to become insolvent in 2010 and a study by the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University estimated that 14 percent of Medicare spending in 1995 was for tobacco-related illnesses.

(b) SENSE OF THE SENATE.—It is the sense of the Senate that the provisions of this resolution assume that—

(1) Congress should use unified budget surpluses to reform Social Security for future generations; and

(2) Congress should reserve the Federal proceeds from any tobacco settlement for saving Medicare until legislation is enacted to make Medicare actuarially sound.

SEC. 305. SENSE OF THE SENATE ON ANNUAL STATEMENT OF ACCRUED LIABILITY OF SOCIAL SECURITY AND MEDICARE.

It is the sense of the Senate that the provisions of this resolution assume that—

(1) the concurrent resolution on the budget should include a statement of the current accrued liability of the Federal Government for future payments under the Social Security and Medicare programs; and

(2) the President's budget should include for fiscal years beginning with 1999 a statement of the current accrued liability of the Federal Government for future payments under the Social Security and Medicare programs.

SEC. 306. SENSE OF THE SENATE ON FULL FUNDING FOR IDEA.

It is the sense of the Senate that the budgetary levels in this resolution assume that part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Act (20 U.S.C. 1411 et seq.) should be fully funded at the originally promised level before any funds are appropriated for new education programs.

SEC. 307. SENSE OF THE SENATE ON SOCIAL SECURITY.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Senate finds that—

(1) the Social Security program, created in 1935 to provide old-age survivors, and disability insurance benefits, has been one of the most successful government programs ever;

(2) in the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990, Congress created section 13301 of the Congressional Budget Act, which removed Social Security spending and revenues from all Federal budget calculations;

(3) under current budget law, the Federal budget is still in deficit; and

(4) in his State of the Union message on January 27, 1998, President Clinton called on Congress to ''save Social Security first'' and to ''reserve one hundred percent of the surplus, that is any penny of the surplus, until we have taken all the necessary

measures to strengthen the Social Security system for the twenty-first century''.

(b) SENSE OF THE SENATE.—It is the sense of the Senate that the assumptions underlying the functional totals included in this resolution assume—

(1) Congress and the President should continue to rid our country of debt and work to balance the budget without counting Social Security trust fund surpluses; and

(2) Congress and the President should work in a bipartisan way on specific legislation to reform the Social Security system, to ensure that it is financially sound over the long term and will be available for all future generations.

SEC. 308. SENSE OF THE SENATE ON SCHOOL-TO-WORK PROGRAMS.

It is the sense of the Senate that the budget totals and levels in this resolution assume the President's policy with respect to the School-to-Work program under the Education Reform Account and any such savings as a result should be applied to local initiatives focusing on early childhood development.

SEC. 309. SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING TAXPAYER RIGHTS.

It is the sense of the Senate that of revenues designated under section 201 for tax relief, a portion be set aside for—

(1) improvement of taxpayer rights, including protections for taxpayers in cases involving seizure of property by the Internal Revenue Service; and

(2) reform of the penalty rules under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

SEC. 310. SENSE OF THE SENATE ON NATIONAL GUARD FUNDING.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Senate finds the following:

(1) The Army National Guard represents 34 percent of total Army forces, including 55 percent of combat divisions and brigades, 46 percent of combat support, and 25 percent of combat service support.

(2) The Army National Guard receives just 9.5 percent of Army funds.

(3) A recent military study estimates the average cost to train and equip an active duty soldier is $73,000 per year, while the average cost to train and equip a National Guard soldier is just $17,000 per year.

(4) The Constitution of the United States provides for a specific role for the National Guard in our national defense.

(5) The National Guard will play an increasing role in a variety of ongoing worldwide operations by relieving active units and reducing the operational and personnel burdens of the Army's frequent and lengthy deployments.

(6) The home land defense is a mission of growing importance for our military forces and the National Guard forces will play an increasingly key role in that mission.

(7) Congress created the National Defense Panel to recommend ways in which to transform United States defense and national security policy for the 21st century and it reached the following recommendations:

(A) Some portion of the Army National Guard's divisional combat units (including combat support) should become part of active divisions and brigades.

(B) The National Guard's enhanced brigades should report to an active Army command.

(C) The Guard should develop selected early-deploying units that would join the active component.

(D) Some additional reserve or Guard units may be needed to reduce pressure on the active Army.

(E) The Guard should assume the entire U.S. Army South (USARSO) mission, the Army component of the United States Southern Command (Southcom) based in Panama.

(F) The National Guard should continue to provide general purpose forces to give prompt military support to civil authorities.

(G) The National Guard should provide forces organized and equipped for training of civil agencies and the immediate reinforcement of first-response efforts in domestic emergencies.

(H) New homeland defense missions develop (e.g., National Missile Defense and information warfare), the Guard should be used in lieu of active forces wherever possible.

(8) The National Guard estimates it was underfunded by $743,000,000 in fiscal year 1998 and by $634,000,000 in fiscal year 1999.

(b) SENSE OF THE SENATE.—It is the sense of the Senate that the functional totals in the budget resolution assume that the Department of Defense will give the highest priority to moving toward fully funding the National Guard.

SEC. 311. SENSE OF THE SENATE ON MEDICARE PAYMENT.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Senate finds that—

(1) one of the goals of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 was to expand options for Medicare beneficiaries under the new Medicare+Choice program; and

(2) the new Medicare payment formula in the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 was intended to make these choices available to all Americans, but because of the low update and specific budget neutrality provisions of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, the blending of rates to create greater equity for rural and other lower payment areas was not implemented in 1998 or 1999.

(b) SENSE OF THE SENATE.—It is the sense of the Senate that the functional totals underlying this concurrent resolution on the budget assume that funding the blending of local and national payment rates pursuant to the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 should be a priority for

the Senate Finance Committee this year within the budget as established by this Committee.

SEC. 312. SENSE OF THE SENATE ON LONG-TERM CARE.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Senate finds that—

(1) our Nation is not financially prepared to meet the long-term care needs of its rapidly aging population and that long-term care needs threaten the financial security of American families; and

(2) many people are unaware that most long-term care costs are not covered by Medicare and that Medicaid covers long-term care only after the person's assets have been exhausted.

(b) SENSE OF THE SENATE.—It is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) this concurrent resolution on the budget assumes that the National Bipartisan Commission on the Future of Medicare should, as part of its deliberations, describe long-term care needs and make all appropriate recommendations including private sector options that reflect the need for a continuum of care that spans from acute to long-term care. This is not a specific recommendation that any new program be added to Medicare;

(2) the Federal Government should take all appropriate steps to inform the public about the finan-

cial risks posed by long-term care costs and about the need for families to plan for their long-term care needs;

(3) the Federal Government should take all appropriate steps to inform the public that Medicare does not cover most long-term care costs and that Medicaid covers long-term care costs only when the beneficiary has exhausted his or her assets;

(4) the appropriate committees of the Senate, together with the Department of Health and Human Services and other appropriate Executive Branch agencies, should develop specific ideas for encouraging Americans to plan for their own long-term care needs; and

(5) the upcoming National Summit on Retirement Income Savings should ensure that planning for long-term care is an integral part of any discussion of retirement security.

SEC. 313. SENSE OF THE SENATE ON CLIMATE CHANGE RESEARCH AND OTHER FUNDING.

It is the sense of the Senate that the assumptions underlying the functional totals in this resolution assume the following:

(1) To the extent that funding is made available through grants or other Federal expenditures to

reduce emissions of carbon dioxide or other greenhouse gases or to increase sequestration of carbon to offset such emissions, such funding shall be made available through competitive, merit-based awards designed to select cost-effective methods for reducing, sequestering, or mitigating such emissions. Such awards shall consider all technologies, methods, and research for reducing, sequestering, or mitigating emissions, including sustainable agricultural practices and forest management and conservation strategies. Funding criteria shall be comprehensive in scope, not limited to specific technologies or industries, awarded on a nondiscriminatory basis, and target cost-effectiveness in reducing, sequestering, or mitigating carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases through natural resource management programs or products. In considering the cost-effectiveness of various reduction, sequestration, or mitigation technologies, other environmental benefits should be considered.

(2) To the extent any tax credits or other tax incentives are created to stimulate the adoption of technologies or practices that reduce, sequester, or mitigate emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases (''emissions tax incentives''), such

emission tax incentives shall also be available to any person that employs an alternative technology or practice that reduces, sequesters, or mitigates emissions of carbon dioxide or other greenhouse gases as effectively as those technologies or practices for which a tax credit or other incentive is provided. Only payments for technologies or in support of practices not legally required when payment is made shall qualify for tax incentives.

SEC. 314. SENSE OF THE SENATE ON INCREASED FUNDING FOR THE CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Senate finds that—

(1) 54 percent of women in the labor force have children under 13 and are either single parents or have husbands who earn less than $30,000 per year;

(2) in 1995, 62 percent of women with children younger than age 6, and 77 percent of women with children ages 6–17 were in the labor force, and 59 percent of women with children younger than 3 were in the labor force;

(3) a 1997 General Accounting Office study found that the increased work participation requirements of the welfare reform law will cause the need for child care to exceed the known supply;

(4) a 1995 study by the Urban Institute of child care prices in 6 cities found that the average cost of care for a 2-year-old in a child care center ranged from $3,100 to $8,100;

(5) for an entry-level worker, the family's child care costs at the average price of care for an infant in a child care center would be at least 50 percent of family income in 5 of the 6 cities examined;

(6) 40 percent of children under the age of 5 are taken care of at home by 1 parent;

(7) a large number of low- and middle-income families sacrifice a second full-time income so that a parent may be at home with the child;

(8) the average income of 2-parent families with a single income is $20,000 less than the average income of 2-parent families with 2 incomes;

(9) the recent National Institute for Child Health and Development study found that the greatest factor in the development of a young child is ''what is happening at home and in families''; and

(10) increased tax relief directed at making child care more affordable, and increased funding for the Child Care and Development Block Grant, would take significant steps toward bringing quality child care within the reach of many parents, and

would increase the options available to parents in deciding how best to care for their children.

(b) SENSE OF SENATE.—It is the sense of the Senate that the levels in this resolution and legislation enacted pursuant to this resolution assume—

(1) that tax relief should be directed at parents who are struggling to afford quality child care, including those who wish to stay at home to care for a child, and should be included in any tax cut package; and

(2) doubling funding for the Child Care and Development Block Grant will significantly increase the States' ability to deliver quality child care to low-income working families.

SEC. 315. SENSE OF THE SENATE ON THE FORMULA CHANGE FOR FEDERAL FAMILY EDUCATION LOAN.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Senate finds the following:

(1) Postsecondary students receive critical access to a higher education through student loans made available by lenders in the Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) program.

(2) Guaranteed student loan borrowers currently pay an interest rate on their FFEL loans equal to the 91-day Treasury bill rate plus 2.5 per-

cent while the borrower attends school, and the 91-day Treasury bill rate plus 3.1 percent during repayment. In addition, the maximum FFEL student loan rate is capped at 8.25 percent.

(3) As a result of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993, the new formula for FFEL student loans, effective July 1, 1998, will be equal to the 10-year Treasury bond rate plus 1 percent. In addition, the same 8.25 percent rate cap would apply to these new loans.

(4) Lenders in the FFEL program have alerted Congress that the scheduled formula change will make these loans unprofitable. As a result, lenders may withdraw from the FFEL program or significantly reduce their participation in the program after July 1, 1998.

(5) A July 25, 1997 report by the Congressional Research Service stated that the scheduled formula change ''can result in a greater likelihood that the program will become unprofitable at certain points in the business cycle,'' and ''the result could be a shutdown of the guaranteed delivery system.''.

(6) In a report by the Treasury Department on February 26, 1998, the Clinton Administration concluded that the new formula will provide a rate of

return on student loans that is below the target rate of return of for-profit bank lenders in the guaranteed student loan program. Furthermore, the Administration concluded that there are inefficiencies associated with the proposed formula, and joint benefits could be realized to students and lenders from moving back to a short-term index.

(7) At the time that the proposed formula change was adopted in 1993, the rate of return to lenders would have been higher under the proposed formula than under the existing formula.

(8) The withdrawal of lenders from the FFEL program, who now account for approximately 70 percent of all student loans, would be devastating to students because, as the Administration has acknowledged, the Federal direct loan program would be unable to absorb the demand for student loans that would arise from the absence of guaranteed lenders.

(9) A variety of proposals have been put forward to resolve this pending crisis in the FFEL program by modifying the scheduled formula change.

(b) SENSE OF SENATE.—It is the sense of the Senate that the levels in this resolution and legislation enacted pursuant to this resolution assume that the documented

problems that will rise from the scheduled formula change for the Federal Family Education Loan program should be resolved in a manner that ensures that students are not harmed by the withdrawal of lenders from this program.

SEC. 316. SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING THE DEDUCTIBILITY OF HEALTH INSURANCE PREMIUMS OF THE SELF-EMPLOYED.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Senate finds that—

(1) under current law, the self-employed do not enjoy parity with their corporate competitors with respect to the deductibility of their health insurance premiums;

(2) at present, the self-employed can deduct only 45 percent of their health insurance premiums;

(3) scheduled changes in the deductible amount of health insurance premiums will rise slowly, to only 60 percent by 2002;

(4) only by 2007 will the self-employed enjoy equitable treatment with their corporate competitors with respect to the deductibility of their health insurance premiums;

(5) the limited deductibility available to the self-employed greatly reduces the affordability of their health insurance;

(6) these disadvantages faced by the self-employed are exacerbated by the fact that the self-employed generally pay higher premium rates because they do not have access to group insurance plans;

(7) these disadvantages are reflected in the higher rate of lack of insurance among self-employed individuals that stands at 23.6 percent compared with 17.4 percent for all other wage and salaried workers, for self-employed living at or below the poverty level the rate of uninsured is over 57 percent, for self-employed living at 100–150 percent poverty the rate of uninsured is 47 percent, and for self-employed living at 150–199 percent the rate of uninsured is 40 percent;

(8) for some self-employed, such as farmers who face significant occupational safety hazards, this lack of health insurance affordability has even greater ramifications; and

(9) this lack of full deductibility is adversely affecting the growing number of women who own small businesses.

(b) SENSE OF THE SENATE.—It is the sense of the Senate that the assumptions underlying the functional totals in this resolution assume that legislation implementing this concurrent resolution on the budget should in-

clude accelerated movement toward parity between the self-employed and corporations with respect to the tax treatment of health insurance premiums, while maintaining deficit neutrality.

SEC. 317. SENSE OF THE SENATE ON OBJECTION TO KYOTO PROTOCOL IMPLEMENTATION PRIOR TO SENATE RATIFICATION.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) The agreement reached by the Administration in Kyoto, Japan, regarding legally binding commitments on greenhouse gas reductions is inconsistent with the provisions of S. Res. 98, The Byrd-Hagel Resolution, that passed the United States Senate unanimously.

(2) The Administration has pledged to Congress that it would not implement any portion of the Kyoto Protocol prior to its ratification in the Senate.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that funds should not be provided to put in effect the Kyoto Protocol prior to the Senate ratification in compliance with the requirements of the Byrd-Hagel Resolution and consistent with Administration assurances to Congress.

SEC. 318. SENSE OF THE SENATE ON PRICE INCREASE ON TOBACCO PRODUCTS OF $1.50 PER PACK.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Senate finds that—

(1) smoking rates among children and teenagers have reached epidemic proportions;

(2) of the 3,000 children and teenagers who begin smoking every day, 1,000 will eventually die of smoking-related disease; and

(3) public health experts and economists agree that the most effective and efficient way to achieve major reduction in youth smoking rates is to raise the price of tobacco products by at least $1.50 per pack.

(b) SENSE OF THE SENATE.—It is the sense of the Senate that comprehensive tobacco legislation should increase the price of each pack of cigarettes sold by at least $1.50 through a per-pack fee or other mechanism that will guarantee a price increase of $1.50 per pack within 3 years, not including existing scheduled Federal, State, and local tax increases, with equivalent price increases on other tobacco products, and should index these price increases by an appropriate measure of inflation.

SEC. 319. FINDINGS; SENSE OF CONGRESS.

(a) Congress finds that—

(1) studies have found that quality child care, particularly for infants and young children, requires

a sensitive, interactive, loving, and consistent caregiver;

(2) as most parents meet and exceed the criteria described in paragraph (1), circumstances allowing, parental care is the best form of child care;

(3) a recent National Institute for Child Health and Development study found that the greatest factor in the development of a young child is ''what is happening at home and in families'';

(4) as a child's interaction with his or her parents has the most significant impact on the development of the child, any Federal child care policy should enable and encourage parents to spend more time with their children;

(5) nearly ½ of preschool children have at-home mothers and only ⅓ of preschool children have mothers who are employed full time;

(6) a large number of low- and middle-income families sacrifice a second full-time income so that a mother may be at home with her child;

(7) the average income of 2-parent families with a single income is $20,000 less than the average income of 2-parent families with 2 incomes;

(8) only 30 percent of preschool children are in families with paid child care and the remaining 70

percent of preschool children are in families that do not pay for child care, many of which are low- to middle-income families struggling to provide child care at home;

(9) child care proposals should not provide financial assistance solely to the 30 percent of families that pay for child care and should not discriminate against families in which children are cared for by an at-home parent; and

(10) any congressional proposal that increases child care funding should provide financial relief to families that sacrifice an entire income in order that a mother or father may be at home for a young child.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the functional totals in this concurrent resolution on the budget assume that—

(1) many families in the United States make enormous sacrifices to forego a second income in order to have a parent care for a child at home;

(2) there should be no bias against at-home parents;

(3) parents choose many different forms of child care to meet the needs of their families, such as child care provided by an at-home parent, grand-

parent, aunt, uncle, neighbor, nanny, preschool, or child care center;

(4) any quality child care proposal should include, as a key component, financial relief for those families where there is an at-home parent; and

(5) mothers and fathers who have chosen and continue to choose to be at home should be applauded for their efforts.

SEC. 320. SENSE OF THE SENATE CONCERNING IMMUNITY.

It is the sense of the Senate that the levels in this resolution assume that no immunity will be provided to any tobacco product manufacturer with respect to any health-related civil action commenced by a State or local governmental entity or an individual or class of individuals prior to or after the date of the adoption of this resolution.

SEC. 321. SENSE OF SENATE REGARDING AGRICULTURAL TRADE PROGRAMS.

It is the sense of the Senate that the functional totals in this concurrent resolution assume the Secretary of Agriculture will use agricultural trade programs established by law to promote, to the maximum extent practicable, the export of United States agricultural commodities and products.

SEC. 322. SENSE OF THE SENATE SUPPORTING LONG-TERM ENTITLEMENT REFORMS.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Senate finds that the resolution assumes the following—

(1) entitlement spending has risen dramatically over the last thirty-five years;

(2) in 1963, mandatory spending (i.e. entitlement spending and interest on the debt) made up 30 percent of the budget, this figure rose to 45 percent by 1973, to 56 percent by 1983 and to 61 percent by 1993;

(3) mandatory spending is expected to make up 68 percent of the Federal budget in 1998;

(4) absent changes, that spending is expected to take up over 70 percent of the Federal budget shortly after the year 2000 and 74 percent of the budget by the year 2008;

(5) if no action is taken, mandatory spending will consume 100 percent of the budget by the year 2030;

(6) this mandatory spending will continue to crowd out spending for the traditional ''discretionary'' functions of Government like clean air and water, a strong National defense, parks and recreation, education, our transportation system, law en-

forcement, research and development and other infrastructure spending;

(7) taking significant steps sooner rather than later to reform entitlement spending will not only boost economic growth in this country, it will also prevent the need for drastic tax and spending decisions in the next century.

(b) SENSE OF THE SENATE.—It is the sense of the Senate that the levels in this budget resolution assume that Congress and the President should work to enact structural reforms in entitlement spending in 1998 and beyond which sufficiently restrain the growth of mandatory spending in order to keep the budget in balance over the long term, extend the solvency of the Social Security and Medicare Trust Funds, avoid crowding out funding for basic Government functions and that every effort should be made to hold mandatory spending to no more than seventy percent of the budget.

SEC. 323. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING FREEDOM OF HEALTH CARE CHOICE FOR MEDICARE SENIORS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) Medicare beneficiaries should have the same right to obtain health care from the physician or

provider of their choice as do Members of Congress and virtually all other Americans.

(2) Most seniors are denied this right by current restrictions on their health care choices.

(3) Affording seniors this option would create greater health-care choices and result in fewer claims being paid out of the near-bankrupt Medicare trust funds.

(4) Legislation to uphold this right of health care choice for seniors must protect beneficiaries and Medicare from fraud and abuse. Such legislation must include provisions that—

(A) require that such contracts providing this right be in writing, be signed by the Medicare beneficiary, and provide that no claim be submitted to the Health Care Financing Administration;

(B) preclude such contracts when the beneficiary is experiencing a medical emergency;

(C) allow for the Medicare beneficiary to modify or terminate the contract prospectively at any time and to return to Medicare; and

(D) are subject to stringent fraud and abuse law, including the Medicare anti-fraud

provisions in the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that seniors have the right to see the physician or health care provider of their choice, and not be limited in such right by the imposition of unreasonable conditions on providers who are willing to treat seniors on a private basis, and that the assumptions underlying the functional totals in this resolution assume that legislation will be enacted to ensure this right.

SEC. 324. SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING REPAIR AND CONSTRUCTION NEEDS OF INDIAN SCHOOLS.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Senate finds that—

(1) many of our Nation's tribal schools are in a state of serious disrepair. The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) operates 187 school facilities nationwide. Enrollment in these schools, which presently numbers 47,214 students, has been growing rapidly. A recent General Accounting Office report indicates that the repair backlog in these schools totals $754,000,000, and that the BIA schools are in generally worse condition than all schools nationally;

(2) approximately 60 of these schools are in need of complete replacement or serious renovation. Many of the renovations include basic structural re-

pair for the safety of children, new heating components to keep students warm, and roofing replacement to keep the snow and rain out of the classroom. In addition to failing to provide adequate learning environments for Indian children, these repair and replacement needs pose a serious liability issue for the Federal Government;

(3) sixty-three percent of the BIA schools are over 30 years old, and 26 percent are over 50 years old. Approximately 40 percent of all students in BIA schools are in portable classrooms. Originally intended as temporary facilities while tribes awaited new construction funds, these ''portables'' have a maximum 10 year life-span. Because of the construction backlog, children have been shuffling between classrooms in the harsh climates of the Northern plains and Western States for 10 to 15 years;

(4) annual appropriations for BIA education facilities replacement and repair combined have averaged $20,000,000 to $30,000,000 annually, meeting only 4 percent of total need. At the present rate, one deteriorating BIA school can be replaced each year, with estimates of completion of nine schools in the next seven years. Since the new construction and repair backlog is so great and growing, the current

focus at BIA construction must remain on emergency and safety needs only, without prioritizing program needs such as increasing enrollment or technology in the classroom; and

(5) unlike most schools, the BIA schools are a responsibility of the Federal Government. Unfortunately, the failure of the Federal Government to live up to this responsibility has come at the expense of quality education for some of this Nation's poorest children with the fewest existing opportunities to better themselves.

(b) SENSE OF THE SENATE.—It is the sense of the Senate that the assumptions underlying the functional totals in this budget resolution assume that the repair and construction backlog affecting Bureau of Indian Affairs school facilities should be eliminated over a period of no more than 5 years beginning with fiscal year 1999, and that the President should submit to Congress a plan for the orderly elimination of this backlog.

SEC. 325. SENSE OF THE SENATE ON SOCIAL SECURITY PERSONAL RETIREMENT ACCOUNTS AND THE BUDGET SURPLUS.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Senate makes the following findings:

(1) The Social Security program is the foundation of retirement income for most Americans, and solving the financial problems of the Social Security program is a vital national priority and essential for the retirement security of today's working Americans and their families.

(2) There is a growing bipartisan consensus that personal retirement accounts should be an important feature of Social Security reform.

(3) Personal retirement accounts can provide a substantial retirement nest egg and real personal wealth. For an individual 28 years old on the date of the adoption of this resolution, earning an average wage, and retiring at age 65 in 2035, just 1 percent of that individual's wages deposited each year in a personal retirement account and invested in securities consisting of the Standard & Poors 500 would grow to $132,000, and be worth approximately 20 percent of the benefits that would be provided to the individual under the current provisions of the Social Security program.

(4) Personal retirement accounts would give the majority of Americans who do not own any investment assets a new stake in the economic growth of America.

(5) Personal retirement accounts would demonstrate the value of savings and the magic of compound interest to all Americans. Today, Americans save less than people in almost every other country.

(6) Personal retirement accounts would help Americans to better prepare for retirement generally. According to the Congressional Research Service, 60 percent of Americans are not actively participating in a retirement plan other than Social Security, although Social Security was never intended to be the sole source of retirement income.

(7) Personal retirement accounts would allow partial prefunding of retirement benefits, thereby providing for Social Security's future financial stability.

(8) The Federal budget will register a surplus of $671,000,000,000 over the next 10 years, offering a unique opportunity to begin a permanent solution to Social Security's financing.

(9) Using the Federal budget surplus to fund personal retirement accounts would be an important first step in comprehensive Social Security reform and ensuring the delivery of promised retirement benefits.

(b) SENSE OF THE SENATE.—It is the sense of the Senate that this resolution assumes that the Committee on Finance shall consider and report a legislative proposal this year that would dedicate the Federal budget surplus to the establishment of a program of personal retirement accounts for working Americans and reduce the unfunded liabilities of the Social Security program.

SEC. 326. SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING THE ELIMINATION OF THE MARRIAGE PENALTY.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Senate finds that:

(1) Marriage is the foundation of the American society and the key institution preserving our values.

(2) The tax code should not penalize those who choose to marry.

(3) However, the Congressional Budget Office found that 42 percent of married couples face a marriage penalty under the current tax system.

(4) The Congressional Budget Office found that the average penalty amounts to $1,380 a year.

(5) This penalty is one of the factors behind the decline of marriage.

(6) In 1970, just 0.5 percent of the couples in the United States were unmarried. By 1996, this percentage had risen to 7.2 percent.

(b) SENSE OF THE SENATE.—It is the sense of the Senate that the provisions in this budget resolution assume that the Congress shall begin to phase out the marriage penalty this year.

SEC. 327. FINDINGS AND SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING AFFORDABLE, HIGH-QUALITY HEALTH CARE FOR SENIORS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) Seniors deserve affordable, high quality health care.

(2) The Medicare program under title XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.) has made health care affordable for millions of seniors.

(3) Beneficiaries under the Medicare program deserve to know that such program will cover the benefits that they are currently entitled to.

(4) Beneficiaries under the Medicare program can pay out-of-pocket for health care services whenever they—

(A) do not want a claim for reimbursement for such services submitted to such program; or

(B) want or need to obtain health care services that such program does not cover.

(5) Beneficiaries under the Medicare program can use doctors who do not receive any reimbursement under such program.

(6) Close to 75 percent of seniors have annual incomes below $25,000, including 4 percent who have annual incomes below $5,000, making any additional out-of-pocket costs for health care services extremely burdensome.

(7) Very few beneficiaries under the Medicare program report having difficulty obtaining access to a physician who accepts reimbursement under such program.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the assumptions underlying the functional totals in this resolution assume that seniors have the right to affordable, high-quality health care, that they have the right to choose their physicians, and that no change should be made to the Medicare program that could—

(1) impose unreasonable and unpredictable out-of-pocket costs for seniors or erode the benefits that the 38,000,000 beneficiaries under the Medicare program are entitled to;

(2) compromise the efforts of the Secretary of Health and Human Services to screen inappropriate

or fraudulent claims for reimbursement under such program; and

(3) allow unscrupulous providers under such program to bill twice for the same services.

SEC. 328. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING PERMANENT EXTENSION OF INCOME AVERAGING FOR FARMERS.

It is the sense of Congress that the provisions of this resolution assume that if the revenue levels are reduced pursuant to section 201 of this resolution for tax legislation, such amount as is necessary shall be used to permanently extend income averaging for farmers for purposes of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

SEC. 329. SENSE OF THE SENATE TO MAINTAIN FULL FUNDING FOR THE SECTION 202 ELDERLY HOUSING PROGRAM.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Senate finds the following:

(1) The Section 202 Elderly Housing program is the most important housing program for elderly, low-income Americans, providing both affordable low-income housing and supportive services designed to meet the special needs of the elderly.

(2) Since 1959, the Section 202 Elderly Housing program has funded some 5,400 elderly housing projects with over 330,000 housing units, with the

current average tenant in Section 202 housing being a frail, older woman in her seventies, living alone with an income of less than $10,000 per year.

(3) The combination of affordable housing and supportive services under the Section 202 Elderly Housing program is critical to promoting independent living, self-sufficiency, and dignity for the elderly while delaying more costly institutional care.

(4) There are over 1.4 million elderly Americans currently identified as having ''worst case housing needs'' and in need of affordable housing.

(5) There are 33 million Americans aged 65 and over, some 13 percent of all Americans. The number of elderly Americans is anticipated to grow to over 69 million by the year 2030, which would be some 20 percent of all Americans, and continue to increase to almost 80 million by 2050.

(6) The President's Budget Request for fiscal year 1999 proposes reducing funding for the Section 202 Elderly Housing program from the fiscal year 1998 level of $645,000,000 to $109,000,000 in fiscal year 1999. This represents a reduction of over 83 percent in funding, which will result in reducing the construction of Section 202 housing units from

some 6,000 units in fiscal year 1998 to only 1,500 units in fiscal year 1999.

(7) The full funding of the Section 202 Elderly Housing program as an independent Federal housing program is an investment in our elderly citizens as well as our Nation.

(b) SENSE OF THE SENATE.—It is the sense of the Senate that the levels in this resolution assume that the Section 202 Elderly Housing program, as provided under section 202 of the Housing Act of 1959, as amended, shall be funded in fiscal years 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, and 2003 at not less than the fiscal year 1998 funding level of $645,000,000.

SEC. 330. SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING OUTLAY ESTIMATES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE BUDGET.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Senate makes the following findings:

(1) The Balanced Budget Act of 1997 created a new era for Federal spending and forced the Department of Defense to plan on limited spending over the five-year period from fiscal year 1998 through 2002.

(2) The agreements forged under the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 specifically defined the available

amounts of budget authority and outlays, requiring the Department of Defense to properly plan its future activities in the new, constrained budget environment.

(3) The Department of Defense worked with the Office of Management and Budget to develop a fiscal year 1999 budget which complies with the Balanced Budget Act of 1997.

(4) Based on Department of Defense program plans and policy changes, the Office of Management and Budget and the Department of Defense made detailed estimates of fiscal year 1999 Department of Defense outlay rates to ensure that the budget submitted would comply with the Balanced Budget Act of 1997.

(5) The Congressional Budget Office outlay estimate of the fiscal year 1999 Department of Defense budget request exceeds both the outlay limit imposed by the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 and the Office of Management and Budget's outlay estimate, a disagreement which would force a total restructuring of the Department of Defense's fiscal year 1999 budget.

(6) The restructuring imposed on the Department of Defense would have a devastating impact on

readiness, troop morale, military quality of life, and ongoing procurement and development programs.

(7) The restructuring of the budget would be driven solely by differing statistical estimates made by capable parties.

(8) In a letter currently under review, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget will identify multiple differences between the Office of Management and Budget's estimated outlay rates and the Congressional Budget Office's estimated outlay rates.

(9) New information on Department of Defense policy changes and program execution plans now permit the Office of Management and Budget and the Congressional Budget Office to reevaluate their initial projections of fiscal year 1999 outlay rates.

(b) SENSE OF THE SENATE.—It is the sense of the Senate that the totals underlying this concurrent resolution on the budget assume that not later than April 22, 1998, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, the Secretary of Defense, and the Director of the Congressional Budget Office shall complete discussions and develop a common estimate of the projected fiscal year 1999 outlay rates for Department of Defense accounts.

SEC. 331. SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING OUTLAY ESTIMATES FOR THE BUDGETS OF FEDERAL AGENCIES OTHER THAN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Senate makes the following findings:

(1) The Federal civilian workforce in non-Defense Department agencies shrank by 125,000 employees, or 10 percent, between 1992 and 1997.

(2) The Balanced Budget Act of 1997 assumed over $60,000,000,000 in reductions in nondefense discretionary spending over the period 1998–2002.

(3) These reductions were agreed to notwithstanding ever-increasing responsibilities in agencies engaged in fighting crime, combating the drug war, countering terrorist threats, cleaning the environment, enforcing the law, improving education, conducting health research, conducting energy research and development, enhancing the Nation's physical infrastructure, and providing veterans programs.

(4) All Federal agencies have worked closely with the Office of Management and Budget to balance much-needed programmatic needs with fiscal prudence and to submit budget requests for fiscal year 1999 that comply with the Balanced Budget Act of 1997.

(5) Reductions in the President's requests, as estimated by the Office of Management and Budget, to comply with the Congressional Budget Office's estimates could seriously jeopardize priority domestic discretionary programs.

(6) There is no mechanism through which the Congressional Budget Office and the Office of Management and Budget identify their differences in outlay rates for nondefense agencies.

(7) Such consultation would lead to greater understanding between the two agencies and potentially fewer and/or smaller differences in the future.

(b) SENSE OF THE SENATE.—It is the sense of the Senate that the totals underlying this concurrent resolution on the budget assume that not later than April 22, 1998, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget and the Director of the Congressional Budget Office, in consultation with the Secretaries of the affected nondefense agencies, shall complete discussions and develop a common estimate of the projected fiscal year 1999 outlay rates for accounts in nondefense agencies.

SEC. 332. SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING AN EVALUATION OF THE OUTCOME OF WELFARE REFORM.

It is the sense of the Senate that the budgetary levels in this resolution assume that—

(1) the Secretary of Health and Human Services will, as part of the annual report to Congress under section 411 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 611), include data regarding the rate of employment, job retention, and earnings characteristics of former recipients of assistance under the State programs funded under part A of title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 401 et seq.) for each such State program; and

(2) for purposes of the annual report for fiscal year 1997, the information described in paragraph (1) will be transmitted to Congress not later than September 1, 1998.

SEC. 333. SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATIONAL BACKGROUND CHECK SYSTEM FOR LONG-TERM CARE WORKERS.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Senate makes the following findings:

(1) The impending retirement of the baby boom generation will greatly increase the demand and

need for quality long-term care and it is incumbent on Congress and the President to ensure that Medicare and Medicaid patients are protected from abuse, neglect, and mistreatment.

(2) Although the majority of long-term care facilities do an excellent job in caring for elderly and disabled patients, incidents of abuse and neglect and mistreatment do occur at an unacceptable rate and are not limited to nursing homes alone.

(3) Current Federal and State safeguards are inadequate because there is little or no information sharing between States about known abusers and no common State procedures for tracking abusers from State to State and facility to facility.

(b) SENSE OF THE SENATE.—It is the sense of the Senate that the assumptions underlying the functional totals in this concurrent resolution on the budget assume that a national registry of abusive long-term care workers should be established by building upon existing infrastructures at the Federal and State levels that would enable long-term care providers who participate in the Medicare and Medicaid programs (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.; 1396 et seq.) to conduct background checks on prospective employees.

SEC. 334. SENSE OF THE SENATE ON EXPANDING MEDICARE BENEFITS.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Senate finds the following:

(1) In the 1997 Balanced Budget Agreement, changes were made to Medicare that extended the solvency of the Trust Fund for 10 years.

(2) The Medicare Commission, also established in the Balanced Budget Agreement, has just started the task of examining the Medicare program in an effort to make sound policy recommendations to Congress and the Administration about what needs to be done to ensure that Medicare is financially prepared to handle the added burden when the baby boomers begin retiring.

(3) The problems facing Medicare are not about more revenues. The program needs to do more to improve the health care status of retirees and give them more choices and better information to make wise consumer decisions when purchasing health care services.

(4) Improving the health care status of senior citizens would ensure additional savings for Medicare. Helping seniors stay healthier should be a priority of any legislation aimed at protecting Medicare.

(5) In order to keep seniors healthier, Medicare has to become more prevention based. Currently,

Medicare offers prevention benefits, and the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 made a substantial investment in prevention benefits, providing $8,500,000,000 over 10 years.

(6) Preventing illnesses or long hospital stays or repeated hospital stays will save Medicare dollars.

(7) Medicare cannot be saved without structural changes and reforms.

(b) SENSE OF THE SENATE.—It is the sense of the Senate that the functional totals underlying this resolution assume that the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 directed the National Bipartisan Commission on the future of Medicare to examine Medicare's benefit structure, including prevention benefits, and make recommendations to the Congress on such benefits in the context of an overall plan to extend the solvency of the program.

SEC. 335. SENSE OF THE SENATE ON BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION.

It is the sense of the Senate that the budget levels in this resolution assume that—

(1) preserving Revolutionary War, War of 1812, and Civil War battlefields is an integral part of preserving our Nation's history;

(2) the Secretary of the Interior should give special priority to the preservation of Revolutionary

War and War of 1812 battlefields, by making funds available for the conduct of the Revolutionary War and War of 1812 Historic Preservation Study as authorized by section 603 of Public Law 104–333 (16 U.S.C. 1a–5 note); and

(3) the Secretary of the Interior should give special priority to the preservation of Revolutionary War, War of 1812, and Civil War battlefields by allocating funds in the Land and Water Conservation Fund for the purchase of battlefield sites the integrity of which is threatened by urban or suburban development.

SEC. 336. A RESOLUTION REGARDING THE SENATE'S SUPPORT FOR FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Senate finds that—

(1) our Federal, State and local law enforcement officers provide essential services that preserve and protect our freedom and safety, and with the support of Federal assistance, State and local law enforcement officers have succeeded in reducing the national scourge of violent crime, illustrated by a murder rate in 1996 which is projected to be the lowest since 1971 and a violent crime total in 1996 which is the lowest since 1990;

(2) through a comprehensive effort to attack violence against women mounted by State and local law enforcement, and dedicated volunteers and professionals who provide victim services, shelter, counseling and advocacy to battered women and their children, important strides have been made against the national scourge of violence against women, illustrated by the decline in the murder rate for wives, ex-wives and girlfriends at the hands of their ''intimates'' fell to a 19-year low in 1995;

(3) recent gains by Federal, State and local law enforcement in the fight against violent crime and violence against women are fragile, and continued financial commitment from the Federal Government for funding and financial assistance is required to sustain and build upon these gains; and

(4) the Violent Crime Reduction Trust Fund as adopted by the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 funds the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, the Violence Against Women Act of 1994, and the Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996 without adding to the Federal budget deficit.

(b) SENSE OF THE SENATE.—It is the sense of the Senate that the provisions and the functional totals under-

lying this resolution assume the Federal Government's commitment to fund Federal law enforcement programs and programs to assist State and local efforts to combat violent crime, including violence against women, shall be maintained and funding for the Violent Crime Reduction Trust Fund shall continue to at least fiscal year 2003.

SEC. 337. SENSE OF THE SENATE ON ANALYSIS OF CIVILIAN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMS IN THE FEDERAL BUDGET.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Senate finds the following:

(1) The National Academy of Sciences, National Academy of Engineering, and Institute of Medicine have recommended, in their 1995 report, entitled ''Allocating Federal Funds for Science and Technology'', that the Federal science and technology budget ''be presented as a comprehensive whole in the President's budget and similarly considered as a whole at the beginning of the congressional budget process before the total Federal budget is disaggregated and sent to the appropriations committees and subcommittees''.

(2) Civilian Federal agencies are supporting more than $35,000,000,000 of research and development in fiscal year 1998, but it is difficult for the Congress and the public to track or understand this

support because it is dispersed among 12 different budget functions.

(3) A meaningful examination of the overall Federal budget for science and technology, consistent with the recommendation of the National Academies, as well as an examination of science and technology budgets in individual civilian agencies, would be facilitated if the President's budget request clearly displayed the amounts requested for science and technology programs across all civilian agencies and classified these amounts in Budget Function 250.

(b) SENSE OF THE SENATE.—It is the sense of the Senate that the congressional budget for the United States for fiscal years 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, and 2004 should consolidate the spending for all Federal civilian science and technology programs in Budget Function 250, and that the President should accordingly transmit to the Congress a budget request for fiscal year 2000 that classifies these programs, across all Federal civilian departments and agencies, in Budget Function 250.

SEC. 338. SENSE OF THE SENATE ON CIVILIAN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMS IN THE FEDERAL BUDGET.

It is the sense of the Senate that the assumptions underlying the function totals in this budget resolution as-

sume that expenditures for civilian science and technology programs in the Federal budget will double over the period from fiscal year 1998 to fiscal year 2008.

SEC. 339. SENSE OF THE SENATE ON LONG-TERM BUDGETING AND REPAYMENT OF THE PUBLIC DEBT.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Senate finds that—

(1) today, there are 34,000,000 Americans over the age of 65, and by the year 2030, that number will grow to nearly 70,000,000;

(2) in 1963, mandatory spending represented 30 percent of the Federal budget, while discretionary spending made up 70 percent, and by 1998, those proportions have almost completely reversed, in that mandatory spending now accounts for 68 percent of the Federal budget, while discretionary spending represents 32 percent;

(3) according to the 1997 Annual Report of the Board of Trustees of the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance and Disability Insurance (OASDI) Trust Fund—

(A) the difference between the income and benefits for the OASDI program is a deficit of 2.23 percent of taxable payroll;

(B) the assets in the Trust Fund are expected to be depleted under present law in the year 2029;

(C) by the time the assets in the Trust Fund are depleted, annual tax revenues will be sufficient to cover only three-fourths of the annual expenditures;

(D) intermediate estimates are that OASDI will absorb nearly 17.5 percent of national payroll by the year 2030; and

(E) the cost of the OASDI program is estimated to rise from its current level of 4.7 percent of Gross Domestic Product to 6.7 percent by the end of the 75-year projection period;

(4) according to reports by the Congressional Budget Office, the Economic and Budget Outlook: Fiscal Years 1999-2008 (January 1998) and Reducing the Deficit: Spending and Revenue Options (March 1997)—

(A) the Medicare Part A Trust Fund will be exhausted early in fiscal year 2010;

(B) enrollment in Medicare will increase dramatically as the baby boomers reach age 65;

(C) between the years 2010 and 2030, enrollment in Medicare is projected to grow by 2.4

percent per year, up from the 1.4 percent average annual growth projected through 2007;

(D) by the year 2030, Medicare enrollment will have doubled, to 75,000,000 people; and

(E) the increase in Medicare enrollment caused by the aging of the population will be accompanied by a tapering of the growth rate of the working age population, and the number of workers will drop from 3.8 for every Medicare beneficiary in 1997 to 2.02 per beneficiary by 2030;

(5) the demographic shift that is currently taking place, and will continue for the next 30 years, will put a tremendous burden on workers as the cost of programs such as Social Security and Medicare are borne by proportionately fewer workers;

(6) the current Budget Resolution, which projects revenues and spending only for the next 10 years, does not give Congress a clear picture of the budget problems that confront the United States shortly after the turn of the century;

(7) currently, 14 percent of the Federal budget is spent on interest payments on the national debt; and

(8) if projected surpluses are used entirely for debt reduction and current tax and spending policies remain unchanged, the share of Federal income needed to pay interest would drop below 5 percent within 12 years, and in 1997, that 10 percentage-point reduction would have amounted to $158,000,000,000 available for other priorities.

(b) SENSE OF THE SENATE.—It is the sense of the Senate that the functional totals in this concurrent resolution assume that future budget resolutions and future budgets submitted by the President should include—

(1) an analysis for the period of 30 fiscal years beginning with such fiscal year, of the estimated levels of total budget outlays and total new budget authority, the estimated revenues to be received, the estimated surplus or deficit, if any, for each major Federal entitlement program for each fiscal year in such period; and

(2) a specific accounting of payments, if any, made to reduce the public debt, or unfunded liabilities associated with each major Federal entitlement program.

SEC. 340. SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING PRESIDENT'S BUDGET.

It is the sense of the Senate that the budgetary levels in this resolution assume that the President should submit, as part of the budget request of the President that is submitted to Congress, a study of the impact of the provisions of the budget on each generation of Americans and its long-term effects on each generation.

SEC. 341. SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING THE VALUE OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM FOR FUTURE RETIREES.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Senate makes the following findings:

(1) The Social Security system has allowed a generation of Americans to retire with dignity. Today, 13 percent of the population is 65 or older and by 2030, 20 percent of the population will be 65 or older. More than ½ of the elderly do not receive private pensions and more than ⅓ have no income from assets.

(2) For 60 percent of all senior citizens, Social Security benefits provide almost 80 percent of their retirement income. For 80 percent of all senior citizens, Social Security benefits provide over 50 percent of their retirement income.

(3) Poverty rates among the elderly are at the lowest level since the United States began to keep poverty statistics, due in large part to the Social Security system.

(4) 78 percent of Americans pay more in payroll taxes than they do in income taxes.

(5) According to the 1997 report of the Managing Trustee for the Social Security trust funds, the accumulated balance in the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund is estimated to fall to zero by 2029, and the estimated payroll tax at that time will be sufficient to cover only 75 percent of the benefits owed to retirees at that time.

(6) The average American retiring in the year 2015 will pay $250,000 in payroll taxes over the course of a working career.

(7) Future generations of Americans must be guaranteed the same value from the Social Security system as past covered recipients.

(b) SENSE OF THE SENATE.—It is the sense of the Senate that the budgetary levels in this resolution assume that no change in the Social Security system should be made that would reduce the value of the Social Security system for future generations of retirees.

SEC. 342. SENSE OF THE SENATE ON THE LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND.

It is the sense of the Senate that the budget levels in this resolution assume that programs funded from the Land and Water Conservation Fund should be funded in the full amount authorized by law.

SEC. 343. SENSE OF THE SENATE ON EDUCATION GOALS.

It is the sense of the Senate that the functional totals underlying this resolution assume that the Federal Government should work hand-in-hand with States, school districts, and local leaders—

(1) to accomplish the following goals by the year 2005:

(A) establish achievement levels and assessments in every grade for the core academic curriculum; measure each regular student's performance; and prohibit the practice of social promotion of students (promoting students routinely from one grade to the next without regard to their academic achievement);

(B) provide remedial programs for students whose achievement levels indicate they should not be promoted to the next grade;

(C) create smaller schools to enable students to have closer interaction with teachers;

(D) require at least 180 days per year of instruction in core curriculum subjects;

(E) recruit new teachers who are adequately trained and credentialed in the subject or subjects they teach and encourage excellent, experienced teachers to remain in the classroom by providing adequate salaries; require all teachers to be credentialed and limit emergency or temporary teaching credentials to a limited period of time; hold teachers and principals accountable to high educational standards; and

(F) require all regular students to pass an examination in basic core curriculum subjects in order to receive a high school diploma; and

(2) to reaffirm the importance of public schooling and commit to guaranteeing excellence and accountability in the public schools of this Nation.

SEC. 344. FINDINGS AND SENSE OF THE SENATE.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Senate finds that—

(1) while it is important to study the effects of class size on learning and study the need to hire more teachers, each type of study must be carried out in conjunction with an effort to ensure that there will be quality teachers in every classroom;

(2) all children deserve well-educated teachers;

(3) there is a teacher quality crisis in the United States;

(4) individuals entering a classroom as teachers should have a sound grasp on the subject the individuals intend to teach, and the individuals should know how to teach;

(5) less than 40 percent of the individuals teaching core subjects (consisting of English, mathematics, science, social studies, and foreign languages) majored or minored in the core subjects;

(6) the quality of teachers impacts student achievement;

(7) the measure of a good teacher is how much and how well the teacher's students learn;

(8) teachers should have the opportunity to learn new technology and teaching methods through the establishment of teacher training facilities so that teachers can share their new knowledge and experiences with children in the classroom;

(9) school officials should have the flexibility the officials need to have teachers in their schools adequately trained to meet strenuous teacher standards;

(10) knowledgeable and eager individuals of sound character and various professional back-

grounds should be encouraged to enter kindergarten through grade 12 classrooms as teachers; and

(11) States should have maximum flexibility and incentives to create alternative teacher certification and licensure programs in order to recruit well-educated people into the teaching profession.

(b) SENSE OF THE SENATE.—It is the sense of the Senate that the functional totals in this concurrent resolution on the budget assume—

(1) the enactment of legislation to provide assistance for programs that—

(A) focus on teacher training delivered through local partnerships, with private and public partners, to ensure that current and future teachers possess necessary teaching skills and knowledge of subject areas; and

(B) focus on alternative certification to recruit knowledgeable and eager individuals of sound character to enter kindergarten through grade 12 classrooms as teachers;

(2) that the quality of teachers can be strengthened by improving the academic knowledge of teachers in the subject areas in which the teachers teach;

(3) that institutions of higher education should be held accountable to prepare teachers who are

highly competent in the subject areas in which the teachers teach, including preparing teachers by providing training in the effective uses of technologies in classrooms; and

(4) that there should be recruitment into teaching of high quality individuals, including individuals from other occupations.

SEC. 345. SENSE OF THE SENATE ON INS CIRCUIT RIDERS IN THE FORMER SOVIET UNION.

It is the sense of the Senate that the provisions of this resolution assume that included in the funding for the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) is $2,000,000 for the establishment of INS circuit riders in the former Soviet Union for the purpose of processing refugees and conducting medical examinations of refugees who will enter the United States under the Refugee Act of 1980.

SEC. 346. SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING FUNDING FOR THE AIRPORT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM.

It is the sense of the Senate that the congressional budget for the United States Government as provided for in this resolution should assure that—

(1) the contract authority level for the Airport Improvement Program (provided for in part B of subtitle VII of title 49, United States Code) not be

reduced below the current level of $2,347,000,000; and

(2) the critical infrastructure development, maintenance, and repair of airports not be jeopardized.

SEC. 347. SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION SHOULD REAUTHORIZE FUNDS FOR THE FARMLAND PROTECTION PROGRAM.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Senate makes the following findings—

(1) eighteen States and dozens of localities have spent nearly $1,000,000,000 to protect over 600,000 acres of important farmland;

(2) the Farmland Protection Program has provided cost-sharing for 18 States and dozens of localities to protect over 82,000 acres on 230 farms since 1996;

(3) the Farmland Protection Program has generated new interest in saving farmland in communities around the country;

(4) the Farmland Protection Program represents an innovative and voluntary partnership, rewards local ingenuity, and supports local priorities;

(5) current funds authorized for the Farmland Protection Program will be exhausted in the next six months;

(6) the United States is losing two acres of our best farmland to development every minute of every day;

(7) these lands produce three quarters of the fruits and vegetables and over one half of the dairy in the United States.

(b) SENSE OF THE SENATE.—It is the sense of the Senate that the functional totals contained in this resolution assume that the One Hundred Fifth Congress, Second Session will reauthorize funds for the Farmland Protection Program.

SEC. 348. SENSE OF THE SENATE ON HEALTH CARE QUALITY.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Senate makes the following findings—

(1) out of a total 549 plans under the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program, which includes fee-for-service, point of service, and Health Maintenance Organizations, only 186 were fully accredited;

(2) out of a total 549 plans under the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program, which includes

fee-for-service, point of service, and Health Maintenance Organizations, 7 were denied accreditation.

(b) SENSE OF THE SENATE.—It is the sense of the Senate that the assumptions underlying this resolution provide for the enactment of legislation requiring all health plans participating in the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program to be accredited by a nationally recognized accreditation organization representative of a spectrum of health care interests including purchasers, consumers, providers and health plans.

SEC. 349. SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING WASTEFUL SPENDING IN DEFENSE DEPARTMENT ACQUISITION PRACTICES.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Senate finds that—

(1) according to the Defense Department's Inspector General, despite efforts to streamline Government purchases, the military, in some cases, paid more than ''fair value'' for many items;

(2) efficient purchasing policies, in the context of decreasing defense budgets, are more important than ever to ensure Defense Department spending contributes to military readiness.

(b) SENSE OF THE SENATE.—It is the sense of the Senate that the provisions of this resolution assume that the Defense Department should continue efforts to elimi-

nate wasteful spending such that defense spending allocated in the fiscal year 1999 budget, and all subsequent budgets, is spent in the manner most efficient to maintain and promote military readiness for United States Armed Forces around the globe.

SEC. 350. SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING THE UNITED STATES RESPONSE TO THE CHANGING NATURE OF TERRORISM.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Senate finds that—

(1) the threat of terrorism to American citizens and interests remains high, with Americans suffering one-third of the total terrorist attacks in the world in 1997;

(2) the terrorist threat is changing—while past acts were generally limited to the use of conventional explosives and weapons, terrorists today are exploiting technological advances and increasingly lethal tools and strategies to pursue their agenda;

(3) on a worldwide basis, terrorists are focusing on afflicting mass casualties on civilian targets through the acquisition of chemical, biological and nuclear weapons of mass destruction;

(4) chemical and biological weapons in the hands of terrorists or rogue nations constitute a threat to the United States;

(5) the multifaceted nature of the terrorist threat encompasses not only foreign terrorists targeting American citizens and interests abroad, but foreign terrorists operating within the United States itself, as well as domestic terrorists;

(6) terrorists groups are becoming increasingly multinational, more associated with criminal activity, and less responsive to external influences;

(7) terrorists exploit America's free and open society to illegally enter the country, raise funds, recruit new members, spread propaganda, and plan future activities;

(8) terrorists are also making use of computer technology to communicate, solicit money and support, and store information essential to their operations;

(9) State sponsors of terrorism and other foreign countries are known to be developing computer intrusion and manipulation capabilities which could pose a threat to essential public and private information systems in the United States;

(10) the infrastructures deemed critical to the United States are the telecommunications networks, the electric power grid, oil and gas distribution, water distribution facilities, transportation systems,

financial networks, emergency services, and the continuity of Government services, the disruption of which could result in significant losses to the United States economic well-being, public welfare, or national security;

(11) a national strategy of infrastructure protection, as required by the Defense Appropriations Act of 1996, and subsequent amendments, has yet to be issued; and

(12) we as a Nation remain fundamentally unprepared to respond in a coordinated and effective manner to these growing terrorist threats.

(b) SENSE OF THE SENATE.—It is the sense of the Senate that the provisions of this resolution assume that—

(1) the Federal Government must take the lead in establishing effective coordination between intelligence-gathering and law enforcement agencies, among Federal, State, and local levels of Government, and with the private sector, for the purpose of assessing, warning, and protecting against terrorist attacks;

(2) technical preparedness for the detection and analysis of chemical and biological weapons, and for swift and adequate emergency response to their use

by terrorists, must be a near-term continuing priority;

(3) the United States must seek full international cooperation in securing the capture and conviction of terrorists who attack or pose a threat to American citizens and interests;

(4) the United States should fully enforce its laws intended to deny foreign terrorist organizations the ability to raise money in the United States, prevent the evasion of our immigration laws and furthering of criminal activities, and curtail the use of our country as a base of operations; and

(5) a national strategy, adequate to addressing the complexity of protecting our critical infrastructures, and as required by the Defense Appropriations Act of 1996 and subsequent amendments, must be completed and implemented immediately.

SEC. 351. SENSE OF THE SENATE ON ECONOMIC GROWTH, SOCIAL SECURITY, AND GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY.

It is the sense of the Senate that the functional totals underlying this resolution assume that—

(1) the elimination of a discretionary spending program may be used for either tax cuts or to reform the Social Security system;

(2) the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, and other appropriate budget rules and laws should be amended to implement the policy stated in paragraph (1).

SEC. 352. SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING A SUPER-MAJORITY REQUIREMENT FOR RAISING TAXES.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Senate finds that—

(1) the Nation's current tax system is indefensible, being overly complex, burdensome, and severely limiting to economic opportunity for all Americans;

(2) fundamental tax reform should be undertaken as soon as practicable to produce a tax system that—

(A) applies a low tax rate, through easily understood laws, to all Americans;

(B) provides tax relief for working Americans;

(C) protects the rights of taxpayers and reduces tax collection abuses;

(D) eliminates the bias against savings and investment;

(E) promotes economic growth and job creation;

(F) does not penalize marriage or families; and

(G) provides for a taxpayer-friendly collections process to replace the Internal Revenue Service; and

(3) the stability and longevity of any new tax system designed to achieve these goals should be guaranteed with a supermajority vote requirement so that Congress cannot easily raise tax rates, impose new taxes, or otherwise increase the amount of a taxpayer's income that is subject to tax.

(b) SENSE OF SENATE.—It is the sense of Senate that the assumptions underlying the functional totals of this resolution assume fundamental tax reform that is accompanied by a proposal to amend the Constitution of the United States to require a supermajority vote in each House of Congress to approve tax increases.

SEC. 353. SENSE OF THE SENATE ON HEALTH CARE QUALITY.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Senate makes the following findings:

(1) Rapid changes in the health care marketplace have compromised confidence in the our Nation's health system.

(2) American consumers want more convenience, fewer hassles, more choices, and better service from their health insurance plans.

(3) All Americans deserve quality-driven health care supported by sound science and evidence-based medicine.

(4) The Federal Government, through the National Institutes of Health, supports research that improves the quality of medical care that Americans receive.

(5) This resolution assumes increased funding for the National Institutes of Health for 1999 of $15,100,000,000, an 11-percent increase over current funding levels, which are 7 percent higher than in 1997.

(6) As the largest purchaser of health care services, the Federal Government has a responsibility to utilize its purchasing power to demand high quality health plans and providers for its health programs and to protect its beneficiaries from inferior medical care.

(7) The Federal Government must adopt the posture of private sector purchasers and insist on high quality care for the 67,000,000 Medicare and

Medicaid beneficiaries and the 9,000,000 Federal employees, retirees, and their dependents.

(8) The private sector has proven to be more capable of keeping pace with the rapid changes in health care delivery and medical practice that affect quality of care considerations than the Federal Government.

(9) As Congress considers health care legislation, it must first commit to ''do no harm'' to health care quality, consumers, and the evolving market place. Rushing to legislate or regulate based on anecdotal information and micro-managing health plans on politically popular issues will not solve the problems of consumer confidence and the quality of our health care system.

(10) When health insurance premiums rise, Americans lose health coverage. Studies indicate that a 1 percent increase in private health insurance premiums will be associated with an increase in the number of persons without insurance of about 400,000 persons.

(11) Health care costs have begun to rise significantly in the past year. The Congressional Budget Office (referred to as ''CBO'') projects that the growth in health premiums will be 5.5 percent in

1998 up from 3.8 percent in 1997. CBO continues to project that premiums will grow about 1 percentage point faster than the Gross Domestic Product in the longer run. CBO also warns that new Federal mandates on health insurance could exacerbate this increase in premiums.

(12) The President's Advisory Commission on Consumer Protection and Quality in the Health Care Industry developed the Consumer Bill of Rights and Responsibilities. This includes information disclosure, confidentiality of health information, and choice of providers.

(13) The President's Commission further determined that private sector organizations have the capacity to act in a timely manner needed to keep pace with the swiftly evolving health system.

(b) SENSE OF THE SENATE.—It is the sense of the Senate that the assumptions underlying this resolution assume that the Senate will not pass any health care legislation that will—

(1) make health insurance unaffordable for working families and increase the number of uninsured Americans;

(2) divert limited health care resources away from serving patients to paying lawyers and hiring new bureaucrats; or

(3) impose political considerations on clinical decisions, instead of allowing such decisions to be made on the basis of sound science and the best interests of patients.

SEC. 354. SENSE OF THE SENATE ON THE USE OF BUDGET SURPLUS FOR TAX RELIEF OR DEBT REDUCTION.

It is the sense of the Senate that this resolution assumes that any budget surplus should be dedicated to debt reduction or direct tax relief for hard-working American families.

SEC. 355. USE OF BUDGET SURPLUS TO REFORM SOCIAL SECURITY.

It is the sense of the Senate that the assumptions underlying the functional totals included in the resolution assume:

(1) The Congress and the President should use any budget surplus to reduce the Social Security payroll tax and to establish personal retirement accounts with the tax reduction for hard-working Americans.

(2) The Congress and the President should not use the Social Security surplus to finance general Government programs and other spending, should begin to build real assets for the trust funds, and work to reform the Social Security system.

SEC. 356. SENSE OF THE SENATE ON COLOMBIAN DRUG WAR HELICOPTERS.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Senate finds that—

(1) Colombia is the leading illicit drug producing country in the Western Hemisphere;

(2) 80 percent of the world's cocaine originates in Colombia;

(3) based on the most recent data of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), more than 60 percent of the heroin seized in the United States originates in Colombia;

(4) in the last 10 years more than 4,000 officers of the Colombian National Police have died fighting the scourge of drugs;

(5) in one recent year alone, according to data of the United States Government, the United States had 141,000 new heroin users and the United States faces historic levels of heroin use among teenagers between the ages of 12 and 17;

(6) once Colombian heroin is in the stream of commerce it is nearly impossible to interdict because it is concealed and trafficked in very small quantities;

(7) the best and most cost efficient method of preventing Colombian heroin from entering the United States is to destroy the opium poppies in the high Andes mountains where Colombian heroin is produced;

(8) the elite anti-narcotics unit of the Colombian National Police has the responsibility to eradicate both coca and opium in Colombia, including the reduction and elimination of cocaine and heroin production, and they have done a remarkably effective job with the limited and outdated equipment at their disposal;

(9) more than 40 percent of the anti-narcotics operations of the Colombian National Police involve hostile ground fire from narco-terrorists and 90 percent of such operations involve the use of helicopters;

(10) the need for better high performance helicopters by the Colombian National Police, especially for use in the high Andes mountains, is essential for more effective eradication of opium in Colombia;

(11) on December 23, 1997, one of the antiquated Vietnam-era UH–1H Huey helicopters used by the Colombian National Police in an opium eradication mission crashed in the high Andes mountains due to high winds and because it was flying above the safety level recommended by the original manufacturer;

(12) in the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 1998 (Public Law 105–118), amounts were appropriated for the procurement by the United States for the Colombian National Police of three UH–60L Blackhawk utility helicopters that can operate safely and more effectively at the high altitudes of the Andes mountains where Colombian opium grows at altitudes as high as 12,000 feet;

(13) the Blackhawk helicopter is a high performance utility helicopter, with greater lift capacity, that can perform at the high altitudes of the Andes mountains, as well as survive crashes and sustain ground fire, much better than any other utility helicopter now available to the Colombian National Police in the war on drugs;

(14) because the Vietnam-era Huey helicopters that the United States has provided the Colombian

National Police are outdated and have been developing numerous stress cracks, a sufficient number should be upgraded to Huey II's and the remainder should be phased-out as soon as possible;

(15) these Huey helicopters are much older than most of the pilots who fly them, do not have the range due to limited fuel capacity to reach many of the expanding locations of the coca fields or cocaine labs in southern Colombia, nor do they have the lift capacity to carry enough armed officers to reach and secure the opium fields in the high Andes mountains prior to eradication;

(16) the elite anti-narcotics unit of the Colombian National Police has a stellar record in respecting for human rights and has received the commendation of a leading international human rights group in their operations to reduce and eradicate illicit drugs in Colombia;

(17) the narco-terrorists of Colombia have announced that they will now target United States citizens, particularly those United States citizens working with their Colombian counterparts in the fight against illicit drugs in Colombia;

(18) a leading commander of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (''FARC'') announced re-

cently that the objective of these narco-terrorists, in light of recent successes, will be ''to defeat the Americans'';

(19) United States Government personnel in Colombia who fly in these helicopters accompanying the Colombian National Police on missions are now at even greater risk from these narco-terrorists and their drug trafficking allies;

(20) in the last six months four anti-narcotics helicopters of the Colombian National Police have been downed in operations;

(21) Congress intends to provide the necessary support and assistance to wage an effective war on illicit drugs in Colombia and provide the equipment and assistance needed to protect all of the men and women of the Colombian National Police as well as those Americans who work side by side with the Colombian National Police in this common struggle against illicit drugs;

(22) the new Government of Bolivia has made a commitment to eradicate coca and cocaine production in that country within 5 years;

(23) the United States should support any country that is interested in removing the scourge of drugs from its citizens; and

(24) Bolivia has succeeded, in large measure due to United States assistance, in reducing acreage used to produce coca, which is the basis for cocaine production.

(b) SENSE OF THE SENATE.—It is the sense of the Senate that the functional totals underlying this resolution assume that—

(1) the President should, with funds made available under Public Law 105–118, expeditiously procure and provide to the Colombian National Police three UH–60L Blackhawk utility helicopters solely for the purpose of assisting the Colombian National Police to perform their responsibilities to reduce and eliminate the production of illicit drugs in Colombia and the trafficking of such illicit drugs, including the trafficking of drugs such as heroin and cocaine to the United States;

(2) if the President determines that the procurement and transfer to the Colombian National Police of three UH–60L Blackhawk utility helicopters is not an adequate number of such helicopters to maintain operational feasibility and effectiveness of the Colombian National Police, then the President should promptly inform Congress as to the appropriate number of additional UH–60L

Blackhawk utility helicopters for the Colombian National Police so that amounts can be authorized for the procurement and transfer of such additional helicopters; and

(3) assistance for Bolivia should be maintained at least at the level assumed in the fiscal year 1998 budget submission of the President and the Administration should act accordingly.

SEC. 357. SENSE OF THE SENATE ON FUNDING FOR MEDICAL CARE FOR VETERANS.

It is the sense of the Senate that the functional totals underlying this resolution assume that $40,274,000 in additional amounts above the President's budget levels will be made available for veterans health care for fiscal year 1999.

SEC. 358. SENSE OF THE SENATE ON OBJECTION TO THE USE OF THE SALE OF PUBLIC LANDS TO FUND CERTAIN PROGRAMS.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Senate finds that the Budget Committee Report accompanying this resolution assumes that the landowner incentive program of the Endangered Species Recovery Act would be funded ''from the gross receipts realized in the sales of excess BLM land: *Provided,* That BLM has sufficient administrative funds to conduct such sales''.

(b) SENSE OF THE SENATE.—It is the sense of the Senate that the functional totals underlying this resolution assume that—

(1) the landowner incentive program included in the Endangered Species Recovery Act should be financed from a dedicated source of funding; and

(2) public lands should not be sold to fund the landowner incentive program of the Endangered Species Recovery Act through their proceeds alone, if subsequent legislation provides an alternative or mixed, dedicated source of mandatory funding.

SEC. 359. SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING A MULTINATIONAL ALLIANCE AGAINST DRUG TRAFFICKING.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Senate finds that—

(1) the traffic in illegal drugs greatly threatens democracy, security and stability in the Western Hemisphere due to the violence and corruption associated with drug trafficking organizations;

(2) drug trafficking organizations operate without respect for borders or national sovereignty;

(3) the production, transport, sale, and use of illicit drugs endangers the people and legitimate institutions of all countries in the hemisphere;

(4) no single country can successfully confront and defeat this common enemy;

(5) full bilateral cooperation with the United States to reduce the flow of drugs is in the national interests of our neighbors in the hemisphere;

(6) in addition, victory in the hemispheric battle against drug traffickers requires expanded multilateral cooperation among the nations of the region.

(b) SENSE OF THE SENATE.—It is the sense of the Senate that the provisions of this resolution assume that in addition to existing bilateral cooperative efforts, the Administration should promote at the Summit of the Americas and in other fora the concept of a multinational hemispheric ''war alliance'' bringing together the United States and key illicit drug producing and transiting countries in the Western Hemisphere for the purpose of implementing a coordinated plan of action against illegal drug trafficking and promoting full cooperation against this common menace.

SEC. 360. SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING LEGISLATION THAT INCREASES COMPLEXITY OF TAX RETURNS.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Senate finds the following:

(1) As part of the consideration by the Senate of tax cuts for the families of America, the Senate

should also examine the condition of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

(2) According to the Congressional Research Service, the Revenue Reconciliation Act of 1997 added 1,000,000 words and 315 pages to the Internal Revenue Code.

(3) The Internal Revenue Code continues to grow more complex and difficult for the average taxpayer to understand, and the average tax return has become more time-consuming to prepare.

(4) The average taxpayer will spend 9 hours and 54 minutes preparing Form 1040 for the 1997 tax year.

(5) The average taxpayer spends between 21 and 28 hours each year on tax matters.

(6) In 1995, 58,965,000 of the 118,218,327 tax returns that were filed, almost 50 percent, were filed by taxpayers who utilized the help of a paid tax preparer.

(7) The average taxpayer spends $72 each year for tax preparation.

(8) The total burden on all taxpayers of maintaining records, and preparing and filing tax returns is estimated to be in excess of 1,600,000 hours per year.

(b) SENSE OF THE SENATE.—It is the sense of the Senate that the budgetary levels in this resolution assume that the Senate should give priority to tax proposals that simplify the tax code and reject proposals that add greater complexity in the tax code and increased compliance costs for the taxpayer.

SEC. 361. GENERAL PROHIBITION ON THE USE OF MARIJUANA FOR MEDICINAL PURPOSES.

It is the sense of the Senate that the provisions of this resolution assume that no funds appropriated by Congress should be used to provide, procure, furnish, fund or support, or to compel any individual, institution or government entity to provide, procure, furnish, fund or support, any item, good, benefit, program or service, for the purpose of the use of marijuana for medicinal purposes, except that this section shall not apply to medical research and investigational new drug programs under the jurisdiction of the Food and Drug Administration.

SEC. 362. SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING AMTRAK FUNDING.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Senate finds that—

(1) on November 13, 1997 the Senate unanimously passed the Amtrak Reform and Accountability Act of 1997, Public Law 105–134, authorizing appropriations of $1,058,000,000 for fiscal year

1999; $1,023,000,000 for fiscal year 2000; $989,000,000 for fiscal year 2001; and $955,000,000 for fiscal year 2002, totaling $4,025,000,000 for fiscal years 1999–2002;

(2) in Public Law 105–134 the Congress declared that ''intercity rail passenger service is an essential component of a national intermodal passenger transportation system'';

(3) section 201 of the Amtrak Reform and Accountability Act of 1997 has now statutorily formalized prior Congressional directives to Amtrak to reach operating self-sufficiency by fiscal year 2002;

(4) the Congress and the President, through enactment of this legislation, have effectively agreed that Congress will provide adequate funding to permit Amtrak to achieve the goal of operating self-sufficiency;

(5) capital investment is critical to reducing operating costs and increasing the quality of Amtrak service;

(6) capital investment is essential to improving Amtrak's long-term financial health;

(7) the $2,200,000,000 provided to Amtrak through the Taxpayer Relief Act is for the sole purpose of capital expenditures and other qualified ex-

penses and is intended to supplement, not supplant, annual appropriations.

(b) SENSE OF THE SENATE.—It is the sense of the Senate that the assumptions underlying the functional totals in this budget resolution assume that Congress and the Administration will fulfill the intent of the Amtrak Reform and Accountability Act of 1997 and appropriate sufficient funds in each of the next 5 fiscal years for Amtrak to implement its fiscal years 1998–2003 Strategic Business Plan, while preserving the integrity of the $2,200,000,000 provided under the Taxpayer Relief Act for the statutory purpose of capital investment.

SEC. 363. SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING MARKET ACCESS PROGRAM.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Senate finds the following:

(1) The Market Access Program (MAP) continues to be a vital and important part of United States trade policy aimed at maintaining and expanding United States agricultural exports, countering subsidized foreign competition, strengthening farm income and protecting American jobs. Further, the Senate finds that:

(A) The Market Access Program is specifically targeted towards small business, farmer cooperatives and trade associations.

(B) The Market Access Program is administered on a cost-share basis. Participants, including farmers and ranchers, are required to contribute up to 50 percent or more toward the cost of the program.

(2) The Market Access Program has been a tremendous success by any measure. Since the program was established, United States agricultural exports have doubled. In fiscal year 1997, United States agricultural exports amounted to $57,300,000,000, resulting in a positive agricultural trade surplus of approximately $22,000,000,000, and contributing billions of dollars more in increased economic activity and additional tax revenues.

(3) The Market Access Program has also helped maintain and create needed jobs throughout the Nation's economy. More than one million Americans now have jobs that depend on United States agricultural exports. Further, every billion dollars in additional United States agricultural exports helps create as many as 17,000 or more new jobs.

(4) United States agriculture, including farm income and related jobs, is more dependent than ever on maintaining and expanding United States

agricultural exports as Federal farm programs are gradually reduced under the FAIR Act of 1996.

(5) In addition to the Asian economic situation and exchange rate fluctuations, United States agricultural exports continue to be adversely impacted by continued subsidized foreign competition, artificial trade barriers and other unfair foreign trade practices.

(6) The European Union (EU) and other foreign competitors continue to heavily outspend the United States by more than 10 to 1 with regard to export subsidies.

(A) In 1997, the EU budgeted $7,200,000,000 for export subsidies aimed at capturing a larger share of the world market at the expense of United States agriculture.

(B) EU and other foreign competitors also spend nearly $500,000,000 on market promotion activities. The EU spends more on wine promotion than the United States currently spends on all commodities and related agricultural products.

(C) The EU has announced a major new initiative aimed at increasing their exports to

Japan—historically, the largest single market for United States agriculture exports.

(7) United States agriculture is the most competitive industry in the world, but it cannot and should not be expected to compete alone against the treasuries of foreign governments.

(8) Reducing or eliminating funding for the Market Access Program would adversely affect United States agriculture's ability to remain competitive in today's global marketplace. A reduction in United States agricultural exports would translate into lower farm income, a worsening trade deficit, slower economic growth, fewer export-related jobs, and a declining tax base.

(9) United States success in upcoming trade negotiations on agriculture scheduled to begin in 1999 depends on maintaining an aggressive trade strategy and related policies and programs. Reducing or eliminating the Market Access Program would represent a form of unilateral disarmament and weaken the United States negotiating position.

(10) The Market Access Program is one of the few programs specifically allowed under the current Uruguay Round Agreement.

(b) SENSE OF THE SENATE.—It is the sense of the Senate that funding for the Market Access Program (MAP) should be fully maintained as authorized and aggressively utilized by the United States Department of Agriculture to encourage United States agricultural exports, strengthen farm income, counter subsidized foreign competition, and protect American jobs.

SEC. 364. SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING THE NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) heart disease was the leading cause of death for both men and women in every year from 1970 to 1993;

(2) mortality rates for individuals suffering from prostate cancer, skin cancer, and kidney cancer continue to rise;

(3) the mortality rate for African American women suffering from diabetes is 134 percent higher than the mortality rate of Caucasian women suffering from diabetes;

(4) asthma rates for children increased 58 percent from 1982 to 1992;

(5) nearly half of all American women between the ages of 65 and 75 reported having arthritis;

(6) AIDS is the leading cause of death for Americans between the ages of 24 and 44;

(7) the Institute of Medicine has described United States clinical research to be ''in a state of crisis'' and the National Academy of Sciences concluded in 1994 that ''the present cohort of clinical investigators is not adequate'';

(8) biomedical research has been shown to be effective in saving lives and reducing health care expenditures;

(9) research sponsored by the National Institutes of Health has contributed significantly to the first overall reduction in cancer death rates since recordkeeping was instituted;

(10) research sponsored by the National Institutes of health has resulted in the identification of genetic mutations for osteoporosis; Lou Gehrig's Disease, cystic fibrosis, and Huntington's Disease; breast, skin and prostate cancer; and a variety of other illnesses;

(11) research sponsored by the National Institutes of Health has been key to the development of Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) and Positron Emission Tomography (PET) scanning technologies;

(12) research sponsored by the National Institutes of Health has developed effective treatments for Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (ALL). Today, 80 percent of children diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia are alive and free of the disease after 5 years; and

(13) research sponsored by the National Institutes of Health contributed to the development of a new, cost-saving cure for peptic ulcers.

(b) SENSE OF THE SENATE.—It is the sense of the Senate that the function totals in this budget resolution assume that—

(1) appropriations for the National Institutes of Health should be increased by 100 percent over the next 5 fiscal years;

(2) appropriations for the National Institutes of Health should be increased by $2,000,000,000 in year 1999 over the amount appropriated in fiscal year 1998;

(3) the budget resolution takes a major step toward meeting this goal; and

(4) at a minimum, appropriations for the National Institutes of Health should match the recommendations provided in the budget resolution.

SEC. 365. SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING DISPLAY OF TEN COMMANDMENTS.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Senate finds that—

(1) the Ten Commandments have had a significant impact on the development of the fundamental legal principles of Western Civilization; and

(2) the Ten Commandments set forth a code of moral conduct, observance of which is acknowledged to promote respect for our system of laws and the good of society.

(b) SENSE OF THE SENATE.—It is the sense of the Senate that the functional totals in this concurrent resolution on the budget assume that—

(1) the Ten Commandments are a declaration of fundamental principles that are the cornerstones of a fair and just society; and

(2) the public display, including display in the Supreme Court, the Capitol building, the White House, and other government offices and courthouses across the nation, of the Ten Commandments should be permitted, as long as it is consistent with

the establishment clause of the first amendment of the United States Constitution.

Passed the Senate April 2, 1998.

Attest:

Secretary.

105TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. CON. RES. 86

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal years 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, and 2003 and revising the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 1998.

SCON 86 ES1S——2

SCON 86 ES1S——3

SCON 86 ES1S——4

SCON 86 ES1S——5

SCON 86 ES1S——6

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SCON 86 ES1S——9

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