

University of Rhode Island

DigitalCommons@URI

Senate Speeches on the Arts and Humanities
(1994-1996)

Education: National Endowment for the Arts
and Humanities, Subject Files I (1973-1996)

9-26-1996

Senate Speeches on the Arts and Humanities (1994-1996): Correspondence 01

Claiborne Pell

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.uri.edu/pell_neh_I_82

Recommended Citation

Pell, Claiborne, "Senate Speeches on the Arts and Humanities (1994-1996): Correspondence 01" (1996).
Senate Speeches on the Arts and Humanities (1994-1996). Paper 27.
https://digitalcommons.uri.edu/pell_neh_I_82/27

This Correspondence is brought to you for free and open access by the Education: National Endowment for the Arts and Humanities, Subject Files I (1973-1996) at DigitalCommons@URI. It has been accepted for inclusion in Senate Speeches on the Arts and Humanities (1994-1996) by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@URI. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@etal.uri.edu.

** TOTAL PAGE. 01 **

NANCY LONDON KASSEBAUM, KANSAS, CHAIRMAN

JAMES M. JEFFORDS, VERMONT
DAN COATS, INDIANA
JUDD GREGG, NEW HAMPSHIRE
BILL FRIST, TENNESSEE
MIKE DEWINE, OHIO
JOHN ASHCROFT, MISSOURI
SLADE GORTON, WASHINGTON
LAUCH FAIRCLOTH, NORTH CAROLINA

EDWARD M. KENNEDY, MASSACHUSETTS
CLAIBORNE PELL, RHODE ISLAND
CHRISTOPHER J. DODD, CONNECTICUT
PAUL SIMON, ILLINOIS
TOM HARKIN, IOWA
BARBARA A. MIKULSKI, MARYLAND
PAUL WELLSTONE, MINNESOTA

SUSAN K. HATTAN, STAFF DIRECTOR
NICK LITTLEFIELD, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR AND CHIEF COUNSEL

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND
HUMAN RESOURCES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6300

September 26, 1996

Ms. Bonnie Burnham
Executive Director
World Monuments Fund
949 Park Avenue
New York, NY 10028

Dear Bonnie:

As you know, I greatly value my role as Honorary Co-Chair of the World Monuments Fund and I believe that you are doing good and important work. I have devoted considerable thought to how I might best assist you with your request for a bill to create an endangered cultural heritage fund.

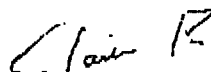
Enclosed is a draft of a bill prepared with the assistance of our Legislative Counsel. My staff and I feel that this bill needs more study and refinement and that it would be premature to introduce it at this time. In addition, there is the question of whether there would be support for one private, non-profit organization serving as the administrator of federal dollars. More likely, some structure established within the Interior Department would assume this function, using WMF as a resource or as one of the representatives at the table.

Recognizing that it would be advantageous to get the ball rolling, I am making a statement to be included in the Congressional Record citing WMF and the need for a bill, along with my wish that it be taken up and passed in the 105th Congress. I hope that this will help and regret that we are unable to do any more at this time.

I look forward to working with you further on this project in the future.

Warm regards.

Ever sincerely,



Claiborne Pell

cc. William Bader

S. 2169. A bill to promote the survival of significant cultural resources that have been identified as endangered and that represent important economic, social, and educational assets of the United States and the world, to permit United States professionals to participate in the planning and implementation of projects worldwide to protect the resources, and to educate the public concerning the importance of cultural heritage to the fabric of life in the United States and throughout the world, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

THE ENDANGERED CULTURAL HERITAGE ACT OF
1996

Mr. PELL. Mr. President. I rise to express my concern for the many historic and artistic sites around the world that are in grave danger through a growing range of threats from natural catastrophes and environmental deterioration to destructive acts of man. These magnificent sites are resources of great importance, not only for their spiritual and educational meaning, but also as valuable economic, social, and learning blocks for the global community.

Through personal travel and my observations as a member of the Foreign Relations Committee and Honorary Chairman of the American Committee for Tyre, I have come to understand the value of preserving and protecting cultural heritage, especially in times of political upheaval or social change. In Cambodia, Vietnam and Croatia, we have seen that the use and abuse of culturally significant sites plays a large role in international relations.

The actual number of endangered sites is being well-documented by the World Monuments Fund, a United States nonprofit organization devoted to the conservation of cultural heritage on a worldwide scale that maintains an international listing of endangered sites. Within this country, the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the National Park Service work with the World Monuments Fund to track sites in need of conservation and rehabilitation.

I believe that the United States is in a unique position to lead an effort among independent nations to protect the future of our cultural legacy worldwide. A timely response is critical to prevent further losses. This can be achieved through sustained funding to stabilize and strengthen the ability of local institutions to protect their cultural resources on a consistent and long-term basis. Conservation work must increase. Professionals need to be trained in cultural resource management, and the public needs to be instilled with a concern for the survival of our significant cultural heritage.

I hope that the 105th Congress will take action to establish an endangered cultural heritage fund and am today introducing legislation to serve as a discussion piece to move us in that direction. As a nation composed of the people of many cultures, it is fitting to

support the care of great historic and artistic sites which define national character and pay tribute to human accomplishment of universal significance.

By Mrs. KASSEBAUM:

S. 2170. A bill to establish spending limits for entitlement programs and other mandatory spending programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Budget and the Committee on Governmental Affairs, jointly.

THE SAVE OUR SAVINGS ACT OF 1996

• Mrs. KASSEBAUM. Mr. President, one good result of the strenuous budget debate of the past 2 years has been a bipartisan embrace of the need for reform in the long-sacrosanct realm of entitlement spending. The exchange of offers and counteroffers that characterized the budget process produced a new consensus that entitlement spending must be controlled. Most of us now realize that without controls, entitlement programs will continue to grow at a pace that threatens our fiscal security, jeopardizing any effort to balance the budget and squeezing funding away from important discretionary programs.

As we come to the end of this Congress, the fruits of that consensus are in peril. Republicans and Democrats, Congress and the White House—almost all of us have agreed that, at the very minimum, we can save \$232 billion over 6 years from entitlement programs. We have not been able to agree on the policies to produce those savings, but we should not release ourselves from our obligation to do so. The legislation I am introducing today, the Save Our Savings Act of 1996, would ensure that we fulfill that obligation.

Sometimes when we talk about entitlements, we use terms that support the view that they are beyond our control. We often define entitlements as programs not controlled by the annual appropriations process, programs that must distribute payments to all eligible, regardless of the cost. On its face, that definition is correct. But at a more basic level, it betrays a sense of helplessness, an aversion to action, and a passive acceptance of their growing might.

When I was sworn in as a Senator 18 years ago, discretionary spending represented nearly 50 percent of the Federal budget. Now we spend little more than a third on these programs. We have seen in the past 2 years how hard it is to squeeze savings from discretionary programs. If we do nothing about entitlements, spending constraints will become tighter still.

Part of the explanation is that we now must set aside about one-sixth of the budget just to pay interest on the debt. At the same time, spending on entitlement programs has escalated rapidly in recent years, and the forecast is for even more rapid expansion in the future. In fact, if entitlements are allowed to grow unimpeded, they, combined with interest on the debt, will consume all revenues by 2012.

This bill takes affirmative steps to lock in significant entitlement savings that, without action, will vanish. The legislation would cap entitlements from fiscal years 1997 to 2002 at the CBO-defined levels of the President's budget or, where applicable, the levels in the recently passed welfare reform legislation. You can consider those levels of savings the lowest that most of us have agreed to.

Multiple caps would be enforced, including individual caps on the 11 largest entitlement programs, an all other cap, and an aggregate cap. Sequestration would be triggered only on programs that exceeded their caps, and the caps themselves would be adjusted for economic and demographic factors. The caps could be adjusted by recorded vote.

Some might argue that the very fact that both parties now advocate significant savings from entitlement programs has demonstrated our capacity to control Government spending—that we do not need our feet held to the fire—but experience is eloquent. If we let the evolution of the last 2 years' budget proposals fade into memory, the courage and resolve that should be invested in making difficult policy decisions will be spent instead on producing yet another set of budget blueprints. Congress does not need to start all over again; we need to finish what we have started.

I realize that nothing more can be done on this matter in this Congress. I also realize that I will not be here in the next Congress to carry on this effort. However, I believe it is important to voice both my concern and a specific proposal to give weight to that concern for those who must take up this battle in the years ahead.●

By Mr. CONRAD (for himself and
Mr. KERREY):

S. 2171. A bill to provide reimbursement under the Medicare Program for telehealth services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

THE COMPREHENSIVE TELEHEALTH ACT OF 1996

• Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, today, I am introducing legislation to help improve health care delivery in rural and underserved communities throughout America through the use of telecommunications and telehealth technology.

Telehealth encompasses a wide variety of technologies, ranging from the telephone to high-tech equipment that enables a surgeon to perform surgery from thousands of miles away. It includes interactive video equipment, fax machines and computers along with satellites and fiber optics. These technologies can be used to diagnose patients, deliver care, transfer health data, read x rays, provide consultation, and educate health professionals. Telehealth also includes the electronic storage and transmission of personally identifiable health information, such as medical records, test results, and insurance claims.