Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to Calendar No. 177, S. 1283, a bill to amend the Technology-Related Assistance for Individuals With Disabilities Act of 1993, to improve the act, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1283) to amend the Technology-Related Assistance for Individuals With Disabilities Act of 1993, to improve the act, and for other purposes.

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, I seek unanimous consent that the Senate be reconsidered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland [Mr. SAR­ banes], for Mr. HATCH, proposes an amendment numbered 772.

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, I seek unanimous consent that the amendments to the amendment be made.

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be made.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The letter beat describes the final re­ vision of the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate from Maryland [Mr. SARBANES, for Mr. HATCH, proposes an amendment numbered 772.

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, I seek unanimous consent that the amendment be made.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 772

(Purpose: To amend the Head Start Act to suspend any proceedings pending against any Head Start agency to claim costs incurred in purchasing such facilities until the agency has been afforded an opportunity to apply for approval of the purchase and the Secretary has determined whether the purchase will be approved. The Secretary shall not be required to repay claims previously satisfied by the Head Start agency to cover costs incurred in the purchase of facilities; and (2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by inserting "such agency," after "satisfactory progress in," and

(B) in subparagraph (C)—

(1) by inserting "such agency," in place of "such agency," after "shall be engaged," before the semicolon; and

(2) by inserting "such agency," in place of "such agency," after "will be engaged," in place of subparagraph (2)."

Amendments of 1993. This is a truly bi­ partisan, consensus bill. S. 1283 is co­ sponsored by Senators DURENBERGER, KENNEDY, JOFFRONE, MITTENBAUM, WELLINGTON, WORFORD, DOLE, PELL, and HATCH. I particularly want to acknowledge Senator DURENBERGER for his wisdom and counsel during this reauthoriza­ tion process. Process. Process. Process. Process. Senator DURENBERGER and Susan Heegaard of his staff have worked long and hard on this bill and they deserve credit for their commitment to the consensus building process that made this bill possible. In addi­ tion, a number of our distinguished col­ leagues here in the Senate from both sides of the aisle provided critical input on the bill.

I also want to thank my staff, including Bob Silverstein, Linda Hinton, and Walter Harp, for their contribution to this legislation. I particularly want to acknowledge Linda Hinton, for her 2 years of distinguished service on the Subcommittee on Disability Policy, as she recently left to become executive director of the Iowa Association of Reha­ bilitation and Rehabilitation Facilities. During the development of this legis­ lation, we enjoyed the support and construct­ ive guidance of the staff of the Depart­ ment of Education. The sub­ committee and the administration's staffs met numerous times over the past many months to work out the details of the changes to the bill.

As we worked on the reauthorization of this legislation, we had the assist­ ance of many organizations, groups and individuals. In particular, I want to ex­ press my gratitude to the Technology-Related Assistance Task Force of the Consortium for Citizens with Disabil­ ities, State project directors, and the various national, regional, and local organizations, service providers, and professionals, numerous State agency officials and private citizens whose thoughtful ideas and con­ cepts have been so helpful in this proc­ ess.

Mr. President, 12 member organiza­ tions of the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities signed a letter of sup­ port for S. 1283. All of those groups were involved in the dialog that marked the development of the bill. The letter best describes the final re­ sults of this productive dialog.

This is a critical systems change initiative designed to strengthen and enhance America's national disability policy. We are deeply aware that securing access to funding for assistive technology devices and services is not easy for individuals with disabilities and see this reauthorization bill as critical to en­ hancing their access.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the entire letter from the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities supporting the Technology-Related Assistance Act Amendments of 1993 be printed in the Record at the conclu­ sion of my remarks.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the amendment is agreed to.

The amendment (No. 772) was agreed to.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I rise today in strong support of S. 1283, the Technology-Related Assistance Act Amendments of 1993. This is a truly bi­ partisan, consensus bill. S. 1283 is co­ sponsored by Senators DURENBERGER, KENNEDY, JOFFRONE, MITTENBAUM, WELLINGTON, WORFORD, DOLE, PELL, and HATCH. I particularly want to acknowledge Senator DURENBERGER for his wisdom and counsel during this reauthoriza­ tion process. Process. Process. Process. Senator DURENBERGER and Susan Heegaard of his staff have worked long and hard on this bill and they deserve credit for their commitment to the consensus building process that made this bill possible. In addi­ tion, a number of our distinguished col­ leagues here in the Senate from both sides of the aisle provided critical input on the bill.

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Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the entire letter from the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities supporting the Technology-Related Assistance Act Amendments of 1993 be printed in the Record at the conclu­ sion of my remarks.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection it is ordered.
(See exhibit 1) MARKIN. On July 26, 1990, the President signed into law the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. I am proud to have been the chief sponsor of this historic legislation. I am equally proud to have referred to the ADA as the 20th century emancipation proclamation for individuals with disabilities. The ADA represents the philosophy of inclusion, empowerment, and elimination of barriers in society that keep persons with disabilities from fully participating in the economic, political, social, cultural, and educational mainstream of American society.

We have just recently celebrated the third anniversary of the passage of the ADA. July 26, 1993. We can all be proud of this landmark legislation, but obviously our work is not done. We cannot rest until we have established a national disability policy that is based on the values and precepts of the ADA; empowerment, inclusion, and independence.

In other words, we need a national disability policy based on the following principles: Individuals with disabilities are entitled to be treated with dignity and respect; individuals with disabilities are entitled to make informed choices and decisions; individuals with disabilities are entitled to live in their own homes and communities where they can be fully included in all aspects of American life and make meaningful contributions to their families, community, State, and Nation; individuals with disabilities and their families must be provided with the services and supports necessary to transform these goals into realities.

Last year we reauthorized the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, which contains two components of our national disability policy—vocational rehabilitation to provide people with disabilities with the necessary skills and support services to enable them to achieve their personal goals and independent living services to ensure that people with disabilities are empowered to control their own lives and be fully included in all aspects of our society.

It is my expectation that Congress will enact legislation this year that addresses the needs of persons with disabilities for affordable health care, including the elimination of exclusions for preexisting conditions, and for consumer-directed personal assistance services.

Today, we are considering the reauthorization of an additional piece of legislation that contains components of our national disability policy—the Technology-Related Assistance Act Amendments of 1993. This bill reauthorizes the Technology-Related Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities Act of 1988, and amends the act to improve the programs provided under the act. There are seven basic purposes for this legislation. They are:

1. To assure the Federal support necessary to allow the States to successfully complete the systemic change process begun under the Technology-Related Assistance Act of 1988.
2. To require that the State projects include systemic and advocacy activities and clarify that those activities are to be the focus of the project.
3. To promote systemic change through individual advocacy by ensuring that individuals with disabilities have access to protection and advocacy services to secure their rights to assistive technology devices and assistive technology services.
4. To emphasize the importance of consumer involvement in all aspects of the program.
5. To increase the accountability of the program in the development and implementation of consumer-responsive comprehensive statewide programs of technology-related assistance.
6. To authorize the necessary technical assistance to the projects to allow the States and to individuals with disabilities and other interested parties to more effectively participate in development of the program.
7. To provide the basis for improved information systems and data collection on assistive technology through the development of a classification system and to enhance the skills and competencies of individuals involved in providing assistive technology, consumers, and others.

I urge my colleagues to join me in support of S. 1283. It represents improvements that are essential if we are to see the dream of the Americans with Disabilities Act become a reality—America where people with disabilities, including those with severe disabilities, are competitively employed in integrated work settings and are making meaningful contributions to their families and communities.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the section-by-section analysis of S. 1283 also be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the summary was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

SECTION-BY-SECTION SUMMARY

Set out below is a summary of the major changes made by the Technology-Related Assistance Act Amendments of 1993.

CONTINUATION OF THE PROGRAM.

The bill provides for a three-year extension grant after the completion of the three-year development grant and the initial two-year extension grant for States that show significant progress toward the development and implementation of a consumer-responsive comprehensive statewide program of technology-related assistance for individuals of all ages with disabilities, provided evidence that the States have satisfied certain criteria, and describe the steps that will be taken to continue the program in a self-sustaining basis.

SYSTEMIC CHANGE AND ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES.

Several changes were made to the Act to make it clear that the projects funded under title I must focus significantly on systemic change and advocacy activities.

The bill reorders the current purposes to emphasize the importance of several of the purposes related to systemic change, consumer responsiveness, interagency coordination, advocacy, and transition of assistive technology between services set-
August 5, 1993

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—SENATE

S10623

EXHIBIT 1

CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS WITH DISABILITIES
July 26th, 1993.


Dear Member of Congress:

As a result of your support, the Senate will soon be printing the next issue of the Record with the text of S. 1283 as passed. This bill provides an opportunity for the Congress to consider the vote by which the bill was passed.

Mr. SARBANES. The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

The TECHNOLOGY-RELATED ASSISTANCE FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1988 AMENDMENTS ACT OF 1993

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, I now ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 181, H.R. 2339, that all after the enacting clause be stricken and the text of S. 1283 as passed by the Senate be inserted in lieu thereof, that the bill be deemed read three times, passed and the motion to reconsider laid upon the table.

Mr. SARBANES. Without objection, it is so ordered.

So the bill (H.R. 2339), as amended, was passed as follows:

The text of the measure as passed the Senate today will be printed in the next issue of the Record.