because they cannot afford it, and one-half of the people hounded by collection agencies are in debt because they have medical bills they cannot pay.

The crisis is not confined to the 100 million Americans who are uninsured or underinsured. Key health care institutions on which millions of Americans depend are on the verge of collapse.

In New York City, the average wait in emergency rooms is 3 days before a doctor is available, and that is not at risk.

In Los Angeles, more than half the private hospitals have dropped out of the Los Angeles trauma care network that provides emergency services for the most seriously injured because they can no longer afford to care for uninsured patients.

In virtually every State in the country is reporting that patients are being denied treatment in hospitals because all hospitals have uninsured, and that happens at risk.

And even Americans that are fully insured today are just as much as, one job change, one management decision to drop insurance coverage from being out of luck tomorrow.

One of the most troubling aspects of the current crisis is the devastating impact on children. Every child in America deserves a healthy start in life. But too many fail to get it because their parents can't afford and society won't provide it. One in five children in America today—14 million children in all—have no health insurance coverage. Two out of every three pregnant women who are uninsured do not get the low-cost, effective prenatal care that their babies need. It is no wonder that eighteen other industrial nations have a better record in children's health and medical care than the United States. Forty percent of our children do not even receive basic childhood vaccines.

American children are the innocent victims of the health care crisis and that means that Americans is the victim, too—because our children are our future.

The crisis in health care is not only a health issue, it is an economic issue as well. The United States spends more than any other country on health care, and that business and labor alike are demanding a comprehensive health policy.

In the 1970's, there was universal health care and tough cost control measures could not be enacted. I believe the American people are demanding action, and when the people lead, the politicians will follow.

The legislation we are introducing today represents as downsizing on the commitment that must be enacted. It targets one of the most critical health problems in our current system—ineffective care and underuse of medical staff and patients, I urge the Senate to enact it.

By Mr. INOUEY (for himself and Mr. McCANN)
S. 3309. A bill to enact the authority of the Secretary of the Interior in connection with the investment of Indian trust funds, and for other purposes; to the Select Committee on Indian Affairs.

INVESTMENT OF INDIAN TRUST FUNDS

Mr. INOUEY. Mr. President, I am pleased to be introducing legislation which will allow Indian tribal and individuals the right to exercise some control and management of the funds which are held in trust by the Bureau of Indian Affairs of the Department of the Interior. Currently, the annual accounts of about one-fourth of the total while the tribal accounts, earnings from the sale of trust assets, constitute about one-third with the remainder consisting of judgment funds resulting from successful legal claims of Indians against the Federal Government. The statute directing the BIA to manage these funds was last amended in 1938 and has been interpreted by the Interior Solicitor as allowing the investment of funds in private management companies.

A proposed amendment, developed in response to requests from a number of tribes, would provide for the management of funds by a mutual fund provided that the pool of securities, managed contains only federally issued or guaranteed securities which is the restriction under current law. The Secretary of the Interior must examine the proposed management arrangement to ensure that the principal of the trust funds will not be at risk and that there will be no conflict of interest.

The program gives us an opportunity to address some of the most pressing issues related to the health care crisis in America.