

standard” in the treaty as “provid[ing] decision and policy makers with the authority to substitute their own decisions for either the child’s or the parents”;

Whereas the Scottish Government has issued a pamphlet to children of that country explaining their rights under the Convention, which declares that children have the right to decide their own religion and that parents can only provide advice;

Whereas the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child has repeatedly interpreted the Convention to ban common disciplinary measures utilized by parents;

Whereas the Government of the United Kingdom was found to be in violation of the Convention by the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child for allowing parents to exercise a right to opt their children out of sex education courses in the public schools without a prior government review of the wishes of the child;

Whereas the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child has held that the Governments of Indonesia and Egypt were out of compliance with the Convention because military expenditures were given inappropriate priority over children’s programs;

Whereas these and many other interpretations of the Convention by those charged with its implementation and by other authoritative supporters demonstrates that the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child are utterly contrary to the principles of law in the United States and the inherent principles of freedom;

Whereas the decisions and interpretations of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child would be considered by the Committee to be binding and authoritative upon the United States should the United States Government ratify the Convention, such that the Convention poses a threat to the sovereign rights of the United States and the several States to make final determinations regarding domestic law; and

Whereas the proposition that the United States should be governed by international legal standards in its domestic policy is tantamount to proclaiming that the Congress of the United States and the legislatures of the several States are incompetent to draft domestic laws that are necessary for the proper protection of children, an assertion that is not only an affront to self-government but an inappropriate attack on the capability of legislators in the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, adopted at New York November 20, 1989, and entered into force September 2, 1990, is incompatible with the Constitution, the laws, and the traditions of the United States;

(2) the Convention would undermine proper presumptions of freedom and independence for families in the United States, supplanting those principles with a presumption in favor of governmental intervention without the necessity for proving harm or wrongdoing;

(3) the Convention would interfere with the principles of sovereignty, independence, and self-government in the United States that preclude the necessity or propriety of adopting international law to govern domestic matters; and

(4) the President should not transmit the Convention to the Senate for its advice and consent.

SENATE RESOLUTION 100—DESIGNATING MARCH 11, 2011, AS “WORLD PLUMBING DAY”

Mr. BENNET (for himself, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mr. MERKLEY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 100

Whereas the industry of plumbing plays an important role in safeguarding the public health of the people of the United States and the world;

Whereas 884,000,000 people around the world do not have access to safe drinking water;

Whereas 2,600,000,000 people around the world live without adequate sanitation facilities;

Whereas the lack of sanitation is the largest cause of infection in the world;

Whereas in the developing world, 24,000 children under the age of 5 die every day from preventable causes, such as diarrhea contracted from unclean water;

Whereas safe and efficient plumbing helps save money and reduces future water supply costs and infrastructure costs;

Whereas the installation of modern plumbing systems must be accomplished in a specific, safe manner by trained professionals in order to prevent widespread disease, which can be crippling and deadly to the community;

Whereas the people of the United States rely on plumbing professionals to maintain, repair, and rebuild the aging water infrastructure of the United States; and

Whereas Congress and plumbing professionals across the United States and the world are committed to safeguarding public health: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate designates March 11, 2011, as “World Plumbing Day”.

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, I am proud to rise today to submit a resolution designating March 11 as World Plumbing Day.

Water is our planet’s most precious resource, and it is also a resource the developed world often takes for granted. When we stop at a drinking fountain, or when we prepare dinner for our families, we are confident that the water emerging from the tap is free of harmful and dangerous contaminants.

Yet a reliable supply of water needed to maintain life is not readily available to nearly one billion people around the world. In fact, the ravages of water insecurity and inadequate sanitation claim 6,000 lives every day. The majority of these casualties are children. Nearly one in five child deaths worldwide is due to waterborne illness.

Modern plumbing technologies can prevent deaths and combat sickness. By supporting access to safe drinking water and proper sanitation through sound plumbing infrastructure and minimum plumbing codes, we can significantly raise quality of life and help to eliminate a historic cause of human suffering.

Today I stand in gratitude to our skilled, licensed plumbers and pipe fitters who work hard every day to ensure that the plumbing systems and infrastructure in our homes, places of business, and communities continue to function properly and provide us with water safe for consumption.

I would like to thank the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials, IAPMO, for raising awareness of this important issue. These individuals work diligently to create and maintain the Uniform Plumbing Code, which serves as the foundation for all plumbing installation and inspection activities for over half the world’s population.

IAPMO is the only model code developer in America utilizing an open consensus process accredited by the American National Standards Institute, ANSI, for plumbing and mechanical codes. Worldwide, IAPMO and its members are on the front lines of public health and safety in assisting cities, counties, states, and countries with developing plumbing codes and providing training that protects our communities and saves lives.

I submit this resolution in recognition of the importance of clean water and the important contribution to America being made every single day by those men and women who maintain our plumbing infrastructure.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 10, 2011, at 9:30 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 10, 2011, at 9:30 a.m. to conduct a hearing entitled “The Fiscal Year 2012 Budget for the Sec.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 10, 2011, at 10 a.m. in room 253 of the Russell Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 10, 2011, at 9:30 a.m., in room 366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to

meet during the session of the Senate on March 10, 2011, at 10 a.m., in 215 Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled "Innovations in Child Welfare Waivers: Starting on the Pathway to Reform."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR,
AND PENSIONS

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to meet, during the session of the Senate, to conduct a hearing entitled "Bridgepoint Education, Inc.: A Case study in For-Profit Education and Oversight" on March 10, 2011, at 10 a.m., in 430 Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 10, 2011, at 10 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 10, 2011, at 3 p.m. to conduct a hearing entitled "Information Sharing in the Era of WikiLeaks: Balancing Security and Collaboration."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, on March 10, 2011, at 10 a.m., in SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct an executive business meeting.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 10, 2011, at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 41; that the nomination be confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the

table, there be no intervening action or debate, and that no further motion be in order to the nomination; that any related statements be printed in the RECORD, and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nomination considered and confirmed is as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Timothy J. Feighery, of New York, to be Chairman of the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission of the United States for a term expiring September 30, 2012.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent on Monday, March 14, at 4:30 p.m., the Senate proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 10; that there be 1 hour of debate equally divided in the usual form; that upon the use or yielding back of the time, the Senate proceed to vote with no intervening action or debate on Calendar No. 10; the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motion be in order, and any related statements be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, MARCH 14,
2011

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 2 p.m., on Monday, March 14; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following any leader remarks, there be a period of morning business until 4:30 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each; that following morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session, as provided under the previous order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. REID. Mr. President, Senators should expect two rollcall votes beginning at 5:30 p.m. on Monday. The first vote will be on confirmation of Execu-

tive Calendar No. 10, the nomination of James Emanuel Boasberg, of the District of Columbia, to be U.S. District Judge for the District of Columbia, and the second vote will be on a motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 17, the Small Business Reauthorization Act.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. REID. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it adjourn under the previous order, following the remarks of the assistant majority leader of the Senate, RICHARD DURBIN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, are we still in morning business?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Yes.

INTERCHANGE FEE REFORM

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise to speak about the issue of interchange fee reform. Last year, Congress enacted landmark reform of the swipe fees that Visa and MasterCard impose on the debit card system. An amendment I offered to Wall Street reform passed the Senate with 64 votes—47 Democrats, 17 Republicans—and was later signed into law. It was the first amendment out of the first 26 on that bill that was held to a 60-vote standard. Every other amendment before was held to a simple majority. But I was lucky enough, when I offered the amendment, that there was an insistence that we had to reach 60 votes. We did it, 47 Democrats and 17 Republicans. It was a great victory, and one that came as a surprise to Wall Street, because Main Street—the retail merchants, the restaurants, the convenience stores, and many others—had worked hard for this amendment.

Never before had Visa and MasterCard, the duopoly of credit cards, and their big bank allies lost a vote such as this in Congress. Normally, the credit card companies and the big banks are used to getting their way in this town. Visa and MasterCard have such power that they control over 75 percent of all credit and debit card transactions in America. Last year, \$1.39 trillion was transacted on Visa and MasterCard debit cards. According to the American Bankers Association, the U.S. banking industry is a \$13 trillion industry. That is trillion with a "t."

Many Members in this body are being lobbied right now by banks and card companies to repeal this law, to undo the interchange reform Congress passed last year. It is one of the most active lobbying efforts I have ever seen.

I want to explain why interchange reform is so important, not just for the concepts of competition and transparency but also for the people and businesses affected, for small businesses and consumers and the American economy.