

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the bill?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. MCCAIN. Madam President, I rise today to express my support for H.R. 3973, a bill to provide for a study of the recommendations of the Joint Federal-State Commission on Policies and Programs Affecting Alaska Natives. H.R. 3973 authorizes \$350,000 in funding to the Alaska Federation of Natives to study how to implement the findings of the Alaska Native Commission, which was established under Public Law 101-379.

In 1990, the Commission, which was funded jointly by Federal and State appropriations, made a comprehensive study of the social and economic conditions of Alaska Natives and the effectiveness of programs and policies of the United States and the State of Alaska which provide services to the Alaska Native communities.

In May 1994, the Commission issued a three-volume report containing many policy recommendations regarding Alaska Native Physical Health; Social/Cultural Issues and the Alcohol Crisis; Economic Issues and Rural Development; Alaska Native Education; and Self-Governance and Self-Determination. By enacting H.R. 3973, Congress will provide Alaska Natives with a process to determine the most appropriate means to implement the findings of the Commission. I would like to commend the hard work of my colleagues from Alaska, Senator MURKOWSKI and Senator STEVENS, on this important legislation.

This bill is noncontroversial and is widely supported by both the Alaska Native communities and the Administration for Native Americans within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. I urge my colleagues to support passage of H.R. 3973.

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Madam President, I rise today to express my strong support for passage of the Alaska Native Commission study bill. This legislation is the product of years of study and candid self-appraisal by Alaska Natives about their standard of living conditions and the need to address these problems. While this self-appraisal has been exhaustive, it has not been pessimistic. On the contrary, the study is evidence of an exciting time for Alaska Natives, for they are taking the initiative to work to improve their standard and way of life. Their efforts will lead to a strengthening of their livelihoods and their pride in being both Alaska Natives and American citizens. I am proud that this bill will be part of that process.

In 1989, Congressman Young and I introduced a bill that became Public Law 101-379. Public Law 101-379 established the Joint Federal-State Commission on Policies and Programs Affecting Alaska Natives, better known as the Alaska Natives Commission. Among its many recommendations, the Commission

called for Federal funding to examine how best to implement the recommendations of the Commission. The purpose of this bill is to establish the funding, in the amount of \$350,000, for such a study.

From the beginning, the efforts of the commission have involved cooperation from both the Federal and Alaska State governments, and I am pleased to announce that this process will continue. The Commission was jointly funded by the Alaska State and Federal governments. Half of the 14 Commission members were appointed by the President, and half by the Governor. The Alaska congressional delegation and the Alaska Federation of Natives have already worked with State government representatives throughout this past summer to discuss ways to implement some of the findings of the Commission. I call on the State to stay active in the implementation process, and to assist the effectiveness of the study by appropriating additional funds to operate the study. I am confident that through the active participation of all interested parties, the study will lead to realistic and effective recommendations for implementation of the Commission's recommendations.

I thank my colleagues Congressman YOUNG for getting this bill passed by the House of Representatives, Indian Affairs Committee Chairman, Senator MCCAIN for moving the bill through the Senate expeditiously, and Senator STEVENS for securing the appropriations to fund this bill.

Mr. NICKLES. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be deemed read the third time, and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the bill appear at this point in the RECORD.

The bill (H.R. 3973) was deemed read the third time, and passed.

NATIONAL SHAKEN BABY SYNDROME AWARENESS WEEK

Mr. NICKLES. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of and that the Senate turn to the immediate consideration of Senate resolution 300.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is ordered.

The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 300) designating the week of November 3, 1996, as "National Shaken Baby Syndrome Awareness Week."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the resolution?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. NICKLES. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution and preamble be agreed to, en bloc, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any state-

ments relating to the resolution appear at the appropriate place in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 300) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, is as follows:

S. RES. 300

Whereas Shaken Baby Syndrome describes the consequences that occur when a young child is violently shaken;

Whereas Shaken Baby Syndrome is so lethal that 20 to 25 percent of its victims die, and most survivors suffer brain damage;

Whereas Shaken Baby Syndrome accounts for 10 to 12 percent of all child abuse and neglect cases in the United States;

Whereas 25 to 50 percent of teenagers and adults do not know that shaking a baby is dangerous;

Whereas education is the key to preventing this tragedy; and

Whereas the United States Senate has a continuing commitment to the health and safety of this Nation's children: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate designates the week of November 3, 1996, as "National Shaken Baby Syndrome Awareness Week". The President is requested to issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe such week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

AMERICAN FREE ENTERPRISE DAY

Mr. NICKLES. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of Senate Resolution 291, and that the Senate proceed to its consideration.

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

The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 291) designating November 18, 1996, as "American Free Enterprise Day."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the resolution?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. NICKLES. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the resolution appear at this point in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 291) was agreed to, as follows:

S. RES. 291

Whereas American prosperity is founded on the free enterprise system of individual opportunity and economic freedom;

Whereas the roots of American free enterprise can be found in the experiences of the people of Jamestown and Plymouth, the earliest American colonies;

Whereas the basis of free enterprise is the right to ownership of private property, which ensures to individuals the fruits of their own labor and encourages the virtues of self-reliance, thrift, and industriousness;

Whereas the settlers at Jamestown and Plymouth were initially deprived of the fruits of their own labor and therefore lacked the incentive for private initiatives and hard work;

Whereas William Bradford, Governor of the Plymouth Plantation, wrote that in response to the misery and want experienced by the people of Plymouth he decided "that they should set corn every man for his own particular; and that regard trust to themselves This had very good success, for it made all hands very industrious, so as much more corn was planted than otherwise would have been by any means the Governor or any other could use.";

Whereas on November 18, 1618, "The Great Charter" endowed the colonists of Virginia with the right to profit from property under their individual control for the first time; and

Whereas the result of the Great Charter was a blossoming of individual initiative and self-sufficiency that laid the foundations for the American tradition of economic freedom, prosperity, and self-government; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends the men and women of our first colonies who began the American tradition of hard work and individual initiative;

(2) honors all those who have defended the right of individuals to own property, pursue their own initiative, and to reap the fruits of their own labor; and

(3) designates November 18, 1996, as "American Free Enterprise Day".

The President is authorized and requested to issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States and Federal, State, and local administrators to observe the day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

IMPLEMENTING PROVISION OF THE CONGRESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 1995

Mr. NICKLES. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Senate Resolution 304, submitted earlier today by Senator LOTT.

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

The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 304) approving certain regulations to implement provisions of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 relating to labor-management relations with respect to employing offices of the Senate and employees of the Senate, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the resolution?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. NICKLES. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the resolution appear at this point in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 304) was agreed to, as follows:

S. RES. 304

Resolved,

SECTION 1. APPROVAL OF REGULATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The regulations described in subsection (b) are hereby approved, insofar as such regulations apply to employing offices of the Senate and employees of the Senate under the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1301 et seq.) and to the extent such regulations are consistent with the provisions of such Act.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I would like to compliment the Senate and the leadership for acting on these resolutions today approving certain Congressional Accountability Act regulations. The first bill passed in this Congress was the Congressional Accountability Act. With great fanfare we stood together in this Chamber and announced to other Americans that we, as Senators, are no better than they are. We are not special, we are not different, and we will no longer make laws just for other Americans. Rather, we will make laws for all Americans, including ourselves. And with my bill, the Congressional Accountability Act, we applied 11 laws, including the Fair Labor Standards Act, the Americans With Disabilities Act, and so on, to ourselves.

Now the Office of Compliance, created by the Congressional Accountability Act, has promulgated regulations that require our approval. The resolutions before us approve the so-called 220(d) regulations. These regulations address the collective bargaining rights of nonlegislative offices. I am very pleased that the Senate is acting on these regulations today.

Unfortunately, neither of these resolutions contain the 220(e) regulations, which address the collective bargaining rights of legislative offices. The House Oversight Committee recently voted to send these regulations back to the Office of Compliance and asked that they be redrafted. And last week, the Office of Compliance's Board responded with two separate letters addressing the committee's actions. Due to these recent events, it seems pointless to push the Senate to consider these regulations at this time. However, I plan to ask the leadership to make the 220(e) regulations one of the first items of business for the 105th Congress.

If we are to be honest with the American people, we must not escape fully implementing the Congressional Accountability Act. For now, I ask that the Senate act on the 220(d) regulations by voting on these resolutions.

APPROVING CERTAIN REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT PROVISIONS OF THE CONGRESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 1995

Mr. NICKLES. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Rules Committee be discharged from further consideration of House Concurrent Resolution 207, and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 207) approving certain regulations to implement provisions of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 relating to labor-management relations with respect to covered employees, other than employees of the House of Representatives and employees of the Senate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the concurrent resolution?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. NICKLES. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the resolution be placed at the appropriate place in the RECORD.

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

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 207) was agreed to.

VETERANS' HEALTH CARE ELIGIBILITY REFORM ACT OF 1996

Mr. NICKLES. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Veterans Affairs Committee be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 3118, and that the Senate proceed to its consideration.

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

The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3118) to amend title 38 of the U.S. Code to reform eligibility for health care provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the bill?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

AMENDMENT NO. 5414

(Purpose: To provide a substitute)

Mr. NICKLES. Madam President, Senator SIMPSON has a substitute amendment at the desk. I ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Oklahoma [Mr. NICKLES], for Mr. SIMPSON, for himself and Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. MURKOWSKI, and Mr. WELLSTONE, proposes an amendment numbered 5414.

Mr. NICKLES. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

(The text of the amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Amendments Submitted.")

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam President, the legislation now before this body may be one of the most significant veterans' bills of the last few years. In agreeing to this bill, the Congress will make, under the rubric of health care "eligibility reform", changes in the nature