

final report to Congress. A report submitted under this subparagraph shall contain an assessment of the effectiveness of the State projects administered under this section and any recommendations for legislative action that the Secretary considers appropriate.

"(8) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall promulgate final regulations for implementing this section."

SEC. 402. EXPANSION OF CHILD WELFARE DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS.

Section 1130(a) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1320a-9(a)) is amended by striking "10" and inserting "15".

TITLE V—MISCELLANEOUS

SEC. 501. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act and the amendments made by this Act take effect on October 1, 1997.

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, children who are at risk of abuse and neglect are among the most vulnerable group in our society, and we have a compelling obligation to do a better job in protecting such children. I am proud to join Senator CHAFEE and others in a bipartisan effort to improve our federal child welfare programs.

Almost a decade ago, I had the opportunity and privilege to serve as the Chairman of the bipartisan National Commission on Children. Our diverse group spent several years traveling the country to meet with families, officials and advocates to delve into the needs of children and families. We issued a unanimous report in 1991 with a comprehensive strategy to help children and strengthen families. One of the chapters of our report was directed toward helping children at risk of abuse and neglect. Since the Children's Commission, I have been working to convert our bipartisan recommendations into policy and programs.

The Children's Commission basic recommendations called for a more comprehensive strategy for child protective services. The panel noted the need for a range of services so that children and families could get what was needed on a case-by-case basis. Our report call for intensive family preservation services when appropriate. If children must be removed from their homes, reunification services need to be available to prepare children and parents for a safe return. There should be better training for foster parents and child welfare staff. Adoption can be the best option for some children so adoption procedures should be streamlined.

The SAFE Act—Safe Adoptions and Family Environments—follows through on the Children's Commission recommendations. Our bill stresses that a child's safety and a child's health must be a primary concern by clarifying current law known as "reasonable efforts." It is designed to encourage states to move children into stable, permanent placements quickly. For some children, this will be adoption. For others, appropriate intervention and support services can enable children to return home safely. This bill will direct states to establish a permanency planning hearing for a child in foster care within 12 months, instead of

the current 18 months which will cut by one-third the amount of time a child is without a plan for a stable home. Our bill also offers states incentives to reduce the backlog of children waiting for adoption.

I have fought for children and family programs throughout my career, and will continue to do so. Last Congress, I argued strongly that there is a fundamental difference between welfare reform and child welfare and foster care. I opposed a block grant approach to foster care because abused children should not be placed at further risk or face time-limits. Ultimately, I voted for the block grant of welfare reform.

While I opposed attempts to convert child welfare and foster care into a block grant last year, I acknowledged the problems in the system and pledged to work on ways to strengthen and improve programs for abused and neglected children outside the context of welfare reform. Today, we are delivering on that commitment and working in a bipartisan manner to encourage reform.

Reform is desperately needed. Reports indicate that more than 1 million American children suffered some type of abuse and neglect. Over 450,000 children are in foster care in our country. In my home state of West Virginia, referrals to Child Protective Services are expected to increase from 12,500 reports in 1991 to 17,000 this year. Foster care placements in West Virginia has jumped to 3,113 children in January 1997, up from 2,900 children in January 1996.

Clearly, we must work together with the states to address the complicated needs of abused and neglected children.

While our legislation may seem technical in nature, its goals are focused on protecting children and ensuring that every child moves swiftly into a safe, permanent placement where they can grow up healthy and secure. To achieve such basic goals, we need to invest in a range of services—from prevention of abuse, family reunification, and adoptions.

Protecting children and helping families should be a bipartisan, community based effort. We must forge partnerships with states and advocates. This legislation reflects this spirit and commitment.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. DODD, Mr. ROBB, Ms. MOSLEY-BRAUN, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. KERRY, Ms. SNOWE, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. CHAFEE, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. BINGAMAN, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S.J. Res. 24. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relative to equal rights for women and men; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, it is an honor to introduce the equal rights amendment on behalf of myself and 14

other Senators. Two days before the 25th anniversary of the first congressional approval of the equal rights amendment, we reaffirm our strong commitment to making the ERA part of the Constitution of the United States. We intend to do all we can to see that it becomes part of the Constitution, which is where it belongs.

In a sense, action now is more important than ever. Women have achieved a great deal during the last two decades. But the statutory route has not been as successful as we had hoped. Too many women and girls still face unfair and discriminatory barriers in their education, careers, sports, and other goals. The glass ceiling, the locked door, the sticky floor, the wage gap, and the occupation gap are very real problems.

Women still earn only 76 cents for each dollar earned by men. After a full day's work, no woman should be forced to take home only three-quarters of a pay-check.

The vast majority of women are still clustered in a narrow range of traditionally low-paying occupations. Too many women continue to be victims of sexual harassment.

We must do more, much more, to guarantee fair treatment in the workplace and in all aspects of society. Existing laws against sex discrimination in all its ugly forms can't get the job done. The need for a constitutional guarantee of equal rights for women is compelling.

Susan B. Anthony said it best over a century ago. When the Constitution says, "We the People," it should mean all the people. Those words speak to us across the years. And in 1997, we intend to see that "all" means "all"—and making ERA part of the Constitution is the right way to do it.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the joint resolution be printed in the RECORD.

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

S.J. Res. 24

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled (two-thirds of each House concurring therein), That the following article is proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which shall be valid to all intents and purposes as part of the Constitution when ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several States:

"ARTICLE—

"SECTION 1. Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.

"SECTION 2. The Congress shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article.

"SECTION 3. This amendment shall take effect two years after the date of ratification."

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 6

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 6,

a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to ban partial-birth abortions.

S. 75

At the request of Mr. KYL, the name of the Senator from Florida [Mr. MACK] was added as a cosponsor of S. 75, a bill to repeal the Federal estate and gift taxes and the tax on generation-skipping transfers.

S. 127

At the request of Mr. MOYNIHAN, the names of the Senator from Wyoming [Mr. ENZI], the Senator from Maryland [Ms. MIKULSKI], and the Senator from Alaska [Mr. MURKOWSKI] were added as cosponsors of S. 127, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the exclusion for employer-provided educational assistance programs, and for other purposes.

S. 146

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Mississippi [Mr. COCHRAN] was added as a cosponsor of S. 146, a bill to permit medicare beneficiaries to enroll with qualified provider-sponsored organizations under title XVIII of the Social Security Act, and for other purposes.

S. 169

At the request of Mr. CRAIG, the names of the Senator from Mississippi [Mr. COCHRAN], and the Senator from Washington [Mr. GORTON] were added as cosponsors of S. 169, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act with respect to the admission of temporary H-2A workers.

S. 185

At the request of Mr. HELMS, the name of the Senator from Georgia [Mr. COVERDELL] was added as a cosponsor of S. 185, a bill to prohibit the provision of Federal funds to any State or local educational agency that denies or prevents participation in constitutional prayer in schools.

S. 197

At the request of Mr. ROTH, the name of the Senator from Indiana [Mr. COATS] was added as a cosponsor of S. 197, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to encourage savings and investment through individual retirement accounts, and for other purposes.

S. 220

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the names of the Senator from Texas [Mrs. HUTCHISON] and the Senator from Mississippi [Mr. COCHRAN] were added as cosponsors of S. 220, a bill to require the United States Trade Representative to determine whether the European Union has failed to implement satisfactorily its obligations under certain trade agreements relating to United States meat and pork exporting facilities, and for other purposes.

S. 286

At the request of Mr. ABRAHAM, the name of the Senator from North Carolina [Mr. HELMS] was added as a cosponsor of S. 286, a bill to provide for a reduction in regulatory costs by maintaining Federal average fuel economy

standards applicable to automobiles in effect at current levels until changed by law, and for other purposes.

S. 317

At the request of Mr. CRAIG, the name of the Senator from Utah [Mr. HATCH] was added as a cosponsor of S. 317, a bill to reauthorize and amend the National Geologic Mapping Act of 1992.

S. 356

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the names of the Senator from North Dakota [Mr. DORGAN] and the Senator from North Dakota [Mr. CONRAD] were added as cosponsors of S. 356, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, the Public Health Service Act, the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, the title XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to assure access to emergency medical services under group health plans, health insurance coverage, and the medicare and medicaid programs.

S. 358

At the request of Mr. DEWINE, the names of the Senator from South Dakota [Mr. DASCHLE], the Senator from Mississippi [Mr. COCHRAN], and the Senator from Kentucky [Mr. FORD] were added as cosponsors of S. 358, a bill to provide for compassionate payments with regard to individuals with blood-clotting disorders, such as hemophilia, who contracted human immunodeficiency virus due to contaminated blood products, and for other purposes.

S. 365

At the request of Mr. COVERDELL, the names of the Senator from Nebraska [Mr. HAGEL] and the Senator from Alabama [Mr. SHELBY] were added as cosponsors of S. 365, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for increased accountability by Internal Revenue Service agents and other Federal Government officials in tax collection practices and procedures, and for other purposes.

S. 368

At the request of Mr. BOND, the name of the Senator from Arkansas [Mr. HUTCHINSON] was added as a cosponsor of S. 368, a bill to prohibit the use of Federal funds for human cloning research.

S. 381

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Florida [Mr. GRAHAM] was added as a cosponsor of S. 381, a bill to establish a demonstration project to study and provide coverage of routine patient care costs for medicare beneficiaries with cancer who are enrolled in an approved clinical trial program.

S. 383

At the request of Mr. D'AMATO, the name of the Senator from New York [Mr. MOYNIHAN] was added as a cosponsor of S. 383, a bill to require the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to provide funds for compensation for expenses incurred by the State of New York, Nassau County and

Suffolk County, New York, and New York City, New York, as a result of the crash of flight 800 of Trans World Airlines.

S. 389

At the request of Mr. ABRAHAM, the names of the Senator from Idaho [Mr. CRAIG] and the Senator from Nebraska [Mr. HAGEL] were added as cosponsors of S. 389, a bill to improve congressional deliberation on proposed Federal private sector mandates, and for other purposes.

S. 413

At the request of Mrs. HUTCHISON, the name of the Senator from Alabama [Mr. SESSIONS] was added as a cosponsor of S. 413, a bill to amend the Food Stamp Act of 1977 to require States to verify that prisoners are not receiving food stamps.

S. 415

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the names of the Senator from North Dakota [Mr. CONRAD] and the Senator from Michigan [Mr. ABRAHAM] were added as cosponsors of S. 415, a bill to amend the medicare program under title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve rural health services, and for other purposes.

S. 425

At the request of Mr. ROTH, the names of the Senator from Indiana [Mr. LUGAR] and the Senator from Nebraska [Mr. KERREY] were added as cosponsors of S. 425, a bill to provide for an accurate determination of the cost of living.

S. 460

At the request of Mr. BOND, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire [Mr. GREGG], the Senator from Nebraska [Mr. HAGEL], and the Senator from Mississippi [Mr. COCHRAN] were added as cosponsors of S. 460, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the deduction for health insurance costs of self-employed individuals, to provide clarification for the deductibility of expenses incurred by a taxpayer in connection with the business use of the home, to clarify the standards used for determining that certain individuals are not employees, and for other purposes.

S. 479

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the names of the Senator from Washington [Mrs. MURRAY] and the Senator from Utah [Mr. HATCH] were added as cosponsors of S. 479, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide estate tax relief, and for other purposes.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 7

At the request of Mr. SARBANES, the names of the Senator from Iowa [Mr. HARKIN], the Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID], the Senator from Oregon [Mr. WYDEN], the Senator from Arkansas [Mr. HUTCHINSON], and the Senator from Louisiana [Mr. BREAU] were added as cosponsors of Senate Concurrent Resolution 7, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress

that Federal retirement cost-of-living adjustments should not be delayed.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 11

At the request of Mr. GREGG, the names of the Senator from Kentucky [Mr. FORD], the Senator from Washington [Mrs. MURRAY], the Senator from Montana [Mr. BURNS], the Senator from Mississippi [Mr. COCHRAN], the Senator from Georgia [Mr. CLELAND], the Senator from Arkansas [Mr. HUTCHINSON], the Senator from Ohio [Mr. DEWINE], the Senator from Tennessee [Mr. FRIST], and the Senator from Oregon [Mr. SMITH] were added as cosponsors of Senate Concurrent Resolution 11, a concurrent resolution recognizing the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the first nutrition program for the elderly under the Older Americans Act of 1965.

SENATE RESOLUTION 63

At the request of Mr. DOMENICI, the names of the Senator from North Dakota [Mr. CONRAD], the Senator from Nebraska [Mr. HAGEL], the Senator from New York [Mr. D'AMATO], the Senator from New Hampshire [Mr. GREGG], and the Senator from Alaska [Mr. MURKOWSKI] were added as cosponsors of Senate Resolution 63, a resolution proclaiming the week of October 19 through October 25, 1997, as "National Character Counts Week."

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 14—PROVIDING FOR A CONDITIONAL ADJOURNMENT OR RECESS OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. LOTT submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. CON. RES. 14

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring). That when the Senate recesses or adjourns at the close of business on Thursday, March 20, 1997, Friday, March 21, 1997, or Saturday, March 22, 1997, pursuant to a motion made by the Majority Leader or his designee in accordance with this resolution, it stand recessed or adjourned until noon on Monday, April 7, 1997, or until such time on that day as may be specified by the Majority Leader or his designee in the motion to recess or adjourn, or until noon on the second day after Members are notified to reassemble pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first; and that when the House adjourns on the legislative day of Thursday, March 20, 1997, Friday, March 21, 1997, or Saturday, March 22, 1997, it stand adjourned until 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 8, 1997, or until noon on the second day after Members are notified to reassemble pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first.

SEC. 2. The Majority Leader of the Senate and the Speaker of the House, acting jointly after consultation with the Minority Leader of the Senate and the Minority Leader of the House, shall notify the Members of the Senate and House, respectively, to reassemble whenever, in this opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 15—RELATIVE TO TAIWAN

Mr. TORRICELLI submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Finance:

S. Con. Res. 15

Whereas the people of the United States and the people of Taiwan have long enjoyed extensive ties;

Whereas Taiwan, a democracy of 21,000,000 people, is currently the eighth largest trading partner of the United States, and United States exports to Taiwan total more than \$18,000,000,000 annually, far exceeding the \$12,000,000,000 the United States exports to the People's Republic of China;

Whereas the current administration has committed publicly to support Taiwan's bid to join the world Trade Organization (referred to in this resolution as the "WTO") and has declared that the United States will not oppose that bid solely on the grounds that the People's Republic of China, which also seeks WTO membership, is not yet eligible because of the People's Republic of China's unacceptable trade practices;

Whereas the United States and Taiwan have concluded discussions on virtually all outstanding trade issues necessary for Taiwan to be eligible to join the WTO;

Whereas reversion of control over Hong Kong to Beijing, scheduled to occur on July 1, 1997, will, in most respects afford the People's Republic of China WTO treatment for the bulk of its trade goods, despite the fact that the people's Republic of China's trade practices currently fall far short of qualifying for WTO membership;

Whereas the American people's fundamental sense of fairness warrants support by the United States Government for Taiwan's bid for WTO membership, and

Whereas it is in the economic interests of United States consumers and exporters for Taiwan to accede to the WTO at the earliest possible moment: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring). That it is the sense of Congress that negotiations between the United States and Taiwan be concluded promptly and that the United States Government publicly support the prompt accession of Taiwan to the WTO.

Mr. TORRICELLI. Mr. President, the months ahead will require a number of important decisions regarding the continuing evolution of U.S. policy in the region of the Taiwan Straits.

Today, I am submitting a concurrent resolution to help clarify long-standing U.S. commitments in this regard.

While the Clinton Administration and Congress attempt to improve relations with the communist authorities in Beijing, it is important for Congress to make clear the depth of the bipartisan commitment to the burgeoning democratic forces on Taiwan. Any improvement in U.S. relations with Taiwan, does not and should not come at the expense of our ties with the people of Taiwan.

The U.S. must renew our past commitments to the people of Taiwan. For example, as a result of the Taiwan Policy Review throughout 1993 and 1994 and the balance of 1994, the Clinton Administration publicly pledged to support Taiwan's membership in appropriate international organizations. In this regard, few are as important as the World Trade Organization.

Taiwan is currently the U.S.'s fifth largest trading partner and U.S. exports to Taiwan total more than \$17 billion annually. This sum is almost twice as much as U.S. exports to the P.R.C. Our trade with the People's Republic has produced a crushing \$39 billion deficit last year.

The Clinton Administration is publicly committed to supporting Taiwan's bid to join the World Trade Organization. It has already declared that the U.S. will not oppose the bid solely on the grounds that the P.R.C., which is also seeking WTO membership, is not yet eligible because of its unacceptable trade practices.

The U.S. and Taiwan have concluded discussions on virtually all outstanding trade issues necessary for Taiwan's W.T.O. eligibility. All that is left is for the U.S. to make clear that it is prepared to support Taiwan's membership and for Taiwan and the U.S. to work out the few remaining details governing trade in a few specific sectors.

In the weeks ahead, we will be called upon to vote to renew Most Favored Nation Status for China and analyzing China's actions as they take control of Hong Kong. As we do all of this, we cannot forget about our commitments to the people of Taiwan.

Congress should reaffirm our support for Taiwan's bid to join the W.T.O. and make clear that our decision regarding Taiwan's bid will not be held hostage to U.S. negotiations with Beijing.

Today, I am submitting a Sense of the Congress concurrent resolution which affirms our support for Taiwan's membership in the W.T.O.. I am pleased that a similar concurrent resolution is being submitted with bipartisan support in the other body.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 16—SETTING FORTH THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET FOR THE UNITED STATES

Mr. DOMENICI submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Budget:

S. CON. RES. 16

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring).

SECTION 1. CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 1998.

(a) DECLARATION.—The Congress determines and declares that this resolution is the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 1998 including the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 1999, 2000, 2001, and 2002 as required by section 301 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this concurrent resolution is as follows:

Sec. 1. Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 1998.

Sec. 2. Recommended levels and amounts.

Sec. 3. Social Security.

Sec. 4. Major functional categories.

SEC. 2. RECOMMENDED LEVELS AND AMOUNTS.

The following budgetary levels are appropriate for the fiscal years 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, and 2002: