

industry, and shall develop cost-estimating procedures consistent with industry practices.

(e) REPEAL.—Subsection (f) of section 406 is repealed.

SEC. 8. FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.

(a) Sections 408 and 411 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, as amended, 42 USC 5174, are hereby repealed.

(b) New section 408 is added as follows—

“SEC. 408. FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.

“The President may provide financial assistance and, if necessary, direct services, to disaster victims who, as a direct result of a major disaster, have necessary expenses and serious needs for housing, personal property, medical and dental or funeral expenses, transportation costs, and other needs. The President shall administer the program authorized by this section, and shall promulgate rules and regulations to carry out its provisions (which shall include criteria, standards, and procedures for determining eligibility for assistance).

“No individual or household shall receive financial assistance greater than \$25,000 under this section with respect to a single major disaster. Such limit shall be adjusted annually to reflect changes in the Consumer Price Index for all Urban Consumers published by the Department of Labor. The types of assistance that may be provided under this section are as follows—

“(a) HOUSING NEEDS.—The President may provide financial or other assistance to individuals or families to respond to disaster-related housing needs of those who are displaced from their pre-disaster primary residences, or whose pre-disaster residences are rendered uninhabitable as a result of damage caused by a major disaster. Individuals and households who have no pre-disaster residence shall not be provided housing assistance under this section. The most appropriate forms of housing assistance to be provided to disaster victims shall be determined in the President's discretion based upon considerations of cost effectiveness, convenience to disaster victims, and such other factors as the President may deem appropriate. One or more forms of housing assistance may be made available, based on the suitability and availability of the types of assistance to meet the disaster victims' verified needs in the particular disaster situation.

“(1) Housing assistance may be provided to individuals or households to rent alternate housing accommodations or existing rental units, manufactured housing, recreational vehicles, or other readily fabricated dwellings. The President may also directly provide such housing units, acquired by purchase or lease, to individuals or households who, because of lack of available housing resources, would be unable to make use of the assistance provided under this section. Direct assistance shall continue for no longer than 18 months after the President's major disaster declaration, unless the President determines that it would be in the public interest to extend this period due to extraordinary circumstances. After 18 months the President may charge fair market rent for the accommodation being provided. The amount of grant assistance shall be based on the fair market rent for the accommodation being furnished plus the cost of any transportation, utility hook-ups, or unit installation not being directly provided by the President.

“(2) Housing assistance may be provided to repair owner-occupied private residences, utilities, and residential infrastructure (such as private access routes) damaged by a major disaster to habitable condition where such assistance cannot be provided by voluntary

agency assistance, insurance proceeds, or through disaster loan benefits from the Small Business Administration.

“(b) CERTAIN PERMANENT HOUSING CONSTRUCTION.—The President may provide financial assistance or direct assistance to individuals or households to construct permanent housing in remote locations (primarily insular areas outside the continental United States) in cases where no alternative housing resources are available; where the types of temporary housing assistance enumerated above are unavailable, infeasible, or not cost-effective; and where such needs cannot be met by voluntary agency assistance, insurance proceeds, or disaster loan benefits from the Small Business Administration.

“(c) SITES.—Any readily fabricated dwelling provided under this section shall whenever possible be located on a site complete with utilities, and is provided by the disaster victim, or the State or local government, by the owner of the site, or by the occupant who was displaced by the major disaster. Readily fabricated dwellings may be located on sites provided by the President if the President determines that such sites would be more economical or accessible.

“(d) DISPOSITION OF UNITS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, housing units purchased by the President for the purposes of housing disaster victims may be: “(1) Sold directly to individuals or households who are occupants of temporary housing units if such individuals and households need permanent housing. Such sales shall be accomplished at prices that are fair and equitable, as determined by the President. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the proceeds of sales shall be deposited into the appropriate Disaster Relief Fund account. The President may use the services of the General Services Administration to accomplish the sale.

“(2) If not disposed of under paragraph (d)(1) of this section temporary housing units may be resold in the private market. Temporary housing units may also be sold, transferred, donated, or otherwise made available directly to States, other governmental entities, and voluntary organizations for the sole purpose of providing temporary housing to disaster victims in major disasters and emergencies, *Provided* That as a condition of such sale, transfer or donation to States, other governmental agencies, or voluntary organizations a covenant to comply with the non-discrimination provisions of section 308 is agreed to. The State, other governmental agency, or voluntary organization must also agree to obtain and maintain hazard and flood insurance on the transferred housing unit.

“(e) OTHER NEEDS.—The President is authorized to provide financial assistance to individuals or households adversely affected by a major disaster to meet disaster-related medical, dental, and funeral expenses, where such individuals or households are unable to meet such needs through insurance proceeds or voluntary agency assistance. Financial assistance may also be authorized to address personal property needs, transportation expenses, and other necessary expenses or serious needs resulting from the major disaster where such expenses and needs cannot be met through insurance proceeds, voluntary agency assistance, or through loan assistance from the Small Business Administration.”

(c) Section 502(a)(6) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. 502(a)(6), is amended by deleting “temporary housing”.

SEC. 9 REPEAL.

Section 417 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 5184, is repealed.

SEC. 10. REPEAL.

Section 422 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 5189, is repealed.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 22

At the request of Mr. MOYNIHAN, the name of the Senator from Michigan [Mr. LEVIN] was added as a cosponsor of S. 22, a bill to establish a bipartisan national commission to address the year 2000 computer problem.

S. 387

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island [Mr. REED] was added as a cosponsor of S. 387, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide equity to exports of software.

S. 464

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the names of the Senator from Hawaii [Mr. AKAKA] and the Senator from Minnesota [Mr. WELLSTONE] were added as cosponsors of S. 464, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to allow revision of veterans benefits decisions based on clear and unmistakable error.

S. 537

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the name of the Senator from Missouri [Mr. ASHCROFT] was added as a cosponsor of S. 537, a bill to amend title III of the Public Health Service Act to revise and extend the mammography quality standards program.

S. 644

At the request of Mr. D'AMATO, the name of the Senator from California [Mrs. FEINSTEIN] was added as a cosponsor of S. 644, A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act and the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to establish standards for relationships between group health plans and health insurance issuers with enrollees, health professionals, and providers.

S. 657

At the request of Mr. DASCHLE, the names of the Senator from Hawaii [Mr. AKAKA] and the Senator from Arkansas [Mr. HUTCHINSON] were added as cosponsors of S. 657, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit retired members of the Armed Forces who have a service-connected disability to receive military retired pay concurrently with veterans' disability compensation.

S. 912

At the request of Mr. BOND, the name of the Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] was added as a cosponsor of S. 912, a bill to provide for certain military retirees and dependents a special medicare part B enrollment period during which the late enrollment penalty is waived and a special medigap open period during which no under-writing is permitted.

SENATE RESOLUTION 106

At the request of Mr. ROBB, the name of the Senator from Hawaii [Mr. AKAKA] was added as a cosponsor of

Senate Resolution 106, A resolution to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Presidential Management Intern Program.

AMENDMENT NO. 420

At the request of Mr. THURMOND the name of the Senator from Maine [Ms. COLLINS] was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 420 proposed to S. 936, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 1998 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 422

At the request of Mr. GRAMS the names of the Senator from New York [Mr. D'AMATO], the Senator from Missouri [Mr. BOND], the Senator from New Hampshire [Mr. GREGG], and the Senator from California [Mrs. FEINSTEIN] were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 422 proposed to S. 936, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 1998 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mrs. BOXER her name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 422 proposed to S. 936, supra.

AMENDMENT NO. 593

At the request of Mr. WYDEN his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 593 proposed to S. 936, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 1998 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 668

At the request of Mr. WELLSTONE the names of the Senator from South Dakota [Mr. DASCHLE], the Senator from Iowa [Mr. HARKIN], the Senator from Massachusetts [Mr. KERRY], and the Senator from Washington [Mrs. MURRAY] were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 668 proposed to S. 936, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 1998 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 38—RELATIVE TO THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

Mr. ROTH submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. CON. RES. 38

Whereas, China resumed sovereignty over Hong Kong on July 1, 1997;

Whereas, in the Joint Declaration of the United Kingdom and the People's Republic of China, a legally binding document in all its parts and the highest form of commitment between sovereign states, the People's Republic of China pledged that after its resumption of sovereignty over Hong Kong, "The current social and economic systems in Hong Kong will remain unchanged, and so will the life-style. Rights and freedoms, including those of the person, of speech, of the press, of association, of travel, of movement, of correspondence, of strike, of choice of occupation, of academic research and religious belief will be ensured by law in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region";

Whereas, the People's Republic of China further pledged in the Joint Declaration that the policies of the " * * * Joint Declaration will be stipulated in a Basic Law of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China, by the National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China, and they will remain unchanged for 50 years";

Whereas, the Basic Law of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China, as adopted on April 4, 1990 by the Seventh National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China, prescribes the systems to be practiced in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region after China's resumption of sovereignty;

Whereas, according to Article 2 of the Basic Law, "The National People's Congress authorizes the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region to exercise a high degree of autonomy and enjoy executive, legislative and independent judicial power, including that of final adjudication";

Whereas, according to Article 5 of the Basic Law, "The socialist system and policies [of the People's Republic of China] shall not be practiced in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, and the previous capitalist system and way of life shall remain unchanged for 50 years";

Whereas, according to Article 27 of the Basic Law, "Hong Kong residents shall have freedom of speech, of the press and publication; freedom of association, of assembly, of procession and of demonstration; and the right and freedom to form and join trade unions, and to strike";

Whereas, according to Article 32 of the Basic Law, "Hong Kong residents shall have freedom of religious belief and freedom to preach and to conduct and participate in religious activities in public";

Whereas, according to Article 34 of the Basic Law, "Hong Kong residents shall have freedom to engage in academic research, literary and artistic creation, and other cultural activities";

Whereas, according to Article 39 of the Basic Law, "The provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and international labour conventions as applied to Hong Kong shall remain in force and shall be implemented through the laws of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region";

Whereas, President Jiang Zemin of China, in his statement of July 1, 1997, at the ceremony in Hong Kong marking the establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region said, " * * * Hong Kong will enjoy a high degree of autonomy as provided for by the Basic Law, which includes the executive, legislative and independent judicial power, including that of final adjudication";

Whereas, President Jiang further said that the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region has the "ultimate aim of electing the Chief Executive and the Legislative Council by universal suffrage";

Whereas, President Jiang further said that "No central department or locality [of the

People's Republic of China] may or will be allowed to interfere in the affairs which, under the Basic Law, should be administered by the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region on its own";

Whereas, President Jiang further said that "the provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and international covenants as applied to Hong Kong shall remain in force to be implemented through the laws of Hong Kong's regional legislation";

Whereas, President Jiang further said that adherence to these principles "serves Hong Kong, serves the [People's Republic of China] and serves the entire nation as well. Therefore there is no reason whatsoever to change them. Here I want to reaffirm that 'one country, two systems, Hong Kong administering Hong Kong' and 'a high degree of autonomy' will remain unchanged for 50 years";

Whereas, President Jiang, in another statement of July 1, 1997, at a rally in Beijing marking the establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, said that the People's Republic of China "will unswervingly carry out the principles of 'one country, two systems', 'Hong Kong people administering Hong Kong' and 'high degree of autonomy', and make sure that the previous socio-economic system and way of life of Hong Kong remain unchanged and that laws previously in force will remain basically unchanged. We will firmly support the Hong Kong SAR in its exercise of the functions and powers bestowed on it by the basic law and the Hong Kong SAR Government in its administration in accordance with law.";

Now, therefore, be it Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), that

(1) President Jiang Zemin's statements constitute a welcome reaffirmation of the obligations of the People's Republic of China under the Joint Declaration and the basic law to ensure that Hong Kong remains autonomous, the human rights of the people of Hong Kong remain protected, and the government of the Hong Kong SAR is elected democratically; and

(2) China's fulfillment of these obligations under the terms of the Joint Declaration of the United Kingdom and the People's Republic of China and the Basic Law constitute a crucial test of Beijing's ability to play a responsible global role.

Mr. ROTH, Mr. President, I rise today to submit a sense of the Congress Resolution on the obligations of the People's Republic of China under the Joint Declaration and the basic law to ensure that Hong Kong remains autonomous, the human rights of the people of Hong Kong remain protected, and the government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region [SAR] is elected democratically.

On July 1, 1997, Hong Kong returned peacefully to Chinese sovereignty under terms of the Joint Declaration of the United Kingdom and the People's Republic of China and the Basic Law of the Hong Kong SAR. Among other provisions, those two documents commit the People's Republic of China to maintain the current social and economic systems of Hong Kong and the rights, freedoms, and lifestyles of the people of Hong Kong.

China's willingness to abide by the terms of those two documents constitutes a crucial test of Beijing's ability to play a responsible global role. In