

(Mr. LAUTENBERG) was added as a cosponsor of Senate Resolution 181, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the situation in East Timor.

AMENDMENT NO. 1595

At the request of Mr. BENNETT the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of Amendment No. 1595 proposed to H.R. 2466, a bill making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1598

At the request of Mr. MURKOWSKI the names of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED), and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 1598 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2466, a bill making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1613

At the request of Ms. SNOWE her name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1613 proposed to H.R. 2466, a bill making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 56—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING THE IMPORTANCE OF “FAMILY FRIENDLY”; PROGRAMMING ON TELEVISION

Mr. VOINOVICH (for himself Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. DEWINE, Mrs. LINCOLN, and Mr. GORTON) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

S. CON. RES. 56

Expressing the sense of Congress regarding the importance of “family friendly” programming on television.

Whereas American children and adolescents spend between 22 and 28 hours each week viewing television;

Whereas American homes have an average of 2.75 television sets, and 87 percent of homes with children have more than 1 television set;

Whereas there is a need to increase the availability of programs suitable for the entire family during prime time viewing hours;

Whereas surveys of television content demonstrate that many programs contain substantial sexual or violent content;

Whereas although parents are ultimately responsible for appropriately supervising their children’s television viewing, it is also important to provide positive, “family friendly” programming that is suitable for parents and children to watch together;

Whereas efforts should be made by television networks, studios, and the production community to produce more quality family friendly programs and to air those programs during times when parents and children are likely to be viewing together;

Whereas members of the Family Friendly Programming Forum are concerned about the availability of family friendly television programs during prime time viewing hours; and

Whereas Congress encourages activities by the Forum and other entities designed to promote family friendly programming, including—

(1) participating in meetings with leadership of major television networks, studios, and production companies to express concerns;

(2) expressing the importance of family friendly programming at industry conferences, meetings, and forums;

(3) honoring outstanding family friendly television programs with a new tribute, the Family Program Awards, to be held annually in Los Angeles, California;

(4) establishing a development fund to finance family friendly scripts; and

(5) underwriting scholarships at television studies departments at institutions of higher education to encourage student interest in family friendly programming: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—

(1) recognizes and honors the efforts of the Family Friendly Programming Forum and other entities supporting family friendly programming;

(2) supports efforts to encourage television networks, studios, and the production community to produce more quality family friendly programs;

(3) supports the proposed Family Friendly Programming Awards, development fund, and scholarships, all of which are designed to encourage, recognize, and celebrate creative excellence in, and commitment to, family friendly programming; and

(4) encourages the media and American advertisers to further a family friendly television environment within which appropriate advertisements can accompany the programming.

• Mr. VOINOVICH. Mr. President, I rise today along with my friend and colleague from Connecticut, Senator LIEBERMAN, to submit a resolution recognizing the importance of expanding the amount of family friendly television programming, and to saluting the contributions that the Family Friendly Programming Forum is undertaking to make this goal a reality.

As nearly any parent will attest, it can be a very difficult task to keep track of what their children watch after school. It is particularly hard for working parents. Each week the average child watches 22 to 28 hours of television, which is more time than is spent on nearly any other activity, except sleeping. The trick for parents is to establish good family viewing habits that emphasize quality programming and which are suited to the age of these young viewers. Many parents have indicated their desire to have more program choices for family friendly viewing during the evening hours when everyone is home together.

To help in this endeavor, a number of our nation’s leading companies have joined forces to establish the Family Friendly Programming Forum. The Forum’s members, which includes some of the nation’s largest television advertisers, are encouraging the production of more television programs geared to-

ward the entire family. As sponsors of a wide range of programs, the Forum’s members believe that there is a definite call for more family friendly movies, documentaries, series and other programs that are relevant and interesting to a broad family audience.

The members of the Forum are working on a variety of initiatives in an effort to promote more family friendly programs. They are: engaging in constructive dialogue with industry leaders, presenting awards to family friendly television programs, establishing a development fund for family friendly scripts, awarding university scholarships in television studies that highlight family television themes, as well as embarking on a public awareness campaign.

Mr. President, as a father and a grandfather, I am deeply concerned about the healthy development of all our nation’s children. The future of our nation depends to a great degree on the safe and nurturing environment that will give children a positive outlook on life. Therefore, I encourage efforts that will increase the number and quality of family TV programs. I congratulate the Family Friendly Programming Forum on their leadership toward that goal.

I believe that the passage of the resolution that Senator LIEBERMAN and I are introducing honors the Forum’s commitment and helps raise the awareness of others in the business community to align themselves with the goal of bringing quality television to our nation’s families for the benefit of our children. I encourage my colleagues to join us in cosponsoring this resolution and I urge the Senate to provide it’s quick approval. •

SENATE RESOLUTION 183—DESIGNATING THE WEEK BEGINNING ON SEPTEMBER 19, 1999, AND ENDING ON SEPTEMBER 25, 1999, AS NATIONAL HOME EDUCATION WEEK

Mr. ASHCROFT (for himself, Mr. COVERDELL, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. HELMS, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. GREGG, and Mr. SMITH of Oregon) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 183

Whereas the United States is committed to excellence in education;

Whereas the United States recognizes the importance of family participation and parental choices in pursuit of that excellence;

Whereas the United States recognizes the fundamental right of parents to direct the education and upbringing of their children;

Whereas parents want their children to receive a first-class education;

Whereas training in the home strengthens the family and guides children in setting the highest standards for their lives which are essential elements to the continuity of morality in our culture;

Whereas home schooling families contribute significantly to the cultural diversity important to a healthy society;

Whereas the United States has a significant number of parents who teach their own children at home;

Whereas home education was proven successful in the lives of George Washington, Patrick Henry, John Quincy Adams, John Marshall, Robert E. Lee, Booker T. Washington, Thomas Edison, Abraham Lincoln, Franklin Roosevelt, Woodrow Wilson, Mark Twain, John Singleton Copley, William Carey, Phyllis Wheatley, and Andrew Carnegie;

Whereas home school students exhibit self-confidence and good citizenship and are fully prepared academically to meet the challenges of today's society;

Whereas dozens of contemporary studies continue to confirm that children who are educated at home score exceptionally well on nationally normed achievement tests;

Whereas a March 1999 study by the Educational Resources Information Center Clearinghouse on Assessment and Evaluation at the University of Maryland found that home school students taking the Iowa Test of Basic Skills or the Tests of Achievement and Proficiency scored in the 70th to 80th percentiles among all the students nationwide who took those exams, and 25 percent of home schooled students were studying at a level one or more grades above normal for their age;

Whereas studies demonstrate that home schoolers excel in college with the average grade point average of home schoolers exceeding the college average; and

Whereas United States home educators and home instructed students should be recognized and celebrated for their efforts to improve the quality of education: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the week beginning on September 19, 1999, and ending on September 25, 1999, is designated as National Home Education Week. The President is authorized and requested to issue a proclamation recognizing the contributions that home schooling families have made to the Nation.

SENATE RESOLUTION 184—CONGRATULATING THE NEVADA HISPANIC LEADERS IN CELEBRATING HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

Mr. REID submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 184

Whereas September 15th begins the celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month;

Whereas in 1999, the Hispanic population in Nevada exceeds 253,000, and is expected to exceed 31,000,000 nationwide by the end of the millennium;

Whereas Hispanic schoolchildren represent 25 percent of the Clark County School District in Nevada;

Whereas it is important to highlight the contributions Hispanics have made to American society, culture, academics, business, and education;

Whereas Nevada Hispanic leaders have gathered in Washington, D.C., to attend Senator Harry Reid's National Conference for Hispanic Leadership Summit;

Whereas Nevada Hispanic leaders will have an opportunity to meet with Senator Reid's senatorial colleagues and members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus;

Whereas Nevada Hispanic leaders will meet with the highest ranking Hispanic in President Clinton's Administration, Secretary of Energy, Bill Richardson, as well as other high level Hispanics in the Executive Branch;

Whereas Nevada Hispanic leaders will be briefed by the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans, and will meet with White House Deputy Chief of Staff, Maria Echaveste, and the Director of Inter-Governmental Affairs, Mickey Ibarra;

Whereas Nevada Hispanic leaders will be briefed by Federal agencies critical to the Hispanic community's advancement, such as the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Education, Energy, Health and Human Services, Housing and Urban Development, Justice, and Labor, as well as the Small Business Administration and the Immigration and Naturalization Service;

Whereas Nevada Hispanic leaders will be briefed by the Nation's pre-eminent Hispanic organizations, such as the National Council of La Raza, the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities, the National Association of Latino Elected Officials, the League of United Latin American Cities, the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, the National Latino Children's Institute, the Aspira Association, and the MANA (a national Latina organization);

Whereas Senator Reid's conference will be an opportunity for Nevada Hispanic leaders to unite in Washington, D.C., so that the leaders can experience the legislative and regulatory process and interact with individuals and organizations who shape the Nation's policy; and

Whereas strong partnerships will be forged with the attendees of Senator Reid's conference who have travelled from Nevada to Washington, D.C., to influence policy and advance the needs and goals of Hispanics in Nevada and the Nation: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates Nevada Hispanic leaders who have made a special trip to the Nation's Capital for this historic summit;

(2) commemorates the following names of the Nevada Hispanic leaders: Bob Agonia, Elvira J. Alvarez, Luisa Balza, Kelly Benavidez, Carina Black, Greg J. Black, Carlos Blumberg, Don Brown, Andrea Brown, Malena Burnett, Deanna Cambeiro-Remark, Liz Carrasco, Maria Champlin, Lyciane Corona, Laura Cortez, Cheryl Davis, Nico De La Puente, Johny Diaz, Dr. Mark Dominguez, Rose Dominguez, Lopez Edwardo, Elva Esparza, Edith Fernandez, Jacqueline Ferreiro, Judith Fleishman, Frank Canales, Charvez Foger, Sermerno Francisco, Zullie Franco, Hector Galvez-Lopez, Edward M. Garcia, Helena Garcia, Laura Garcia, Arriola Gilbert, Almalynda Guerrero, Jesse Gutierrez, Elaine Hernandez, Cinthya Hernandez, Cecilia Khan, Estela LaVario, Eduardo Lopez, Scott Antonio Lopez, Rene Mantecon, Diego Martin, Raul Martinez, Magda Martinez, Larry Mason, Griselda Maya, Rita McGary, John Medina, Eva Melendrez, Jose Melendrez, Laura Mijanovich, Clara Miranda, Ramon Miranda, Marlene Monteolivo, Jesse Montes, Fran Montes, Gabriela Mora, John Mulligan, Mercy Nagel, Alberto Ochoa, Arturo Ochoa, Alex Ortiz, Rosa Parodi, Ciria Perez, Jose Pineda, Craig Pittman, Andres Ramirez, Dr. Maria G. Ramirez, Margarita Rebollar, Mary Resendez, Linda Rivera, Mario Rocha, Carlos Rodriguez Jr., Michelle Rodriguez, Fernando Romero, Dr. Carlos Romo, Martha Salazar, Tony Sanchez, Raymond Sandoval, Emma Sepulveda, Carmen Suarez, Maria Carmen Thomas, Jose Troncoso, Candida Ann Ureno, and Rafael Villanueva; and

(3) requests the legislative clerk of the Senate to read the Resolution into the record upon its passage.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, September 15, 1999, marks the beginning of Hispanic Heritage Month. Today, I rise be-

fore my colleagues in the Senate to pay tribute to Nevada's dynamic Hispanic community, as well as the more than 30 million people in the United States who are of Hispanic heritage.

Mr. President, Nevada, which has consistently been the fastest growing state in the union, boasts a Hispanic population of more than two-hundred and fifty thousand. While the Hispanic community constitutes fifteen percent of the population of Las Vegas, more than one in four schoolchildren in the Las Vegas/Clark County School District are of Hispanic heritage. Our children are the future, and the inference is clear: the Hispanic community is the fastest growing minority group in Nevada and the entire country.

The many contributions of Hispanics in American society are demonstrated in the areas of culture, academics, business, education, the arts and entertainment. In Nevada, Hispanic leadership continues to advance as members of the community occupy more and more elected and appointed positions. I was especially honored to have my dear friend, Reynaldo Martinez, serve as my Chief of Staff in the United States Senate.

Mr. President, to celebrate these many contributions, but also, to address the path that lies ahead, Nevada Hispanic leaders from Nevada will gather in Washington, D.C. from September 15-17, 1999, for Unidos para el Futuro (United for the Future), my National Conference for Nevada Hispanic Leadership. Armed with the lessons of the past, and ready to confront the challenges of the future, these members of the Nevada Hispanic community will have the opportunity to meet with my colleagues in the Senate and the House of Representatives, including the Congressional Hispanic Caucus. I am honored that Energy Secretary Bill Richardson, the highest ranking Hispanic in President Clinton's administration, will also address the gathering. Furthermore, the group will meet with numerous national Hispanic organizations, as well as officials from the various federal agencies that interact with the Hispanic community. I am hopeful that the efforts we are undertaking will provide our friends and colleagues in the Hispanic community with essential information on a variety of issues, as well as the necessary interaction with those individuals and entities that shape policy. Such pro-action on our part is imperative in the Senate which, unfortunately, is without a Hispanic Member.

As elected officials, we must be constantly apprised of the issues that are important to our constituents. Simply put, the priorities of the Hispanic community must be our priorities as well.

Mr. President, I rise to recognize and honor the following members of Nevada's Hispanic community who have joined me in our nation's capital, united for the future:

Bob Agonia, Elmira J. Alvarez, Luisa Balsa, Kelly Benavidez, Carina Black,