

LEVIN) was added as a cosponsor of Senate Resolution 99, a resolution designating November 20, 1999, as "National Survivors for Prevention of Suicide Day."

## AMENDMENT NO. 1495

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS the names of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON), and the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 1495 intended to be proposed to S. 1233, an original bill making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 49—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING THE IMPORTANCE OF "FAMILY FRIENDLY" PROGRAMMING ON TELEVISION

Mr. VOINOVICH (for himself and Mr. LIEBERMAN) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

## S. CON. RES. 49

Whereas American children and adolescents spend between 22 and 28 hours per week viewing television—more than any other activity except sleeping;

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

Whereas a very limited number of prime time programs are suitable for the entire family;

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

Whereas parents are ultimately responsible for the appropriate supervision of their child's television viewing, and critical viewing and "co-viewing" of television programming with the child are especially important;

Whereas "family friendly" programming means programs which are relevant, interesting, and appropriate for audiences of all ages, including movies, series, documentaries, and informational programs aired during hours when children and adults might be together watching television (between 8:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.);

Whereas "family friendly" programming is of a type that the average viewer or parent would not be embarrassed to watch with children in the room and ideally presents an uplifting message;

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

Whereas members of the Forum on Family Friendly Programming market products and services to entire families and are concerned about the dwindling 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 share 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 Forum on Family Friendly Programming 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 Family Friendly Programming Awards, which will 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 distinguished colleague from Connecticut, Senator LIEBERMAN, to submit a concurrent resolution recognizing the importance of expanding the amount of family friendly television programming, and the contributions that the Forum for Family Friendly Programming is undertaking to make this goal a reality.

One of the more frustrating aspects of being a parent in the United States is the fact that we cannot always protect our children from what they see and hear. Images and descriptions of violence, sex and drug and alcohol consumption permeate our culture, but nowhere are these depicted more readily than on television. Recent studies support the theory that children exposed to violent video programming at a young age have a higher tendency to engage in violent and aggressive behavior later in life. Even more distressing is that children witness an average of five violent acts per hour on prime-time television and 200,000 acts of violence on television by the time they are 18 years old. There is no doubt that this exposure threatens the healthy development of our children.

For families that have both parents working, it's becoming harder for them to keep track of what their children watch after school or during the summer months. More likely than not, a child will pick up the television clicker before he or she will pick up a book. Indeed, each week, the average child will watch 22-28 hours of television, which is more time than he or she spends on any outside activity other than sleeping.

The trick for parents is to establish good viewing habits for their child—as well as the entire family—that emphasize quality programming and are suited to the age of the child. While there is generally a variety of quality children's programming throughout the morning and afternoon hours, the concern for many parents is the content of evening programming. Right now, most parents indicate that the so-called "family viewing" time of evening—traditionally between 8:00 and 10:00 p.m.—often contains programming that they feel is inappropriate for their children. It is important that broadcasters recognize that the daily "family viewing" period needs to focus more on programming that is actually family friendly; shows that parents and children can readily watch together.

No one can replace the good judgment of a parent in determining what a child watches on television. However, parents can use all the help they can get in ensuring that more family oriented shows are aired during the evening hours.

To help in this endeavor, a number of our nation's largest companies have joined together to establish the Forum for Family Friendly Programming. Like many American families, the members of the Forum are concerned that fewer and fewer television programs are specifically geared towards the entire family. They are concerned, also, that too many of the programs that our children view contain storylines, language and characters to which they should not be exposed.

Most of the companies that belong to the Forum are sponsors of a wide range of television programs, but they believe that more family-friendly television programming, including movies, documentaries, series or informational programs that are interesting or relevant to a broad audience, will actually appeal to more families.

Right now, the members of the Forum for Family Friendly Programming are working with and in the entertainment community on a variety of initiatives on family friendly programming including: meetings with industry leaders; speeches and discussions at industry meetings and conferences; award tributes to family friendly television programs; a development fund for family friendly scripts; university scholarships in television studies departments to encourage student interest in family friendly programming; and a public awareness campaign to promote more family friendly programming.

Mr. President, as a father and a grandfather, I am deeply concerned about the healthy development of all of our nation's children. Since the future of our country depends upon our children, we must do all that we can to limit their exposure to negative influences and provide them with as safe and nurturing an environment as possible. Therefore, I encourage efforts that will expand the number of quality

family programs that are shown on television, and I congratulate the Forum for Family Friendly Programming on their leadership towards that goal.

I believe that passage of this resolution honoring the Forum's commitment will help raise awareness and inspire others in the business world to align themselves with the goal of bringing quality television to our nation's families. I am pleased to join with my colleague, Senator LIEBERMAN, who has been a leader in the Senate on addressing the needs of our children, and I urge my colleagues to join us in co-sponsoring this resolution, and calling for its speedy consideration by the Senate. ●

**SENATE RESOLUTION 170—RECOGNIZING LAWRENCEBURG, TENNESSEE, AS THE BIRTHPLACE OF SOUTHERN GOSPEL MUSIC**

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

S. RES. 170

Whereas Lawrenceburg, Tennessee, is the home of many of the first major southern gospel music songwriters, including such songwriters as James D. Vaughan, Adger Pace, James Rowe, G. T. Speer, and William Walbert;

Whereas Lawrenceburg, Tennessee, is the home of the first professional southern gospel music quartet, which was founded by James D. Vaughan in 1910;

Whereas Lawrenceburg, Tennessee, is the home of the first southern gospel music radio station WOAN, which was founded in 1922;

Whereas Lawrenceburg, Tennessee, is the home of the Vaughan School of Music, which helped train the first generation of southern gospel music artists and songwriters, including V. O. Stamps, Frank Stamps, the LeFevers, and the Speers;

Whereas Lawrenceburg, Tennessee, is the home of the *Vaughan Family Visitor*, the first influential southern gospel music newspaper which was published from 1914 to 1964;

Whereas Lawrenceburg, Tennessee, is the home of the James D. Vaughan Music Company, which has published millions of shape-note southern gospel music songbooks from the date of its founding in 1902 until 1964; and

Whereas the Southern Gospel Music Association recognizes Lawrenceburg, Tennessee, as the official birthplace of southern gospel music; Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*

**SECTION 1. RECOGNITION OF LAWRENCEBURG, TENNESSEE AS THE BIRTHPLACE OF SOUTHERN GOSPEL MUSIC.**

The Senate—

(1) recognizes Lawrenceburg, Tennessee, as the birthplace of southern gospel music; and

(2) requests that the President issue a proclamation honoring Lawrenceburg, Tennessee, as such a birthplace.

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. President, today I rise to submit a resolution recognizing my hometown of Lawrenceburg, TN, as the official birthplace of Southern Gospel Music.

Lawrenceburg is not a large town by any means, nor is it altogether prominent in the political landscape. What this humble town lacks in size, however, it more than makes up for with its importance in the history of Amer-

ican music. Since the turn of the 20th century, Lawrenceburg has been the home of Southern Gospel Music, a musical tradition embraced and perpetuated by talented and dedicated artists.

The roots of Southern Gospel Music reach back to some of the most gifted songwriters of our time, such as Adger Pace, James Rowe, G.T. Speer, William Walbert, and the great James D. Vaughan. Vaughan went on to found the first Southern Gospel Music quartet in Lawrenceburg in 1910. He also founded, in Lawrenceburg, the Vaughan School of Music and the James D. Vaughan Music Company. This school helped train the first generation of Southern Gospel Music artists, such as V.O. Stamps, Frank Stamps, the Speers, and the LeFevers, while the music company published millions of shape-note Southern Gospel Music songbooks during its existence from 1902 until 1964.

Lawrenceburg was also integral in getting the word out to the world that Southern Gospel Music was on its way. Along with the many traveling quartets originating from the training ground of the Vaughan School of Music, Lawrenceburg was the home of the first influential Southern Gospel Music newspaper, *The Vaughan Family Visitor*, which began publication in 1914. Eight short years later the first Southern Gospel Music radio station WOAN was founded, also in Lawrenceburg.

With the endorsement of the Southern Gospel Music Association, which has designated Lawrenceburg the birthplace of Southern Gospel Music, I proudly ask my colleagues to support this resolution recognizing Lawrenceburg, TN, as the official birthplace of Southern Gospel Music.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 171—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE PRESIDENT SHOULD RENEGOTIATE THE EXTRADITION TREATY BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE UNITED MEXICAN STATES**

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

S. RES. 171

Whereas, under the Extradition Treaty Between the United States of America and the United Mexican States, Mexico refused to extradite murder suspect and United States citizen Jose Luis Del Toro to the United States until the State of Florida agreed not to exercise its right to seek capital punishment in its criminal prosecution of him;

Whereas under the Extradition Treaty Mexico has refused to extradite other suspects of capital crimes; and

Whereas the Extradition Treaty interferes with the justice system of the United States and encourages criminals to flee to Mexico; Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved,*

**SECTION 1. SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING THE RENEGOTIATION OF THE UNITED STATES-MEXICAN EXTRADITION TREATY.**

It is the sense of the Senate that the President should renegotiate the Extradition Treaty Between the United States of America and the United Mexican States, signed in Mexico City in 1978 (31 U.S.T. 5059), so that the possibility of capital punishment will not interfere with the timely extradition of criminal suspects from Mexico to the United States.

Mr. TORRICELLI. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce a resolution regarding our extradition treaty with Mexico. This resolution expresses the sense of the Senate that the United States renegotiate our extradition treaty to allow for the possibility of capital punishment. The case of Jose Luis del Toro has made the need for this resolution clear.

When Sheila Bellush was brutally murdered in November 1997, her accused murderer, Jose Luis del Toro, fled to Mexico to escape prosecution in the United States. From this time forward, there has been little consolation for the Bellush family, and a great deal of hardship. While Del Toro was apprehended in Mexico just 13 days later, a nightmare of government delays and roadblocks prevented his extradition to the United States.

The details of Sheila Bellush's murder are shocking. By all accounts, her four 23-month-old quadruplets probably witnessed their mother's murder, and wandered around in her blood trying to wake her up for as many as 4 or 5 hours before the 13-year-old daughter came home from school and found Mrs. Bellush's body.

There is overwhelming evidence that Del Toro was involved in the murder. The Sarasota police believe that he was, in fact, the gunman in a murder-for-hire scheme. Del Toro's cousin works at a golf course where Bellush's ex-husband plays golf. That cousin and one of the ex-husband's golfing partners have been arrested as co-conspirators. On the day of the murder, Del Toro asked directions to the Bellush house and left a clear fingerprint at the scene. He had directions to the Bellush house in his car, which was seen near the crime, and he stayed in a nearby motel, where a .45 caliber bullet was found, like the one used in the murder.

The Mexican government refused his extradition unless the United States agreed to waive the death penalty. Amazingly, we approved such a provision in the U.S.-Mexico Extradition Treaty of 1978. This agreement allows Mexico the right to refuse extradition if the death penalty may be applicable in the case. In the Bellush case, this provision allowed Del Toro to evade prosecution for over a year while awaiting his extradition.

I became involved in this case when Jamie Bellush moved their six children to Newton, New Jersey, and sought my help with Del Toro's extradition. I was in constant contact with the Justice and State Departments and the Mexican Embassy urging them to move