

SEC. 15. WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS BY INTERESTED PARTIES.

The Secretary shall consider any written materials submitted to the Bureau from any interested party, including neighboring municipalities, that possess information bearing on whether to recognize an Indian group.

SEC. 16. PUBLICATION OF FINAL DETERMINATION.

The Secretary shall publish in the Federal Register a complete and detailed explanation of the Secretary's final decision regarding a documented petition under this Act, including express finding of facts and of law with regard to each of the criteria listed in section 10.

SEC. 17. INDEPENDENT REVIEW, RECONSIDERATION, AND FINAL ACTION.

The provisions of section 83.11 of title 25 of the Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act, shall apply with respect to the independent review, reconsideration, and final action of the Secretary on a documented petition under this Act.

SEC. 18. IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISION ACKNOWLEDGING STATUS AS AN INDIAN TRIBE.

The provisions of section 83.12 of title 25 of the Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act, shall apply with respect to the implementation of a decision under this Act acknowledging a petitioner as an Indian tribe.

SEC. 19. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act, \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2002 and each fiscal year thereafter.

S. 1393

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. GRANT PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—To the extent that amounts are appropriated and acceptable requests are submitted, the Secretary shall award grants to eligible local governments and eligible Indian groups to promote the participation of such governments and groups in the decisionmaking process related to the actions described in subsection (b), if the Secretary determines that the assistance provided under such a grant is necessary to protect the interests of the government or group and would otherwise promote the interests of just administration within the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

(b) ACTIONS FOR WHICH GRANTS MAY BE AVAILABLE.—The Secretary may award grants under this section for participation assistance related to the following actions:

(1) ACKNOWLEDGMENT.—An Indian group is seeking Federal acknowledgment or recognition, or a terminated Indian tribe is seeking to be restored to Federally-recognized status.

(2) TRUST STATUS.—A Federally-recognized Indian tribe has asserted trust status with respect to land within the boundaries of an area over which a local government currently exercises jurisdiction.

(3) TRUST LAND.—A Federally-recognized Indian tribe has filed a petition with the Secretary of the Interior requesting that land within the boundaries of an area over which a local government is currently exercising jurisdiction be taken into trust.

(4) LAND CLAIMS.—An Indian group or a Federally-recognized Indian tribe is asserting a claim to land based upon a treaty or a law specifically applicable to transfers of land or natural resources from, by, or on behalf of any Indian, Indian tribe, or group, or band of Indians (including the Acts commonly known as the Trade and Intercourse Acts (1 Stat. 137; 2 Stat. 139; and 4 Stat. 729).

(5) OTHER ACTIONS.—Any other action or proposed action relating to an Indian group or Federally-recognized Indian tribe if the Secretary determines that the action or proposed action is likely to significantly affect the citizens represented by a local government.

(c) AMOUNT OF GRANTS.—Grants awarded under this section to a local government or eligible Indian group for any one action may not exceed \$500,000 in any fiscal year.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ACKNOWLEDGED INDIAN TRIBE.—The term "acknowledged Indian tribe" means any Indian tribe, band, nation, pueblo, or other organized group or community which is recognized as eligible for the special programs and services provided by the United States to Indians because of their status as Indians.

(2) ELIGIBLE INDIAN GROUP.—The term "eligible Indian group" means a group that—

(A) is determined by the Secretary to be in need of financial assistance to facilitate fair participation in a pending action described in subsection (b);

(B) is an acknowledged Indian Tribe or has petitioned the Secretary to be acknowledged as an Indian Tribe; and

(C) petitions the Secretary for a grant under subsection (a).

(3) ELIGIBLE LOCAL GOVERNMENT.—The term "eligible local government" means a municipality or county that—

(A) is determined by the Secretary to be in need of financial assistance to facilitate fair participation in a pending action described in subsection (b); and

(B) petitions the Secretary for a grant under subsection (a).

(4) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

(e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Grants awarded under this section may only be applied to expenses incurred after the date of enactment of this Act.

(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$8,000,000 for each fiscal year that begins after the date of the enactment of this Act.

STATEMENTS ON SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 150—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 23 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 29, 2001, AS "NATIONAL PARENTS WEEK"

Mr. VOINOVICH (for himself and Mr. DEWINE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 150

Whereas parents play an indispensable role in the rearing of their children;

Whereas good-parenting is a time-consuming, emotionally demanding task that is essential not only to the health of a household but to the well-being of our Nation;

Whereas without question, the future of our Nation depends largely upon the willingness of mothers and fathers, however busy or distracted, to embrace their parental responsibilities and to vigilantly watch over and guide the lives of their children;

Whereas mothers and fathers must strive tirelessly to raise children in an atmosphere of decency, discipline, and devotion, where encouragement abounds and where kindness, affection, and cooperation are in plentiful supply;

Whereas the journey into adulthood can be perilous and lonely for a child without stability, direction, and emotional support;

Whereas children benefit enormously from parents with whom they feel safe, secure, and valued, and in an environment where adult and child alike can help one another aspire to joy and fulfillment on a variety of levels; and

Whereas such a domestic climate contributes significantly to the development of healthy, well-adjusted adults, and it is imperative that the general population not underestimate the favorable impact that positive parenting can have on society as a whole; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of September 23 through September 29, 2001, as "National Parents Week"; and

(2) requests that the President issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe such week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I rise today to join my friend and colleague from Ohio, Senator VOINOVICH, to offer a resolution designating September 23 through September 29, 2001, as "National parents Week." During this week, advocates would wear purple ribbons and communities all over would take time to reflect on how important parents are in our children's lives.

As proud parents of eight children and now six grandchildren, my wife, Fran, and I know that our Nation's future is in the hands of our children. They are the next doctors, firefighters, teachers, and parents, themselves. To quote Abraham Lincoln, "a child is a person who is going to carry-on what you have started . . . the fate of humanity is in his hands." President Lincoln's words hold as true today as they did well over one hundred years ago.

To safeguard this future, parents must fulfill many demanding responsibilities. They must guide their children, teach them right from wrong, share in their joy and comfort, and support them in times of need. As any parent knows, this is not always easy. It takes a parent's constant dedication, constant attention, and constant love. This resolution will serve as a giant "thank you" to all the parents who work so hard every day to provide for their children.

With this resolution, we congratulate and adulate parents in order to assure them that we are behind them—100 percent. They must know how important it is to stay the course and continue to provide the values and lessons that will secure a bright and promising future for our children.

Mr. VOINOVICH. Mr. President, I rise today to join my friend and colleague, Senator MIKE DEWINE, to introduce legislation that will highlight the week of September 23, 2001 as National Parent's Week.

Positive parenting is a task that is crucial to the future of our Nation, yet the responsibilities and burdens that fall upon parents are too often undervalued. I believe it is essential that we highlight the importance of parents in developing healthy and productive children in our society.

Children thrive in homes where parents take an active role in providing

stability, safety and discipline. This, combined with unconditional affection and encouragement, provide children with the solid foundation to move ahead in life.

I was fortunate to have grown up in a household with such loving and dedicated parents. My mother and father strongly believed in the duty and responsibility they had to their six children, and worked tirelessly to ensure that my brothers and sisters and I would become healthy, productive adults.

As a matter of fact, it is from my parents that I learned the importance of using my God-given talents to serve others. My life in public service has been a reflection of what they not only preached, but on how they lived their lives. My siblings and I were taught early on that part of earning and deserving our citizenship was giving back, not only to our immediate family, but also to our community and our country.

Even as my mother entered her eighties, she still served as a model for our family. Although, she was moving on in years, she would still volunteer her time in the library of a Cleveland city school. I would ask her, "Mom—why are you still doing this? You've done enough! Why don't you just rest and take it easy?"

Her answer was always the same: "Because I'm needed."

I was truly blessed to have two wonderful parents who were such loving and supportive role models. Too often, today's youth look elsewhere for guidance and comfort, not realizing that all the support and guidance they need is already there under their own roof. It is imperative that we bring the role of parents back to prominence, for they are the front-line for instilling the values we cherish in all our nation's youth.

I encourage parents all over the nation to recognize and cherish the blessing and responsibility they have in raising God's gifts to them. It is my hope that through the establishment of "National Parents Week," we will raise awareness of just how important our parents are in molding the next generation of Americans citizens.

SENATE RESOLUTION 151—EX-PRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE WORLD CONFERENCE AGAINST RACISM, RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, XENOPHOBIA, AND RELATED INTOLERANCE PRESENTS A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS GLOBAL DISCRIMINATION

Mr. DODD (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SMITH of Oregon, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. SANTORUM, Mr. WELLSTONE, and Mr. CORZINE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 151

Whereas racial discrimination, ethnic conflict, and xenophobia persist in various parts

of the world despite continuing efforts by the international community to address these problems;

Whereas in recent years the world has witnessed campaigns of ethnic cleansing;

Whereas racial minorities, migrants, asylum seekers, and indigenous peoples are persistent targets of intolerance and violence;

Whereas millions of human beings continue to encounter discrimination solely due to their race, skin color, or ethnicity;

Whereas early action is required to prevent the growth of ethnic hatred and to diffuse potential violent conflicts;

Whereas the United Nations World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia, and Related Intolerance (in this resolution referred to as "WCAR"), to be held in Durban, South Africa, from August 31 through September 7, 2001, aims to create a new world vision for the fight against racism and other forms of intolerance in the twenty-first century, urge participants to adopt anti-discrimination policies and practices, and establish a mechanism for monitoring future progress toward a discrimination-free world;

Whereas the WCAR will review progress made in the fight against racism and consider ways to better ensure the application of existing standards to combat racism;

Whereas participants of the WCAR currently plan to discuss remedies, redress, and other mechanisms to provide recourse at national, regional, and international levels for victims of racism, xenophobia, sexism, religious intolerance, slavery, and other forms of discrimination;

Whereas the WCAR is charged with reviewing the political, historical, economic, social, cultural, and other factors leading to racism and racial discrimination and formulating concrete recommendations to further action-oriented national, regional, and international measures to combat racism;

Whereas some preparatory materials for the WCAR take positions on current crises which, if adopted in the final WCAR Declaration and Program of Action, could exacerbate existing tensions, such as language which takes sides in the current crisis between Israelis and Palestinians;

Whereas the attempt by some to use the WCAR as a platform to resuscitate the divisive and discredited notion equating Zionism with racism, a notion that was overwhelmingly rejected in 1991 by a subsequent United Nations Resolution, would undermine the goals and objectives of the WCAR;

Whereas the WCAR is expected to propose concrete recommendations to ensure that the United Nations has the resources to actively combat racism and racial discrimination; and

Whereas the United States encourages respect for an individual's human rights and fundamental freedoms without distinction of any kind, such as race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth, or other status: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) encourages all participants in the WCAR to seize this singular opportunity to tackle the scourges of racism, xenophobia, sexism, religious intolerance, slavery, and other forms of discrimination which have divided people and wreaked immeasurable suffering;

(2) recognizes that, since racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and other forms of intolerance exist to some extent in every region and country around the world, efforts to address these prejudices should occur within a global framework and without reference to specific regions, countries, or present-day conflicts;

(3) exhorts the participants to utilize the WCAR to mitigate, rather than aggravate, racial, ethnic, and regional tensions;

(4) urges the WCAR to focus on concrete steps that may be taken to address gross human rights violations that were motivated by racially and ethnically based animus and on devising strategies to help eradicate such intolerance;

(5) hopes that objectionable language concerning Israel and Zionism will be removed so that the United States will be able to send a delegation and participate fully in the WCAR; and

(6) commends the efforts of the Government of the Republic of South Africa in hosting the WCAR.

SENATE RESOLUTION 152—EX-PRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS SHOULD REQUEST ASSISTANCE FROM THE COMMISSIONER OF SOCIAL SECURITY IN FULFILLING THE SECRETARY'S MANDATE TO PROVIDE OUTREACH TO VETERANS, THEIR DEPENDANTS, AND THEIR SURVIVORS

Mrs. LINCOLN submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs:

S. RES. 152

Whereas the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has a statutory mandate to provide outreach to veterans, their dependents, and their survivors;

Whereas the most recent survey conducted by the VA indicates that many veterans and survivors are unaware of benefits they are eligible to receive;

Whereas recent press reports indicate many veterans are not aware that they are eligible for low-cost prescription medications as part of medical care provided by the VA;

Whereas some VA outreach initiatives, such as the Health Benefits Hotline (1-877-222-VETS), are somewhat recent;

Whereas more than 9,000,000 veterans receive Social Security benefits;

Whereas the number of members of the largest group of veterans, the Vietnam Era veterans, who are awarded Social Security disability and retirement insurance benefits will increase over time;

Whereas the Social Security Administration sends more than 45,000,000 cost-of-living adjustment notices to its beneficiaries each year;

Whereas the Social Security Administration sends more than 2,000,000 award notices to newly-entitled disability and retirement insurance beneficiaries each year;

Whereas more than 100,000 persons visit the field offices of the Social Security Administration every workday;

Whereas the Social Security Administration has 65,000 employees, most of whom come into contact with the public;

Whereas many Social Security beneficiaries who are veterans could benefit from VA medical care because they do not have prescription drug coverage or are not currently eligible for Medicare; and

Whereas many Social Security beneficiaries are eligible for additional income through the VA's pension and compensation programs: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the Secretary of Veterans Affairs should request assistance from the Commissioner of Social Security in fulfilling the