

STATEMENTS ON SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 284—EXPRESSING THE SUPPORT FOR “NATIONAL NIGHT OUT” AND REQUESTING THAT THE PRESIDENT MAKE NEIGHBORHOOD CRIME PREVENTION COMMUNITY POLICING AND REDUCTION OF SCHOOL CRIME IMPORTANT PRIORITIES OF THE ADMINISTRATION.

Mr. BIDEN (for himself and Mr. SPECTER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

S. RES. 284

Whereas neighborhood crime is a continuing concern of the American people;

Whereas the fight against neighborhood crime and terrorism requires the cooperation of community residents, neighborhood crime watch organizations, schools, community policing groups, and other law enforcement officials;

Whereas neighborhood crime watch organizations are effective in promoting awareness about, and the participation of volunteers in, crime prevention activities at the local level;

Whereas the vigilance of neighborhood crime watch organizations creates safer communities and discourages drug dealers from operating in the communities monitored by those organizations;

Whereas the American people are concerned about violence and crime in schools, especially about incidents that result in fatalities at school, and are seeking methods to prevent such violence and crime;

Whereas community-based programs involving law enforcement personnel, school administrators, teachers, parents, and local communities are effective in reducing violence and crime in schools;

Whereas the Federal Government has made efforts to prevent neighborhood crime, including supporting community policing programs;

Whereas the Attorney General has called Federal efforts to support community policing a “miraculous sort of success”;

Whereas the Administration has supported neighborhood watch programs through the establishment of the Citizen Corps;

Whereas on August 6, 2002, people across America will take part in National Night Out, an event that highlights the importance of community participation in crime prevention efforts;

Whereas on National Night Out participants will light up their homes and neighborhoods between 7:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. on that date, and spend that time outside with their neighbors; and

Whereas schools that turn their lights on from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. on August 6, 2002, send a positive message to the participants of National Night Out and show their commitment to reducing crime and violence in schools; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals of National Night Out;

(2) recognizes that the fight against neighborhood crime and terrorism requires individuals, neighborhood crime watch organizations, schools, and community policing groups and other law enforcement officials to work together;

(3) encourages neighborhood residents, crime watch organizations, and schools to participate in National Night Out activities

on August 6, 2002, between 7:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.; and

(4) requests that the President—

(A) issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States to participate in National Night Out with appropriate activities; and

(B) make neighborhood crime prevention, community policing, and reduction of school crime important priorities of the Administration.

Mr. BIDEN. Madam President, today I rise to submit a resolution, along with Senator SPECTER, supporting “National Night Out,” a program at the forefront of the Nation’s effort to combat crime and terrorism. On August 6 of this year, over 33 million people in 9,700 communities from all 50 States will participate in the 19th Annual National Night Out. These volunteers greet their neighbors, meet with local police, and participate in block parties and parades, all to encourage citizens to become active caretakers of their communities. This resolution would salute and encourage those efforts.

This past year has seen our nation both horrified by unthinkable tragedy, and driven to ensure that nothing so terrible ever happens again. Unfortunately, we can’t have a police officer protecting us on every block, during every minute, of everyday. And while many of us in the Congress have worked for years to enhance the tools and resources available to law enforcement, few things are more valuable in our ongoing war against terrorism and crime than the eyes and ears of conscientious citizens. A 1995 study by the National Institute of Justice shows that crime rates are 40 percent lower, on average, in communities with high mutual trust among neighbors. By encouraging members of each community to get to know one another, be familiar with their block, and work with local law enforcement officials to spot and address suspicious situations, National Night Out helps all of us sleep more soundly.

Today, with terrorists seeking to strike our homeland, our efforts to keep America’s streets safe are more crucial than ever. Working side by side with local law enforcement, neighborhood crime watch groups have been, and will continue to be an invaluable resource. In fact, a Justice Department survey indicates that 90 percent of law enforcement officers believe National Night Out enhances their policing programs. Every year, National Night Out provides Americans with a great opportunity to meet their neighbors, show their patriotism, and keep their streets safe. I hope my colleagues will join Senator SPECTER and me in thanking them for making a difference, one doorstep at a time.

SENATE RESOLUTION 285—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE CONDEMNING THE FAILURE OF THE INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION TO RECOGNIZE THE NEEDS OF ALASKAN ESKIMOS

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

S. RES. 285

Whereas the International Whaling Commission was founded in 1946 under the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling, with the purpose of providing for the proper conservation of whale stocks in order to make possible the orderly development of the whaling industry;

Whereas the Commission has explicitly recognized aboriginal subsistence whaling as separate from commercial whaling and has in the past provided quotas for aboriginal subsistence whaling participants from Denmark, the Russian Federation, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and the United States;

Whereas the Commission has failed to renew the aboriginal subsistence whaling which previously was designated for Alaska Eskimo whalers;

Whereas the Commission’s failure to reauthorize quotas for aboriginal subsistence whaling was orchestrated by nations disgruntled by the United States position in opposition to the resumption of commercial whaling and determined to retaliate against legitimate United States interests in aboriginal subsistence whaling;

Whereas aboriginal subsistence whaling has been a mainstay of the culture and livelihood of the Inuit people of Alaska for thousands of years;

Whereas whaling by the Inupiat people of northern Alaska brings significant benefits to every member of the successful villages, where whale meat is shared among all residents;

Whereas the Inupiat people of Alaska have consistently followed responsible management practices in carrying out their whaling activities;

Whereas the Inupiat people of Alaska have embraced the goal of whale conservation and participated heavily in whale research and monitoring that demonstrates that their subsistence whaling has no adverse effect on the population of bowhead whales, their preferred species: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) the failure of the Commission to renew aboriginal whaling quotas is inconsistent with the understandings on which the Commission is based, and jeopardizes the continued existence of the Commission as a meaningful international body; and

(2) regardless of any current or subsequent action of the Commission, the United States government should take all steps necessary to ensure the continuance of scientifically sound aboriginal subsistence whaling by the Inupiat people of Alaska.

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Madam President, I rise to offer a sense of the Senate resolution condemning the International Whaling Commission’s recent vote against renewing quotas for aboriginal subsistence whaling by Alaska’s Inuit people.

I have always respected both the goals and the processes of the International Whaling Commission, but my support has been badly eroded by recent events.

The Inupiat people of northern Alaska have engaged in environmentally responsible whaling practices for thousands of years, with no international supervision. They were forced to stand and watch as the great whales were decimated.

Alaska's Inupiat people responded positively to the conservation goals of the International Commission, forming their own organization, the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission, which has participated wholeheartedly in International Commission meetings. The Alaska Commission has also put significant assets and effort toward research and monitoring that has proven conclusively that current Alaskan whaling poses no danger to the stocks of bowhead whales that are its target species.

Whaling is more important to the communities of northern Alaska than most can possibly understand. It provides a critical element of their diet, a major staple for their survival. But beyond that, it is a custom that is deeply ingrained in the culture of the Inupiat people.

Becoming a whaling captain is one of the greatest honors possible, and carries with it great responsibility. Whaling captains provide gear and supplies for their crews at significant cost, yet when a whale is taken, they receive no compensation other than the knowledge of a job well done, for which they are not even allowed to deduct their costs as charitable contributions. It is a job that is important not only to the whalers themselves, but to every resident of the whaling communities, where their catch is shared between young and old alike.

But that long history and honorable practice suffered a serious blow at the recent International Whaling Commission meeting in Shimoneseki, Japan. Nations promoting the resumption of commercial whaling, led by Japan itself, engineered a vote to reject the proposed renewal of quotas for Eskimo whaling.

It is clear from a statement released by the Japanese Fisheries Agency on May 24 that this action was taken solely to retaliate against the United States for our opposition to the resumption of commercial whaling, specifically our rejection of a small quota of Minke whales for four coastal villages. There is a word for such an action, and that word is "spiteful."

This is not the way international negotiations should be conducted.

Alaska's aboriginal whaling has nothing to do with commercial whaling, and everything to do with honoring a way of life that has come to be synonymous with survival for Alaska's Inupiat people.

It is not that I lack sympathy for the Japanese people, or the long history of whaling that is part of the culture of those four Japanese coastal villages. I happen to believe that history also should be honored, and I hope that an agreeable solution to the current di-

lemma will be developed in the near future.

Nor can I suggest that this development was a complete surprise. Japan has long sought the resumption of commercial whaling, which is, in fact, the stated purpose of the International Whaling Commission. It has long warned that some form of retaliation might result from our continued opposition in the face of scientific evidence that some whale populations, such as the Minke whales sought by the coastal villages, have fully recovered and could support the resumption of whaling.

Japan complains that the U.S. is being "unfair." How could anything be more unfair than the action Japan has orchestrated against Alaska's Inupiat people?

I repeat, that this is not how international negotiations should be conducted. Targeting Alaska's Inupiat whaling is not justified and can only serve to further alienate even those who might be sympathetic to the Japanese villages.

The resolution I am introducing today condemns this unwarranted development, and calls on U.S. authorities to do everything in their power to ensure that aboriginal subsistence whaling in Alaska is allowed to continue under the same carefully crafted and scientifically justified system that currently guides it. I understand the various executive branch agencies with an interest in this issue are already engaged in doing just that, and they deserve our enthusiastic support.

SENATE RESOLUTION 286—COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING THE LOS ANGELES LAKERS FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING DRIVE, DISCIPLINE, AND MASTERY IN WINNING THE 2002 NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION CHAMPIONSHIP

Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mrs. BOXER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 286

Whereas the Los Angeles Lakers are 1 of the greatest sports franchises in history;

Whereas the Laker organization has won 14 National Basketball Association Championships;

Whereas the Los Angeles Lakers are only the fifth team to win 3 consecutive National Basketball Association Championships and the seventh team to sweep the finals 4 games to none;

Whereas the Laker organization has fielded such legendary superstars as George Mikan, Wilt Chamberlain, Jerry West, Elgin Baylor, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Earvin "Magic" Johnson, and now, Shaquille O'Neal and Kobe Bryant;

Whereas Shaquille O'Neal won his third straight National Basketball Association Finals Most Valuable Player award, joining Michael Jordan as the only player to win 3 consecutive awards;

Whereas Shaquille O'Neal scored a record 145 points in the 2002 4-game finals series;

Whereas Shaquille O'Neal's 59.5 percent career field goal percentage in National Bas-

ketball Association Finals games is number 1 all-time and his 34.2 point scoring average ranks second;

Whereas Kobe Bryant was named to the 2001–2002 All-National Basketball Association First Team after averaging 25.3 points per game, 5.5 rebounds per game, and 5.5 assists per game during the regular season;

Whereas Kobe Bryant averaged 26.8 points, 5.8 rebounds, and 5.3 assists during the 2002 National Basketball Association Finals;

Whereas Coach Phil Jackson won his ninth National Basketball Association title, tying the record of legendary Boston Celtics coach, Red Auerbach;

Whereas Coach Phil Jackson won his 156th postseason game, surpassing former Lakers Coach Pat Riley to become the winningest playoff coach in National Basketball Association history;

Whereas the Los Angeles Lakers epitomize the spirit of their hometown with their determination, heart, stamina, and amazing comeback ability;

Whereas the support of all the Los Angeles fans and the people of California propelled the Los Angeles Lakers to another National Basketball Association Championship; and

Whereas the Los Angeles Lakers are poised to win a fourth straight National Basketball Association Championship next season: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate commends and congratulates the Los Angeles Lakers on winning the 2002 National Basketball Association Championship Title.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 121—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT THERE SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED A NATIONAL HEALTH CENTER WEEK FOR THE WEEK BEGINNING ON AUGUST 18, 2002, TO RAISE AWARENESS OF HEALTH SERVICES PROVIDED BY COMMUNITY, MIGRANT, PUBLIC HOUSING, AND HOMELESS HEALTH CENTERS

Mr. HUTCHINSON (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BOND, and Mr. HOLLINGS) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. CON. RES. 121

Whereas community, migrant, public housing, and homeless health centers (referred to in this concurrent resolution as "health centers") are nonprofit, community-owned and community-operated health providers and are vital to the Nation's communities;

Whereas there are more than 1,000 health centers serving 12,000,000 people at more than 4,000 health delivery sites, spanning urban and rural communities in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Virgin Islands;

Whereas health centers have provided cost-effective, quality health care to the Nation's poor and medically underserved (including the working poor, the uninsured, and many high-risk and vulnerable populations), acting as a vital safety net in the Nation's health delivery system, meeting escalating health needs, and reducing health disparities;

Whereas health centers provide care to 1 of every 9 uninsured Americans, 1 of every 8 low-income Americans, and 1 of every 10 rural Americans, and without health centers these Americans would otherwise lack access to health care;

Whereas health centers and other innovative programs in primary and preventive