

liberty: the men and women of the Armed Forces; people such as Senator DANIEL INOUE, who fought so valiantly in World War II and earned the highest award that can be bestowed, the Medal of Honor; Senator MCCAIN, who served with singular courage and sacrifice in Vietnam; Senator STEVENS, a World War II Air Force pilot, who earned two distinguished Flying Crosses, two Air Medals, and the Yuan Hai medal from the Republic of China. JOHN WARNER, CHUCK HAGEL, and FRITZ HOLLINGS are also Members of this distinguished body who served in battle with honor and with courage.

It is because of them and over 46 million veterans since our Nation's founding that we are today free—free to debate in these Halls of Congress, free to raise our families with the values that we choose. It is because of the sacrifices of these special Americans that we have the freedom to live as fully and as completely as our imaginations will allow, to realize those blessings of liberty.

The last 2 years have put these blessings in stark relief. On September 11, when our enemies struck, and the billows of smoke were rising out of the World Trade Center and the Pentagon here in Washington, DC, and in that pulverized plane on a Pennsylvania field, we saw that determined face of evil.

But as clear as the blue sky above—and who will ever forget that bright, stark, blue sky on that morning?—we saw the blessings of liberty. We relearned that freedom indeed is precious and that freedom must be defended.

Since that day a new generation of men and women have heard the calling—so young yet so brave. They are taking the battle to the enemy. The men and women in the Armed Forces are proving every day that America is a courageous and a compassionate nation, and that our cause is just.

We are blessed to have such heroes among us. Today we honor them as well. We are working with the President to improve our veterans' quality of life by securing the benefits afforded to them for their service. Access to quality care is critical to our veterans. Veterans hospitals have been the focal point of veterans' health care delivery.

We are also working to improve the hospital system to allow disabled veterans to collect, over 10 years, the portions of their pensions that they do not receive under current law. Veterans with combat-related injuries and those who are considered 50-percent disabled would qualify for these benefits. It is our intent to have this legislation enacted this year.

For our future veterans, we have expanded funding to support our troops. In the 2004 emergency Iraq-Afghanistan supplemental appropriations bill, military personnel salaries and benefits were increased to \$17.8 billion for Guard and Reserve troops activated for duty.

In addition, much of the funding in this supplemental appropriations bill

will be used to support military operations and provide needed equipment to our troops overseas.

We are also working to help our fighting men and women by improving veterans health care and the TRICARE program for our armed services. The recently enacted supplemental bill increases TRICARE benefits to thousands of members of the Guard and Reserve.

In these and other concrete ways, we are working hard to support those whose serve us so ably. In doing so, we not only recognize their contribution, we recognize the great purpose of our Nation.

In the midst of the Revolution, the great essayist Thomas Paine told his fellow Americans:

These are the times that try men's souls. The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of their country, but he that stands it now deserves the love and thanks of man and woman.

Today we express our love and thanks to the men and women who have stood to defend our freedoms in battles past, and to all of the soldiers today in the field, I thank you. America thanks you.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to this matter be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 264) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 264

Whereas tens of millions of Americans have served in the Armed Forces of the United States during the past century;

Whereas hundreds of thousands of Americans have given their lives while serving in the Armed Forces of the United States during the past century;

Whereas the contributions and sacrifices of the men and women who have served in the Armed Forces of the United States have been vital in maintaining our freedoms and way of life;

Whereas the more than 700,000 brave Americans who have sacrificed their lives while serving in the Armed Forces of the United States have ensured that the Nation, which is founded on the principles of freedom, justice, and democracy, shall endure;

Whereas Armistice Day was first proclaimed by President Woodrow Wilson in 1919 to commemorate the November 11, 1918, armistice between the Allies and the Central Powers that ended the fighting of World War I;

Whereas on June 1, 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed into law the Act proclaiming November 11 as Veterans Day (Public Law 83-380);

Whereas on October 8, 1954, in anticipation of the first nationwide observance of Veterans Day in 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower issued a presidential proclamation regarding that Veterans Day which states that "[o]n that day let us solemnly remember the sacrifices of all those who fought so

valiantly, on the seas, in the air, and on foreign shores, to preserve our heritage of freedom, and let us reconsecrate ourselves to the task of promoting an enduring peace so that their efforts shall not have been in vain";

Whereas on November 10, 2003, President George W. Bush issued a presidential proclamation regarding Veterans Day 2003 which states that "[t]oday, our veterans inspire new generations of Americans as we work to defeat terrorism and advance peace. In respect for and recognition of the contributions our service men and women have made to the cause of peace and freedom around the world, the Congress has provided (5 U.S.C. 6103(a)) that November 11 of each year shall be set aside as a legal public holiday to honor veterans";

Whereas in 2003 the Senate is in session on November 11 despite that date being a public holiday to honor veterans; and

Whereas it is proper that the Senate observe the day with appropriate tributes and commemorations even as it conducts the Nation's business: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate—

(1) that the war dead of the Nation, and veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States, alive or dead, are to be honored for their contributions and sacrifices to preserve the Nation and the principles of freedom, justice, and democracy that all Americans hold dear;

(2) that Veterans Day 2003 shall be commemorated with appropriate tributes to all veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States for their contributions and sacrifices, and most especially to those who made the ultimate sacrifice; and

(3) that all Americans shall be encouraged to join the Senate in honoring and paying tribute to veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States, both on Veterans Day and throughout the year.

BIRTH DEFECTS AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES PREVENTION ACT OF 2003

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of calendar item No. 369, S. 286.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 286) to revise and extend the Birth Defects Prevention Act of 1998.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill which had been reported from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

[Strike the part shown in black brackets and insert the part shown in italic.]

S. 286

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

[This Act may be cited as the "Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities Prevention Act of 2003".]

SEC. 2. NATIONAL CENTER ON BIRTH DEFECTS AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES.

[Section 317C of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247b-4) is amended—

[(1) in subsection (a)(2)—

[(A) in subparagraph (A)—

[(i) by striking “and developmental disabilities” and inserting “, developmental disabilities, and disabilities and health”; and

[(ii) by striking “subsection (d)(2)” and inserting “subsection (c)(2)”;

[(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking “and” at the end;

[(C) in subparagraph (C), by striking the period and inserting a semicolon; and

[(D) by adding at the end the following:

“(D) to conduct research on and to promote the prevention of such defects and disabilities, and secondary health conditions among individuals with disabilities; and

“(E) to support a National Spina Bifida Program to prevent and reduce suffering from the Nation’s most common permanently disabling birth defect.”;

[(2) by striking subsection (b);

[(3) in subsection (d)—

[(A) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

“(1) contains information regarding the incidence and prevalence of birth defects, developmental disabilities, and the health status of individuals with disabilities and the extent to which these conditions have contributed to the incidence and prevalence of infant mortality and affected quality of life;”;

[(B) in paragraph (3), by inserting “, developmental disabilities, and secondary health conditions among individuals with disabilities” after “defects”;

[(C) in paragraph (4), by striking “and” at the end;

[(D) by redesignating paragraph (5) as paragraph (7); and

[(E) by inserting after paragraph (4) the following:

“(5) contains information on the incidence and prevalence of individuals living with birth defects and disabilities or developmental disabilities, information on the health status of individuals with disabilities, information on any health disparities experienced by such individuals, and recommendations for improving the health and wellness and quality of life of such individuals;

“(6) contains a summary of recommendations from all birth defects research conferences sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, including conferences related to spina bifida; and”;

[(4) in subsection (e)—

[(A) by inserting “, including section 444 of the General Education Provisions Act,” after “privacy of information”; and

[(B) by inserting before the period the following: “, except that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shall have access to information under section 444(b)(1)(F) of such Act solely for purposes of carrying out subsection (a)(2) of this section and shall otherwise comply with all other requirements of such section 444”;

[(5) by redesignating subsections (c), (d), and (e) as subsections (b), (c), and (d), respectively;

[(6) by inserting after subsection (d) (as so redesignated), the following:

“(e) ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—Notwith-

standing any other provision of law, the members of the advisory committee appointed by the Director of the National Center for Environmental Health that have expertise in birth defects, developmental disabilities, and disabilities and health shall be transferred to and shall advise the National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities effective on the date of enactment of the Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities Prevention Act of 2003.”; and

[(7) in subsection (f), by striking “\$30,000,000” and all that follows and inserting “such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years 2003 through 2007.”.

SEC. 3. TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS FOR STATE COUNCILS ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES.

[Section 122(a) of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 15022(a)) is amended—

[(1) in paragraph (3)(A)(ii), by inserting before the period the following: “, the amount received by the State for the previous year, or the amount of Federal appropriations received in fiscal year 2000, 2001, or 2002, whichever is greater”]; and

[(2) in paragraph (4)(A)(ii), by inserting before the period the following: “, the amount received by the State for the previous year, or the amount of Federal appropriations received in fiscal year 2000, 2001, or 2002, whichever is greater”].

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities Prevention Act of 2003”.

SEC. 2. NATIONAL CENTER ON BIRTH DEFECTS AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES.

Section 317C of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247b-4) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(2)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) by striking “and developmental disabilities” and inserting “, developmental disabilities, and disabilities and health”; and

(ii) by striking “subsection (d)(2)” and inserting “subsection (c)(2)”;

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking “and” at the end;

(C) in subparagraph (C), by striking the period and inserting a semicolon; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

“(D) to conduct research on and to promote the prevention of such defects and disabilities, and secondary health conditions among individuals with disabilities; and

“(E) to support a National Spina Bifida Program to prevent and reduce suffering from the Nation’s most common permanently disabling birth defect.”;

(2) by striking subsection (b);

(3) in subsection (d)—

(A) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

“(1) contains information regarding the incidence and prevalence of birth defects, developmental disabilities, and the health status of individuals with disabilities and the extent to which these conditions have contributed to the incidence and prevalence of infant mortality and affected quality of life;”;

(B) in paragraph (3), by inserting “, developmental disabilities, and secondary health conditions among individuals with disabilities” after “defects”;

(C) in paragraph (4), by striking “and” at the end;

(D) by redesignating paragraph (5) as paragraph (7); and

(E) by inserting after paragraph (4) the following:

“(5) contains information on the incidence and prevalence of individuals living with birth defects and disabilities or developmental disabilities, information on the health status of individuals with disabilities, information on any health disparities experienced by such individuals, and recommendations for improving the health and wellness and quality of life of such individuals;

“(6) contains a summary of recommendations from all birth defects research conferences sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, including conferences related to spina bifida; and”;

(4) by redesignating subsections (c), (d), and (e) as subsections (b), (c), and (d), respectively;

(5) by inserting after subsection (d) (as so redesignated), the following:

“(e) ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the members of the

advisory committee appointed by the Director of the National Center for Environmental Health that have expertise in birth defects, developmental disabilities, and disabilities and health shall be transferred to and shall advise the National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities effective on the date of enactment of the Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities Prevention Act of 2003.”; and

(6) in subsection (f), by striking “\$30,000,000” and all that follows and inserting “such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years 2003 through 2007.”.

SEC. 3. TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS FOR STATE COUNCILS ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 122(a) of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 15022(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (3)(A)(ii), by inserting before the period the following: “, the amount received by the State for the previous year, or the amount of Federal appropriations received in fiscal year 2000, 2001, or 2002, whichever is greater”; and

(2) in paragraph (4)(A)(ii), by inserting before the period the following: “, the amount received by the State for the previous year, or the amount of Federal appropriations received in fiscal year 2000, 2001, or 2002, whichever is greater”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall take effect on October 1, 2003 and apply to allotments beginning in fiscal year 2004.

SEC. 4. REPORT ON SURVEILLANCE ACTIVITIES.

Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services jointly with the Secretary of Education shall submit to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce and Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives a report concerning surveillance activities under section 102 of the Children’s Health Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-310), specifically including—

(1) a description of the current grantees under the National Autism and Pervasive Developmental Disabilities Surveillance Program and the Centers of Excellence in Autism and Pervasive Developmental Disabilities the data collected, analyzed, and reported under such grants, the sources of such data, and whether such data was obtained with parental consent as required under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (20 U.S.C. 1232g);

(2) a description of current sources of data for the surveillance of autism and developmental disabilities and the methods for obtaining such data, including whether such data was obtained with parental or patient consent for disclosure;

(3) an analysis of research on autism and developmental disabilities with respect to the methods of collection and reporting, including whether such research was obtained with parental or patient consent for disclosure;

(4) an analysis of the need to add education records in the surveillance of autism and other developmental disabilities, including the methodological and medical necessity for such records and the rights of parents and patients in the use of education records (in accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974);

(5) a description of the efforts taken by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to utilize education records in conducting the surveillance program while obtaining parental or patient consent for such education records, including the outcomes of such efforts;

(6) a description of the challenges provided to obtaining education records (in the absence of parental or patient consent) for the purpose of obtaining additional surveillance data for autism and other developmental disabilities; and

(7) a description of the manner in which such challenges can be overcome, including efforts to educate parents, increase confidence in the privacy of the surveillance program, and increase the rate of parental or patient consent, and including specific quantitative and qualitative justifications for any recommendations for changes to existing statutory authority, including the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment which is at the desk be agreed to; the committee-reported substitute, as amended, be agreed to, that the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc; and that any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 2149) was agreed to, as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 2149

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities Prevention Act of 2003".

SEC. 2. NATIONAL CENTER ON BIRTH DEFECTS AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES.

Section 317C of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247b-4) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(2)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) by striking "and developmental disabilities" and inserting ", developmental disabilities, and disabilities and health"; and

(ii) by striking "subsection (d)(2)" and inserting "subsection (c)(2)";

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking "and" at the end;

(C) in subparagraph (C), by striking the period and inserting a semicolon; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

"(D) to conduct research on and to promote the prevention of such defects and disabilities, and secondary health conditions among individuals with disabilities; and

"(E) to support a National Spina Bifida Program to prevent and reduce suffering from the Nation's most common permanently disabling birth defect.";

(2) by striking subsection (b);

(3) in subsection (d)—

(A) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

"(1) contains information regarding the incidence and prevalence of birth defects, developmental disabilities, and the health status of individuals with disabilities and the extent to which these conditions have contributed to the incidence and prevalence of infant mortality and affected quality of life;"

(B) in paragraph (3), by inserting ", developmental disabilities, and secondary health conditions among individuals with disabilities" after "defects";

(C) in paragraph (4), by striking "and" at the end;

(D) by redesignating paragraph (5) as paragraph (7); and

(E) by inserting after paragraph (4) the following:

"(5) contains information on the incidence and prevalence of individuals living with birth defects and disabilities or developmental disabilities, information on the health status of individuals with disabilities, information on any health disparities experi-

enced by such individuals, and recommendations for improving the health and wellness and quality of life of such individuals;

"(6) contains a summary of recommendations from all birth defects research conferences sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, including conferences related to spina bifida; and";

(4) by redesignating subsections (c), (d), and (e) as subsections (b), (c), and (d), respectively;

(5) by inserting after subsection (d) (as so redesignated), the following:

"(e) ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the members of the advisory committee appointed by the Director of the National Center for Environmental Health that have expertise in birth defects, developmental disabilities, and disabilities and health shall be transferred to and shall advise the National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities effective on the date of enactment of the Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities Prevention Act of 2003.";

(6) in subsection (f), by striking "\$30,000,000" and all that follows and inserting "such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years 2003 through 2007.".

SEC. 3. TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS FOR STATE COUNCILS ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 122(a) of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 15022(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (3)(A)(ii), by inserting before the period the following: ", the amount received by the State for the previous year, or the amount of Federal appropriations received in fiscal year 2000, 2001, or 2002, whichever is greater"; and

(2) in paragraph (4)(A)(ii), by inserting before the period the following: ", the amount received by the State for the previous year, or the amount of Federal appropriations received in fiscal year 2000, 2001, or 2002, whichever is greater".

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall take effect on October 1, 2003 and apply to allotments beginning in fiscal year 2004.

SEC. 4. REPORT ON SURVEILLANCE ACTIVITIES.

Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services jointly with the Secretary of Education shall submit to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce and Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives a report concerning surveillance activities under section 102 of the Children's Health Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-310), specifically including—

(1) a description of the current grantees under the National Autism and Pervasive Developmental Disabilities Surveillance Program and the Centers of Excellence in Autism and Pervasive Developmental Disabilities the data collected, analyzed, and reported under such grants, the sources of such data, and whether such data was obtained with parental consent as required under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (20 U.S.C. 1232g);

(2) a description of current sources of data for the surveillance of autism and developmental disabilities and the methods for obtaining such data, including whether such data was obtained with parental or patient consent for disclosure;

(3) an analysis of research on autism and developmental disabilities with respect to the methods of collection and reporting, including whether such research was obtained

with parental or patient consent for disclosure;

(4) an analysis of the need to add education records in the surveillance of autism and other developmental disabilities, including the methodological and medical necessity for such records and the rights of parents and patients in the use of education records (in accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974);

(5) a description of the efforts taken by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to utilize education records in conducting the surveillance program while obtaining parental or patient consent for such education records, including the outcomes of such efforts;

(6) a description of the challenges provided to obtaining education records (in the absence of parental or patient consent) for the purpose of obtaining additional surveillance data for autism and other developmental disabilities; and

(7) a description of the manner in which such challenges can be overcome, including efforts to educate parents, increase confidence in the privacy of the surveillance program, and increase the rate of parental or patient consent, and including specific quantitative and qualitative justifications for any recommendations for changes to existing statutory authority, including the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974.

The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended, was agreed to.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

The bill (S. 286), as amended, was passed.

HONORING FIREFIGHTERS AND OTHER PUBLIC SERVANTS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 265, which was introduced earlier today by Senator BOXER.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 265) recognizing and honoring firefighters and other public servants who responded to the devastating outbreak of wildfires in Southern California in October 2003.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I further ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table without any intervening action or debate, and that any statements related to this matter be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 265) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 265

Whereas in late October 2003, southern California experienced multiple simultaneous devastating wildfires that destroyed