

"(6) at least 1 member shall represent donor families, transplant recipients, and those awaiting transplantation.

"(c) INITIAL MEETING.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which all members of the committee have been appointed, the committee shall hold its first meeting.

"(d) MEETINGS.—The committee shall meet at the call of the Chairman who shall be selected by the Secretary.

"(e) COMPENSATION.—Each member of the committee shall not receive compensation for services provided under this section.

"(f) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—The members of the committee shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for employees of agencies under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from their homes or regular places of business in the performance of services for the committee.

"(g) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT.—The Secretary shall ensure that the committee is provided with administrative support or any other technical assistance that such committee needs in carrying out its duties.

"(h) PERMANENT COMMITTEE.—Section 14 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act shall not apply to the committee established under this section.

"(i) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which the committee is established under subsection (a), the committee shall prepare and submit to Congress a report regarding the status of organ donor registries, current best practices, the effect of organ donor registries on organ donation rates, the merits of expanding organ donor registries, issues relating to consent, the efficacy of current privacy protections, potential forms of technical assistance, and recommendations regarding improving the effectiveness and establishing formal linkages between organ donor registries.

"(j) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term 'organ donor registry' means a listing of individuals who have indicated their desire to donate their organs and tissue upon their death through driver's license preferences or other formal mechanisms."

SEC. 302. NATIONAL LIVING DONOR REGISTRY.

Part H of title III of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 273 et seq.), as amended by section 301, is further amended by inserting after section 371A the following:

"SEC. 371B. NATIONAL LIVING DONOR REGISTRY.

"The Secretary shall by contract establish and maintain a registry of individuals who have served as living organ donors for the purpose of evaluating the long-term health effects associated with living organ donations."

SEC. 303. QUALIFIED ORGAN PROCUREMENT ORGANIZATIONS.

Section 371(a) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 273(a)) is amended by striking paragraph (3).

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, for tragic reasons, organ donation has been in the spotlight of late. On Saturday, February 23, 2002, 17-year-old Jessica Santillan died after receiving organs from a donor with an incompatible blood type. I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt condolences to Jessica's family and friends.

While it is critical to understand how mistakes led to Jessica's death, and how they can be avoided in the future, this tragic incident should not diminish our commitment to organ donation—a procedure that saves thousand of lives each year, and was in fact

Jessica's only chance for survival. Instead, we should make a commitment to increasing our donation rates and saving even more lives.

Today, I am pleased to reintroduce legislation with Senator BILL FRIST to do just that. The Organ Donation and Recovery Improvement Act, which Senator FRIST and I originally introduced last Congress, will bring positive attention to this critical public health issue by increasing resources and coordinating efforts to improve organ donation and recovery. I am proud to be working with my friend and colleague, Senator FRIST, whose leadership and professional experience as a heart and lung transplant surgeon has been critical in making this issue a priority.

At this very moment, more than 80,000 people are waiting for an organ transplant, and one person is added to this list every thirteen minutes. This list has increased from 19,095 people a decade ago. Unfortunately, the discrepancy between the need and the number of available organs is growing exponentially. From 1999 to 2000, transplant waiting lists grew by 10.2 percent, while the total increase in donations grew by 5.3 percent. Tragically, in 2000, approximately 5,500 wait-listed patients died waiting for an organ.

Undoubtedly, the task before our nation in caring for these patients seems daunting. However, each person who makes the decision to donate can save as many as three lives. None of us wants to imagine the anguish of watching a family member or a friend wait for an organ transplant hoping that their name reaches the top of the list before their damaged organ fails or having to bear the emotional, physical, or financial costs of undergoing a transplant procedure. For those that do, and for all of those that will, we must improve and strengthen our systems of organ donation and recovery. The legislation that Senator FRIST and I are introducing today represents a significant step towards this goal. It would establish a task force to evaluate and improve federal efforts relating to organ donation and transplantation research, and would also authorize \$3 million in fiscal year 2004 and such sums as may be necessary in fiscal years 2005 through 2008 for grants to Organ Procurement Organizations to coordinate donation activities between hospitals.

A vital part of increasing donations lies in education and public awareness initiatives. This legislation would authorize \$5 million in fiscal year 2004 and such sums as may be necessary in fiscal years 2005 through 2008 to educate the public about issues surrounding organ donation, as well as train health care providers and other appropriate professionals in the best methods to use when approaching possible donors and their families. This funding could also be used for other demonstration projects to increase organ donation and recovery rates. In addition, an equal amount is author-

ized to expand the Agency for Health Care Research and Quality's authority to improve organ donation practices.

We must also work to remove the barriers that stand in a donor's way as he or she seeks to help another person continue life. Our bill would seek to expand living donation by authorizing \$5 million in fiscal year 2004 and such sums as may be necessary in fiscal years 2005 through 2008 for the reimbursement of related expenses incurred by the donor. In addition, this legislation requests an Institute of Medicine report on living donation practices and potential long-term health risks.

Finally, we must work to improve the science of donation and recovery, and address legal issues relating to donation, including consent. More than 20 states currently have registries that may prove indispensable in ensuring that we honor a donor's wishes. This bill would establish an advisory committee to study the benefits, and potential shortcomings, of these arrangements and work to create a national sense of urgency that matches the national need for donors.

I would like to recognize the invaluable support and guidance we received in drafting this bill from the American Society of Transplantation, the American Liver Foundation, the Patient Access to Transplantation Coalition, the North American Transplant Coordinators Organization, and the National Kidney Foundation. I would be remiss not to also mention the Association of Organ Procurement Organizations, whose members nationwide have worked so tirelessly to bridge the gap between the immense need for and the inadequate supply of donated organs. In my home state of Connecticut, we are well-served by the tremendous work of the Northeast Organ Procurement Organization and the New England Organ Bank.

Finally, I look forward to working with my colleagues, including Senator KENNEDY, Senator GREGG, and Senator DURBIN, whose commitment to this issue has been unparalleled. I urge Congress to take swift action on this bipartisan legislation aimed at increasing organ donation and saving lives.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 78—DESIGNATING MARCH 25, 2003, AS "GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY: A NATIONAL DAY OF CELEBRATION OF GREEK AND AMERICAN DEMOCRACY"

Mr. SPECTER (for himself, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. CARPER, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. COLEMAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CORZINE, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. DODD, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. FITZGERALD, Mr. GRAHAM of South Carolina, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. GREGG, Mr.

HAGEL, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. INOUE, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KERRY, Mr. KOHL, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. LOTT, Ms. MIKULSKI, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. REED, Mr. REID, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. SANTORUM, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SMITH, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. SUNUNU, Mr. THOMAS, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. WARNER, and Mr. WYDEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 78

Whereas the ancient Greeks developed the concept of democracy, in which the supreme power to govern was vested in the people;

Whereas the Founding Fathers of the United States drew heavily on the political experience and philosophy of ancient Greece in forming our representative democracy;

Whereas Greek Commander in Chief Petros Mavromichalis, a founder of the modern Greek state, said to the citizens of the United States in 1821, "it is in your land that liberty has fixed her abode and . . . in imitating you, we shall imitate our ancestors and be thought worthy of them if we succeed in resembling you";

Whereas Greece is 1 of only 3 nations in the world, beyond the former British Empire, that has been allied with the United States in every major international conflict for more than 100 years;

Whereas Greece played a major role in the World War II struggle to protect freedom and democracy through such bravery as was shown in the historic Battle of Crete and in presenting the Axis land war with its first major setback, setting off a chain of events that significantly affected the outcome of World War II;

Whereas the price for Greece in holding our common values in their region was high, as hundreds of thousands of civilians were killed in Greece during the World War II period;

Whereas President George W. Bush, in recognizing Greek Independence Day on March 25, 2002, said, "Greece and America have been firm allies in the great struggles for liberty. Americans will always remember Greek heroism and Greek sacrifice for the sake of freedom . . . [and] as the 21st Century dawns, Greece and America once again stand united; this time in the fight against terrorism. The United States deeply appreciates the role Greece is playing in the war against terror. . . . America and Greece are strong allies, and we're strategic partners.";

Whereas Greece is a stabilizing force by virtue of its political and economic power in the volatile Balkan region and is one of the fastest growing economies in Europe;

Whereas on January 1, 2003, Greece took over the Presidency of the European Union for the fourth time since it joined the Union in 1981 with the message of "Our Europe: Sharing the Future in a Community of Values";

Whereas Greece, through excellent work and cooperation with United States and international law enforcement agencies, recently arrested key members of the November 17 terrorist organization;

Whereas President Bush stated that Greece's "successful law enforcement operations against a terrorist organization [November 17] responsible for three decades of terrorist attacks underscore the important contributions Greece is making to the global war on terrorism";

Whereas Greece's unprecedented Olympic security effort, including a record-setting ex-

penditure of over \$600,000,000 and the utilization of a 7-member Olympic Security Advisory Group which includes the United States, will contribute to a safe and secure environment for staging the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens, Greece;

Whereas Greece, geographically located in a region where Christianity meets Islam and Judaism, maintains excellent relations with Muslim nations and Israel;

Whereas Greece has had extraordinary success in recent years in furthering cross-cultural understanding and reducing tensions between Greece and Turkey;

Whereas Greece and the United States are at the forefront of the effort for freedom, democracy, peace, stability, and human rights; Whereas those and other ideals have forged a close bond between our 2 nations and their peoples;

Whereas March 25, 2003, marks the 182nd anniversary of the beginning of the revolution that freed the Greek people from the Ottoman Empire; and

Whereas it is proper and desirable to celebrate with the Greek people and to reaffirm the democratic principles from which our 2 great nations were born: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates March 25, 2003, as "Greek Independence Day: A National Day of Celebration of Greek and American Democracy"; and

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

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, today I am pleased to submit a resolution along with 52 of my colleagues to designate March 25, 2003, as "Greek Independence Day: A Celebration of Greek and American Democracy."

One hundred and eighty two years ago, the Greek people began the revolution that would free them from the Ottoman Empire and return Greece to its democratic heritage. It was, of course, the ancient Greeks who developed the concept of democracy in which the supreme power to govern was vested in the people. Our Founding Fathers drew heavily upon the political and philosophical experience of ancient Greece in forming our representative democracy. Thomas Jefferson proclaimed that, "to the ancient Greeks . . . we are all indebted for the light which led ourselves out of Gothic darkness." It is fitting, then, that we should recognize the anniversary of the beginning of their efforts to return to that democratic tradition.

The democratic form of government is only one of the most obvious of the many benefits we have gained from the Greek people. The ancient Greeks contributed a great deal to the modern world, particularly to the United States of America, in the areas of art, philosophy, science and law. Today, Greek-Americans continue to enrich our culture and make valuable contributions to American society, business, and government.

It is my hope that strong support for this resolution in the Senate will serve as a clear goodwill gesture to the people of Greece with whom we have enjoyed such a close bond throughout history. Similar resolutions have been

passed by the Senate since 1984 with overwhelming support. Accordingly, I urge my Senate colleagues to join me in supporting this important resolution.

I ask unanimous consent that the bill be printed in the RECORD.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today I rise before the Senate in support of a Senate Resolution submitted today by my colleague Senator SPECTER. This resolution designates March 25 of this year as "Greek Independence Day: A day of celebration for Greek and American democracy."

The people of ancient Greece made important, lasting contributions to humanity in the fields of literature, philosophy, mathematics, and the physical sciences. The greatest part of their legacy, though, is a simple yet powerful idea that was born over 2,000 years ago. It is the idea that citizens should possess the power to determine the course of their Nation.

The bonds that join the United States and Greece are deep and long lasting. In 1821, Greek Commander in Chief Petros Mavromichalis said to the citizens of the United States: "it is in your land that liberty has fixed her abode and . . . in imitating you, we shall imitate our ancestors and be thought worthy of them if we succeed in resembling you." Since modern Greece's struggle for independence 182 years ago, our countries have stood together as allies and friends. We have peacefully worked together in every major international conflict.

Today, Greece continues to embrace the ideals of freedom, democracy, and peace. The past few years have witnessed hopeful new steps toward the resolution of a number of the world's longstanding conflicts and animosities. With its strategic location at the nexus of Europe, Asia and Africa, Greece has been a key participant in many of these efforts. In particular, it has played a pivotal role in promoting democratization, economic development and, above all, peace in the Balkans.

In honoring Greek Independence Day, we pay special tribute to those Greek men and women who gave their lives for the common cause of freedom. Greek-Americans can especially take pride in their ancestors' sacrifice. The many Greek sons and daughters who have come to the United States have worked honorably in all areas of American life, including public service. Greek culture flourishes in American cities, adding to our country's rich diversity.

It is with great honor that I join my colleagues in recognizing this anniversary of Greek independence. Our two great nations have fought to maintain freedom and established democracy throughout the world. In designating March 25 of this year as "Greek Independence Day", we celebrate the freedom that these two great nations represent.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak to my colleagues about this important date.