

scheduled only when authorized by the Chairman and ranking minority member of the full Committee.

II. QUORUMS

1. A majority of members shall constitute a quorum for official action of the Committee when reporting a bill, resolution, or nomination. Proxies shall not be counted in making a quorum.

2. Eight members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of all business as may be considered by the Committee, except for the reporting of a bill, resolution, or nomination. Proxies shall not be counted in making a quorum.

3. For the purpose of taking sworn testimony a quorum of the Committee and each Subcommittee thereof, now or hereafter appointed, shall consist of one Senator.

III. PROXIES

When a record vote is taken in the Committee on any bill, resolution, amendment, or any other question, a majority of the members being present, a member who is unable to attend the meeting may submit his or her vote by proxy, in writing or by telephone, or through personal instructions.

IV. BROADCASTING OF HEARINGS

Public hearings of the full Committee, or any Subcommittee thereof, shall be televised or broadcast only when authorized by the Chairman and the ranking minority member of the full Committee.

V. SUBCOMMITTEES

1. Any member of the Subcommittee may sit with any Subcommittee during its hearings or any other meeting but shall not have the authority to vote on any matter before the Subcommittee unless he or she is a Member of such Subcommittee.

2. Subcommittees shall be considered de novo whenever there is a change in the chairmanship, and seniority on the particular Subcommittee shall not necessarily apply.

VI. CONSIDERATION OF BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

It shall not be in order during a meeting of the Committee to move to proceed to the consideration of any bill or resolution unless the bill or resolution has been filed with the Clerk of the Committee not less than 48 hours in advance of the Committee meeting, in as many copies as the Chairman of the Committee prescribes. This rule may be waived with the concurrence of the Chairman and the ranking minority member of the full Committee.

ARMING CARGO PILOTS AGAINST TERRORISM ACT

Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I rise to thank my colleagues on the Senate Commerce Committee for unanimously passing the language of the Arming Cargo Pilots Terrorism Act as an amendment to the Air Cargo Security Act.

As was made so terribly clear on September 11, 2001, we must be ready for terrorist threats in places and times we never before thought we would. Congress has acted deliberately to increase our security and make it harder for terrorists to repeat the destruction of September 11.

One step Congress took was to arm pilots of commercial aircraft who volunteered for a rigorous training program. At the last minute, commercial cargo pilots were left out of the program while their counterparts flying

for commercial passenger carriers were armed. That makes no sense because cargo pilots fly the same planes with the same or larger fuel loads as the passenger aircraft that were hijacked on September 11.

Last week, I introduced the Arming Cargo Pilots Against Terrorism Act to close that dangerous loophole. Today, Senator BOXER offered our bill as an amendment in the Commerce Committee and it passed unanimously. I thank her for all her hard work on this issue and I thank the Commerce Committee for acting expeditiously.

I am hopeful this bill soon become law and the loophole will be closed. We need to protect our cargo pilots and the general public from any possible threat.

THE ASSASSINATION OF SERBIAN PRIME MINISTER ZORAN DJINDJIC

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, when Zoran Djindjic was assassinated in Belgrade yesterday, Serbia and the world lost a champion of freedom who gave his life in service to it. We mourn his death and condemn his assassins' attempt to destroy democratic rule in a country that was only recently liberated from Slobodan Milosevic's tyranny, but had already come so far.

I first heard about Zoran Djindjic in 1996 when he took to the streets of Belgrade with hundreds of thousands of Serbs to force Milosevic to accept local election results. He was victorious in that battle. It took him four more years of hard and dangerous work to defeat Milosevic at the polls and in the streets.

The Serbian revolution of 2000 showed the world that democracy can succeed, in the Balkans as elsewhere, if leaders are wise, persistent, and courageous. The Milosevic government was the last Balkan dictatorship to fall. Zoran Djindjic was the person pushing hardest at the pillars of the authoritarian state. Once he became Prime Minister, he made the tough decisions to transform Serbia from dictatorship to democratic republic. He sent Milosevic to The Hague, despite fierce internal opposition; he implemented critical economic and political reforms; and recently he had begun to aggressively fight organized crime. It was one battle too many.

Those who would corrupt and destroy democracy in Serbia presumably hope by their actions to extinguish the Serbian people's aspirations to live under rule of law and in liberty as part of a secure and prosperous Europe. They have failed. Killing one man will not stop reform or diminish the passion of Serbs to be part of the European family of free nations. I hope it will only invigorate Zoran Djindjic's many followers to carry on the struggle they began together in the dark days of Milosevic's rule.

Our prayers are with the Djindjic family, his colleagues in the Democratic Opposition of Serbia, and the

Serbian nation. To the people of Serbia, we say: Please continue to fight for those principles your Prime Minister represented with honor, skill, and courage. He will be written into the history of a very difficult time. His name will be known for the freedom he helped bring to a long-suffering people. America salutes a fallen hero.

JACKSON-VANIK

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, nearly three decades ago, a small provision was included in the Trade Act of 1974. While relatively small in number of words, this provision, known as the Jackson-Vanik amendment, helped open up an entire society.

Three decades ago, during the height of the Soviet Union's power, Senator Henry "Scoop" Jackson and Representative Charles Vanik introduced legislation that exposed the repressive tactics of the Soviet Union. By focusing attention on the emigration restrictions that the Soviet Union placed on its Jewish citizens, the Jackson-Vanik amendment reiterated American concern about the wide-scale human rights abuses occurring in the Soviet Union. In the process, the Jackson-Vanik amendment played a vital role in changing Soviet society.

Now, as the cold war recedes further into the past, it is time for Russia to be "graduated" from Jackson-Vanik. Because of the persistence of the Jackson-Vanik requirements, the administration must report semi-annually on the Russian Federation's compliance with the freedom of emigration requirements. This reporting requirement is a source of much frustration and embarrassment to our Russian friends, a fact that is made clear to me whenever I meet with individuals or groups from Russia.

Russia has made great progress in reforming itself. Since 1994, consecutive administrations have noted that the Russian Federation has been found to be in full compliance with the freedom of emigration requirements under Title IV of the Trade Act of 1974. In this time, the United States has signed a bilateral trade agreement with Russia, and the Bush Administration according to its website "has begun consultations with Congress and interested groups on the possibility of graduating Russia and other countries of the former Soviet Union from the provisions of the Jackson-Vanik amendment." Graduating Russia from Jackson-Vanik at this time will improve our relations with Russia while enabling us to reflect upon the courage of Soviet Jewry and the success of this legislation. I ask unanimous consent that a letter from Mr. Leonid Nevzlin, former President of the Russian Jewish Congress and a current member of the Russian Senate, be printed in the RECORD following my statement.

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

(See exhibit 1.)

Mr. LEVIN. This letter states that "there should be no doubt that the Jewish community believes the Jackson-Vanik requirements have been met in terms of immigration and freedom of movement in today's Russia."

This bill, which Senator BAUCUS is introducing and which I am pleased to co-sponsor, would enhance relations between the United States and Russia. While recognizing the advances made by Russia, the legislation also ensures that Congress can continue to play a meaningful role in addressing trade disputes with Russia and in setting the terms of World Trade Organization, WTO, accession for Russia.

While this legislation grants Permanent Normal Trade Relations, PNTR, to the Russian Federation, it does not abrogate the rights of Congress to comment on Russia's accession to the WTO nor does it remain silent about the need for continued progress by the Russian Federation with regard to human rights matters.

The Jackson-Vanik amendment was but one part of the Trade Act of 1974 that addressed trade with nonmarket economies. Recognizing the trade policy aspects of "graduating" a country from Jackson-Vanik, Congress has traditionally granted PNTR to a country subject to Jackson-Vanik only at the time of its accession to the WTO. This practice has given Congress the ability to voice its approval for the terms by which a nation accedes to the WTO. The terms for Russia's WTO accession are still being discussed, and even though this legislation would provide PNTR for Russia before those terms are final it also provides Congress with the means to comment on those terms and voice its approval or disapproval for them.

This legislation addresses the concerns of the Jackson-Vanik Amendment while preserving Congress' ability to play a key role in discussions about Russia's accession to the WTO. In a piece encouraging the ending of Jackson-Vanik's applicability for Russia, the Israel Policy Forum stated that: "things change. Old empires disappear. Old enemies become new friends. History's challenge is to anticipate its direction and move along with it."

This legislation recognizes the profound changes wrought by the Jackson-Vanik Amendment while acknowledging our need to move forward as we continue to engage with Russia on matters of human rights and trade.

EXHIBIT 1

JUNE 27, 2002.

Hon. CARL LEVIN,
United States Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR LEVIN: I am pleased we had an opportunity to meet when I was in Washington, DC last week. Your long-standing interest in promoting closer working relationships between the U.S. Senate and the Russian parliament is much appreciated.

As promised, I am sending a copy of my letter, as president of the Russian Jewish Congress, to Presidents Bush and Putin ex-

pressing support for repeal of the Jackson-Vanik Amendment. I prepared the letter some time ago and it is surprising that more people in the U.S. Senate were unaware that it had been sent. There should be no doubt that the Jewish community believes the Jackson-Vanik requirements have been met in terms of immigration and freedom of movement in today's Russia.

I have also taken note of your concerns about the sale of dual use technology to Iran and Iraq. In this regard, as you recall I proposed in our meeting that our two chambers establish a framework to assess how we can both develop greater cooperation on matters of mutual concern. I am very pleased that both you and Chairman Biden encouraged me to develop such a framework and look forward to working with both of you to see that this is accomplished.

On another matter, I know of your interest in reducing America's dependence on oil shipments from Middle East countries and though you would like to know that Russian oil company YUKOS, will be delivering the first load of Russian oil to Houston, Texas soon. I am confident that Russia could be a reliable supplier and would welcome the opportunity to work with you and others in Congress on initiatives that would encourage this development.

It is my hope to build a closer working relationship with select members of the U.S. Senate in order to take a fresh approach to a new set of challenges that beset both our countries.

In recognition of the upcoming celebration of America's Independence Day on July 4, I extend my best wishes to you, as representative of the people, for your country's remarkable achievement.

Sincerely,

LEONID NEVZLIN,

Senator, Deputy Chairman of the Committee
for Foreign Affairs, Council of Federation of
Russian Parliament.

COVER THE UNINSURED WEEK

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, as most of my colleagues know, this week is Cover the Uninsured Week in America. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and a host of other organizations, including the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the AFL-CIO, and AARP, have come together, recognizing that we can delay no longer in addressing this critical issue. Like them, I believe that Congress should seize this opportunity to reaffirm its commitment to bringing high quality, affordable, and stable health coverage within reach of the 41 million Americans who now go without.

Health insurance coverage is the best predictor of access to health care in America today; yet, despite its importance, more than 41 million Americans remain uninsured, and 75 million Americans under 65 years of age—three out of every 10—were uninsured at some point during the past two years. Experts estimate that this number will increase by 1 to 3 million people this year as the economic downturn continues. In our state alone, 436,000 people sought Oregon Health Plan coverage last year—a 14 percent increase since 2000.

I know we can reverse this trend because we have done it in the past. During my first year in the U.S. Senate, I

helped create the State Children's Health Insurance Program, SCHIP. That program provides coverage for needy children who do not qualify for the Oregon Health Plan. Today, all 50 States have SCHIP programs providing for 4.6 million children. And in 2001, Oregon's SCHIP program provided health coverage to over 41,000 needy children.

While we in Congress debate the ways in which legislators can help tackle this difficult problem, people all over the country are acting on their own to help bring health services and a better quality of life to countless vulnerable Americans. During Cover the Uninsured Week I would like to tell you about one person from my own state of Oregon whom I consider to be a true "Health Care Hero." Mr. Ian Timm is a man who has truly made a difference to the lives and health of many Oregonians.

Mr. Timm is well known as an effective advocate bringing health services to Oregon's needy. Whether serving on the Oregon Rural Health Association board, chairing the Oregon Statewide Health Coordinating Council, or providing leadership as a Linn County Commissioner, Mr. Timm has dedicated his professional life to making a difference in the lives of others. He is well known for providing both vision and structure to Oregon's efforts to provide quality health services for children and families. Because of his work, young children receive immunizations, mothers have quality pre-natal care, and seniors have the attention of physicians, all regardless of their financial status.

In Oregon, we have a tradition of taking care of those who cannot take care of themselves—Mr. Timm has been a leader in making this value a reality. For instance, Mr. Timm's vision led to the development of Care Oregon, which provides health coverage for thousands of Oregonians as the largest insurer of clients within the Oregon Health Plan. He serves on the Oregon Partnership to Immunize Children, ensuring that Oregon kids receive the preventive care they need. Through his work at the Oregon Primary Care Association, Mr. Timm has increased access to health care by bringing resources to community based health centers. These centers are one of the most effective ways to provide health care to those who often drop through the cracks, preventing disease and saving lives.

But Mr. Timm's service is not limited to our borders. Driven by his faith and concern for others, he has shared his time and talents overseas in the Sudan and in Thailand. During the Ethiopian refugee crisis, he supervised the construction of camps and provided medical and sanitation services for 105,000 refugees. In Thailand, he created sanitation programs for 14 refugee camps, and supervised two outpatient clinics, public and school health programs, and the Khmer Health Training Center. Few of us are willing to forsake the comforts of home, yet Mr. Timm