

AKAKA) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) were added as cosponsors of S. 2236, a bill to enhance the reliability of the electric system.

S. CON. RES. 90

At the request of Mr. LEVIN, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. EDWARDS) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. DASCHLE) were added as cosponsors of S. Con. Res. 90, a concurrent resolution expressing the Sense of the Congress regarding negotiating, in the United States-Thailand Free Trade Agreement, access to the United States automobile industry.

S. RES. 317

At the request of Mr. HAGEL, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. DASCHLE) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 317, a resolution recognizing the importance of increasing awareness of autism spectrum disorders, supporting programs for increased research and improved treatment of autism, and improving training and support for individuals with autism and those who care for individuals with autism.

AMENDMENT NO. 2698

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2698 intended to be proposed to S. 1637, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to comply with the World Trade Organization rulings on the FSC/ETI benefit in a manner that preserves jobs and production activities in the United States, to reform and simplify the international taxation rules of the United States, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2890

At the request of Mr. SANTORUM, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. SUNUNU) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2890 intended to be proposed to S. 1637, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to comply with the World Trade Organization rulings on the FSC/ETI benefit in a manner that preserves jobs and production activities in the United States, to reform and simplify the international taxation rules of the United States, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2893

At the request of Mr. REID, the names of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN), the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. COLEMAN), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN), the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. AKAKA) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 2893 intended to be proposed to S. 1637, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to comply with the World Trade Organization rulings on the FSC/ETI benefit in a manner that preserves jobs and production activities in the United States, to reform and simplify the international taxation rules of the United States, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mr. LIEBERMAN):

S. 2249. A bill to amend the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act to provide for emergency food and shelter; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce legislation to reauthorize the Department of Homeland Security's Emergency Food and Shelter Program. This vital program enables communities nationwide to provide services to help individuals who are at risk of becoming homeless or going hungry due to an emergency or economic disaster. As a 1999 General Accounting Office report concluded, "in most areas of the United States, the Emergency Food and Shelter Program is the only source of funding for the prevention of homelessness."

I am pleased to have the support of Senator LIEBERMAN, the ranking member of the Governmental Affairs Committee, which oversees this important program as well as the Department of Homeland Security generally. I commend Senator LIEBERMAN for his work on this important issue, including his efforts in the 107th Congress to pass legislation very similar to the bill that we are introducing together today.

Since its creation 21 years ago, the Emergency Food and Shelter Program has provided a helping hand to local social service organizations that assist thousands of people in need of food and shelter. This program is effective because of the way it is structured. A national board, chaired by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, governs the program. The board itself is composed of representatives from organizations who work every day to look out for those who are less fortunate—representatives of the American Red Cross, Catholic Charities, United Jewish Communities, the National Council of the Churches, the Salvation Army, and the United Way.

This program is a model for an effective public-private partnership. The volunteer participation by these charitable organizations has kept administrative costs to less than 3 percent of the total program, making even more funds directly available for communities.

Funds are distributed by the national board to local boards according to a formula that takes into account unemployment and poverty statistics in each community. Once local boards in counties and municipalities across America receive the funding, they decide how to best address the needs of their residents. These local boards are key to this process. That is because they are composed of individuals and organizations who live and work in the communities they serve. Therefore, they can best decide how to meet the needs of those who are at risk of becoming homeless.

In recent years, communities in Maine have put the funding to good

use. Communities in Cumberland and Franklin Counties, for example, have used most of these funds to supplement the efforts of local soup kitchens, Meals-on-Wheels programs, and food pantries. The Wayside Soup Kitchen in Portland, ME, uses this funding to enhance their efforts to provide three separate food assistance programs to those in need.

Demonstrating the flexibility of this program, communities in northern Maine's Aroostook County used more than 30 percent of their 2003 funding to address emergency shelter and housing needs. This diversity in how communities spent these funds highlights the importance of letting local organizations decide how best to spend these resources, tailored to local needs.

The Emergency Food and Shelter Program helps individuals maintain their dignity during difficult times. It also prevents dependency by providing emergency services to individuals and families on a limited basis so they can remain self-sufficient.

Although Congress has continued to provide funding, the program's authorization expired in 1994. My bill, the Emergency Food and Shelter Act of 2004, seeks to again authorize this program and provide modest increases to reflect an increasing need.

I urge my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring this legislation to help families across America who are at risk of losing their homes or going hungry because of circumstances beyond their control.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. GREGG, Mr. JEFFORDS, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. SUNUNU, and Mr. ENZI):

S. 2252. A bill to increase the number of aliens who may receive certain non-immigrant status during fiscal year 2004 and to require submissions of information by the Secretary of Homeland Security; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. KENNEDY. It is a privilege to join my colleagues in introducing the Save Summer Act of 2004 to provide an immediate stop-gap solution to the H-2B visa cap problem in our immigration laws. Our colleagues, Representatives DELAHUNT and YOUNG, are introducing an identical bill in the House.

The H-2B program was established by Congress in 1990 to deal with labor shortages in non-agricultural seasonal employment. H-2B workers are employed by hotels, restaurants, resorts, the fishing and timber industries, amusement parks, and other sectors.

U.S. employers seeking to bring in foreign nationals on these visas must demonstrate that they have been unable to find enough U.S. workers to fill

the jobs. Before visa applications are approved by the Department of Labor, the U.S. employers must certify that the temporary workers will not displace U.S. workers or adversely affect their wages or working conditions.

The annual statutory cap for H-2B visas is 66,000. Two weeks ago, the Department of Homeland Security suddenly announced that the cap for the current fiscal year had been reached and began rejecting new applications for the visas. The abrupt announcement left many summer employers stranded. This is the first time the Government has announced that the cap has been reached, and the Department of Homeland Security gave no one advance warning.

The H-2B program is vital for seasonal industries that need temporary workers. The lack of H-2B workers may well be devastating to these employers, many of which are small, family-run businesses. Without prompt passage of this bill, many summer employers in Massachusetts and around the country will have no choice but to shut their doors.

The Save the Summer Act offers a straightforward solution to this pressing problem. It will increase the H-2B visa cap by 40,000 for the current fiscal year. It requires the Department of Homeland Security to provide quarterly reports to Congress on the number of H-2B visas issued, and an annual report with a detailed analysis of the program.

Our immigration system is broken and many other reforms are obviously needed. Above all, it is essential to have immigration policies that reflect current economic realities, respect family unity and fundamental fairness, and uphold our proud tradition as a Nation of immigrants.

Enacting these other reforms will take time—time we don't have if we want to save the summer for countless seasonal employers around the country. This legislation will provide immediate and much-needed relief to employers counting on H-2B workers to keep their doors open this summer, and I urge my colleagues to pass it as soon as possible.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself,
Mr. DOMENICI, Mrs. BOXER, and
Mr. DAYTON):

S. 2253. A bill to permit young adults to perform projects to prevent fire and suppress fires, and provide disaster relief, on public land through a Healthy Forest Youth Conservation Corps; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce a bill with Senators DOMENICI, BOXER, and DAYTON to allow youth service and conservation corps to partner with public land management agencies to restore and protect public lands threatened by severe fire. I have dubbed this public-private partnership the Healthy Forests Youth Conservation Corps.

Last year, I authored a similar provision that was included in the Senate version of the Healthy Forest legislation. Unfortunately, this provision was stripped out of the bill before it was signed into law.

First, this bill aims to help Federal, State, and local governments implement priority projects using the cost-saving resources of youth corps.

It is estimated that youth corps generate \$1.60 in immediate benefits for every dollar in costs. This figure is important given the great need and cost associated with fighting fires.

Every year, land management agencies are charged with conserving, protecting, and maintaining millions of acres of public land. This is a daunting task that requires an incredible amount of human and material resources.

For instance, the Federal Government, alone, is responsible for overseeing 689 million acres of this land. Last year, five Federal agencies reported spending \$1.6 billion in 2002 on fire fighting suppression efforts—a whopping \$300 million more than the previous record. To fight those fires, 28,000 fire and support personnel were activated—the maximum civilian resources available in the Forest Service on top of the 600 Army troops, and 950 foreign firefighters who joined in the effort.

As an example of what can happen in one State, consider last year's catastrophic wildfires in southern California. Before they were contained, the deadly fires of last fall scorched a total of 738,158 acres, killed 23 people, and destroyed approximately 3,626 homes and thousands of other structures—amounting to the most costly and devastating fire ever to hit California. The insurance payouts alone will cost more than \$3 billion, with public expenditures to fight the fires and recover from them running into the hundreds of millions of dollars.

And those statistics make no mention of the resources expended to fight fires in other States.

I want to prevent this type of catastrophe in the future. That is why I was an ardent supporter of the Healthy Forest Restoration Act that was signed into law last year.

I also believe that we must use every resource at our disposal to meet this challenge. In my opinion, youth service and conversation corps can play a significant role in reducing the physical and financial strain that public land management agencies bear and help protect our Nation's public lands from wildfires.

Secondly, this bill allows young people, particularly those youth who are people of color, low income, or are at high risk of dropping out of school, to integrate themselves into their communities and to learn skills that could lead to jobs or a greater interest in higher education in the future.

I have seen firsthand the benefits that youth corps bring to their commu-

nities and the difference that the work can make in the lives of at-risk youth.

In 1983, I founded the first urban youth corps as mayor of San Francisco, and during that time I saw a great improvement in the quality of life of the corps members and of the city itself.

When we first began the program, we ran it on a million-dollar budget employing 36 disadvantaged young people ranging in age between 18 and 23 years old who needed some direction, wanted a challenge, and wanted to make themselves socially useful.

That first year, we paid corps members \$3.35 an hour to repair bathrooms in affordable housing for senior citizens and ex-offenders, build a park in Hunter's Point, clear scotch broom from the Twin Peaks hillside, and fix up Alcatraz Island. And in the 21 years since the program began, it has grown into a multisite, multifaceted agency that engages more than 500 young adults annually who have completed over 3.5 million hours of community service.

It has given thousands of corps members a sense of personal pride, helped to connect them with their community and see for themselves that hard work pays off.

I started the San Francisco Conservation Corps to help young people break out of the cycle of poverty and crime and improve their job skills by giving them guidance and support through labor-intensive activities.

For this same reason, I am introducing this bill with the hope that the success of the San Francisco Conservation Corps can be duplicated nationwide.

Specifically, this bill does the following: It authorizes the Agriculture and Interior Secretaries to enter into contracts or cooperative agreements with existing State, local, and non-profit youth conservation corps to carry out land management initiatives on public lands.

It directs the Secretaries to give priority for projects that will reduce hazardous fuels on public land, restore land located in near municipal watersheds and municipal waters supplies, rehabilitate land affected or altered by fire, assess lands afflicted or imminently threatened by disease or insect infestation, work to address windthrown land or at high risk of reburn, provide emergency assistance and disaster relief to communities.

It allows the Secretaries to grant, at their discretion, noncompetitive hiring status for corps alumni for future Federal hiring.

It authorizes \$25 million for the alliance for fiscal year 2005–fiscal year 2009.

I know this program will not take all of the burden off public land management agencies as they work to protect and restore public lands, and I know this program will not reach every disadvantaged young person in need of guidance and support. But it is a start and I urge my colleagues to join me in my efforts.

By Mr. DASCHLE (for Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. CHAFEE):

S. 2254. A bill to encourage and ensure the use of safe equestrian helmets, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following legislation be introduced and printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

There being no objection, the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2254

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 "Christen O'Donnell Equestrian Helmet Safety Act of 2004".

SEC. 2. GRANTS REGARDING USE OF SAFE EQUESTRIAN HELMETS.

(a) **AUTHORITY TO AWARD GRANTS.**—The Secretary of Commerce may award grants to States, political subdivisions of States, Indian tribes, tribal organizations, public organizations, and private nonprofit organizations for activities that encourage individuals to wear approved equestrian helmets.

(b) **APPLICATION.**—A State, political subdivisions of States, Indian tribes, tribal organizations, public organizations, and private nonprofit organizations seeking a grant under this section shall submit to the Secretary an application for the grant, in such form and containing such information as the Secretary may require.

(c) **REVIEW BEFORE AWARD.**—

(1) **REVIEW.**—The Secretary shall review each application for a grant under this section in order to ensure that the applicant for the grant will use the grant for the purposes described in section 3.

(2) **SCOPE OF PROGRAMS.**—In reviewing applications for grants, the Secretary shall permit applicants wide discretion in designing programs that effectively promote increased use of approved equestrian helmets.

SEC. 3. PURPOSES OF GRANTS.

A grant under section 2 may be used by a grantee to—

(1) encourage individuals to wear approved equestrian helmets;

(2) provide assistance to individuals who may not be able to afford approved equestrian helmets to enable such individuals to acquire such helmets;

(3) educate individuals and their families on the importance of wearing approved equestrian helmets in a proper manner in order to improve equestrian safety; or

(4) carry out any combination of activities described in paragraphs (1), (2), and (3).

SEC. 4. REPORT TO CONGRESS.

(a) **REQUIREMENT.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Commerce shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the effectiveness of grants awarded under section 2.

(b) **CONTENTS OF REPORT.**—The report shall include a list of grant recipients, a summary of the types of programs implemented by the grant recipients, and any recommendations that the Secretary considers appropriate regarding modification or extension of the authority under section 2.

(c) **APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.**—In this section, the term "appropriate committees of Congress" means—

(1) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 5. STANDARDS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Every equestrian helmet manufactured on or after the date that is 9 months after the date of enactment of this Act shall meet—

(1) the interim standard specified in subsection (b), pending the establishment of a final standard pursuant to subsection (c); and

(2) the final standard, once that standard has been established under subsection (c).

(b) **INTERIM STANDARD.**—The interim standard for equestrian helmets is the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) standard designated as F 1163.

(c) **FINAL STANDARD.**—

(1) **REQUIREMENT.**—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Consumer Product Safety Commission shall begin a proceeding under section 553 of title 5, United States Code, to—

(A) establish a final standard for equestrian helmets that incorporates all the requirements of the interim standard specified in subsection (b);

(B) provide in the final standard a mandate that all approved equestrian helmets be certified to the requirements promulgated under the final standard by an organization that is accredited to certify personal protection equipment in accordance with ISO Guide 65; and

(C) include in the final standard any additional provisions that the Commission considers appropriate.

(2) **INAPPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN LAWS.**—Sections 7, 9, and 30(d) of the Consumer Product Safety Act (15 U.S.C. 2056, 2058, and 2079(d)) shall not apply to the proceeding under this subsection, and section 11 of such Act (15 U.S.C. 2060) shall not apply with respect to any standard issued under such proceeding.

(3) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The final standard shall take effect not later than 1 year after the date it is issued.

(d) **FAILURE TO MEET STANDARDS.**—

(1) **FAILURE TO MEET INTERIM STANDARD.**—Until the final standard takes effect, an equestrian helmet that does not meet the interim standard, required under subsection (a)(1), shall be considered in violation of a consumer product safety standard promulgated under the Consumer Product Safety Act.

(2) **STATUS OF FINAL STANDARD.**—The final standard developed under subsection (c) shall be considered a consumer product safety standard promulgated under the Consumer Product Safety Act.

SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATIONS OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) **DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE.**—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Department of Commerce to carry out section 2, \$100,000 for each of fiscal years 2005, 2006, and 2007.

(b) **CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION.**—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Consumer Product Safety Commission to carry out activities under section 5, \$500,000 for fiscal year 2005, which amount shall remain available until expended.

SEC. 7. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **APPROVED EQUESTRIAN HELMET.**—The term "approved equestrian helmet" means an equestrian helmet that meets—

(A) the interim standard specified in section 5(b), pending establishment of a final standard under section 5(c); and

(B) the final standard, once it is effective under section 5(c).

(2) **EQUESTRIAN HELMET.**—The term "equestrian helmet" means a hard shell head covering intended to be worn while participating in an equestrian event or activity.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 325—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING THE CREATION OF REFUGEE POPULATIONS IN THE MIDDLE EAST, NORTH AFRICA, AND THE PERSIAN GULF REGION AS A RESULT OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

Mr. SANTORUM submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 325

Whereas Jews and other ethnic groups have lived mostly as minorities in the Middle East, North Africa, and the Persian Gulf region for more than 2,500 years, more than 1,000 years before the advent of Islam;

Whereas the United States has long voiced its concern about the mistreatment of minorities and the violation of human rights in the Middle East and elsewhere;

Whereas the United States continues to play a pivotal role in seeking an end to conflict in the Middle East and to promoting a peace that will benefit all the people of the region;

Whereas a comprehensive peace in the region will require the resolution of all outstanding issues through bilateral and multilateral negotiations involving all concerned parties;

Whereas the discussion of refugees in the Middle East generally centers on Palestinian refugees, even though estimates indicate that, as a result of the 1948 war in which numerous Arab armies attacked the newly-founded State of Israel, more Jews (approximately 850,000) were displaced from Arab countries than were Palestinians (approximately 726,000);

Whereas the United States has demonstrated interest and concern about the mistreatment, violation of rights, forced expulsion, and expropriation of assets of minority populations in general, and in particular, former Jewish refugees displaced from Arab countries, as evidenced, inter alia, by the following actions:

(1) A Memorandum of Understanding signed by President Jimmy Carter and Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan on October 4, 1977, states that "[a] solution of the problem of Arab refugees and Jewish refugees will be discussed in accordance with rules which should be agreed".

(2) After negotiating the Camp David Accords, the Framework for Peace in the Middle East, President Jimmy Carter stated in a press conference on October 27, 1977 that "Palestinians have rights . . . obviously there are Jewish refugees . . . they have the same rights as others do".

(3) In an interview with Israeli television immediately after the issue of the rights of Jews displaced from Arab lands was discussed at Camp David II in July 2000, President Clinton stated clearly that "[t]here will have to be some sort of international fund set up for the refugees. There is, I think, some interest, interestingly enough, on both sides, in also having a fund which compensates the Israelis who were made refugees by the war, which occurred after the birth of the State of Israel. Israel is full of people, Jewish people, who lived in predominantly Arab countries who came to Israel because they were made refugees in their own land."

(4) In Senate Resolution 76, 85th Congress, agreed to January 29, 1957, the Senate—