

real compromise as we address this very important issue.

I yield the floor.

Mr. FRIST. I will respond to both of these issues. Asbestos is an issue the Senator from Delaware and I know the Democratic leader feel strongly about. It is an important bill, a bill we should address. We need to figure out the way to best address it.

The introduction of the bill is an attempt to advance the law so we can address it. We will continue discussions as the best way to address it.

Regarding the FSC/ETI, the JOBS bill, as he said, we have more amendments than either of us would like. It has been difficult to get it to the point we did. But it, too, is a bill we absolutely must address and we will continue to address.

I am hopeful over the recess, regarding both of these bills, Members will look at, spend time with, and discuss and debate them in a bipartisan way.

NATIONAL CYSTIC FIBROSIS AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 298, and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The clerk will read the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 298) designating May 2004 as National Cystic Fibrosis Awareness Month.

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid on the table en bloc.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 298) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 298

Whereas cystic fibrosis, characterized by chronic lung infections and digestive disorders, is a fatal lung disease;

Whereas cystic fibrosis is 1 of the most common genetic diseases in the United States and 1 for which there is no known cure;

Whereas more than 10,000,000 Americans are unknowing carriers of the cystic fibrosis gene;

Whereas 1 of every 3,500 babies born in the United States is born with cystic fibrosis;

Whereas newborn screening for cystic fibrosis has been implemented by 11 States and facilitates early diagnosis and treatment which improves health and longevity;

Whereas approximately 30,000 people in the United States have cystic fibrosis, many of them children;

Whereas the average life expectancy of an individual with cystic fibrosis is in the early thirties, an improvement from a life expectancy of 10 years in the 1960s, but still unacceptably short;

Whereas prompt, aggressive treatment of the symptoms of cystic fibrosis can extend the lives of people who have the disease;

Whereas recent advances in cystic fibrosis research have produced promising leads in gene, protein, and drug therapies beneficial to people who have the disease;

Whereas this innovative research is progressing faster and is being conducted more aggressively than ever before, due in part to the establishment of a model clinical trials network by the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation; and

Whereas education of the public on cystic fibrosis, including the symptoms of the disease, increases knowledge and understanding of cystic fibrosis and promotes early diagnosis: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates May 2004 as “National Cystic Fibrosis Awareness Month”;

(2) requests that the President issue a proclamation—

(A) designating the month of May 2004 as “National Cystic Fibrosis Awareness Month”; and

(B) calling on the people of the United States to promote awareness of cystic fibrosis and actively participate in support of research to control or cure cystic fibrosis, by observing the month with appropriate ceremonies and activities; and

(3) supports the goals of—

(A) increasing the quality of life for individuals with cystic fibrosis by promoting public knowledge and understanding in a manner that will result in earlier diagnoses;

(B) encouraging increased resources for research; and

(C) increasing levels of support for people who have cystic fibrosis and their families.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS COMMITTED BY FIDEL CASTRO AND CUBA

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Foreign Relations Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 328 and that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 328) expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the continued human rights violations committed by Fidel Castro and the Government of Cuba.

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

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that an amendment from Senator NELSON of Florida, which is at the desk, be agreed to, the resolution, as amended, and the preamble be agreed to en bloc, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate, and any statements related to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

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

The amendment (No. 3044) was agreed to, as follows:

On page 7, line 20 strike “commission” and insert “committee”.

The resolution (S. Res. 328), as amended, was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, as amended, with its preamble, is as follows:

S. RES. 328

Whereas, one year ago, in March 2003, Fidel Castro and the Government of Cuba led a nationwide campaign to arrest and jail dozens of prominent democracy activists and critics of the repressive regime in Cuba;

Whereas credible nongovernmental observers report that the imprisoned democracy activists include—

(1) Osvaldo Alfonso Valdes, sentenced for 18 years;

(2) Librado Linares Garcia, sentenced for 20 years;

(3) Raul Rivero Castaneda, sentenced for 20 years;

(4) Martha Beatriz Roque Cabello, sentenced for 20 years;

(5) Victor Rolando Arroyo Carmona, sentenced for 26 years;

(6) Mijail Barzaga Lugo, sentenced for 15 years;

(7) Oscar Elias Biscet, sentenced for 25 years;

(8) Margarito Broche Espinosa, sentenced for 25 years;

(9) Dr. Marcelo Cana Rodriguez, sentenced for 18 years;

(10) Roberto de Miranda Hernandez, sentenced for 20 years;

(11) Carmelo Diaz Fernandez, sentenced for 18 years;

(12) Eduardo Diaz Fleitas, sentenced for 21 years;

(13) Antonio Diaz Sanchez, sentenced for 20 years;

(14) Alfredo Dominguez Batista, sentenced for 14 years;

(15) Oscar Espinosa Chepe, sentenced for 20 years;

(16) Alfredo Felipe Fuentes, sentenced for 26 years;

(17) Efrén Fernandez Fernandez, sentenced for 12 years;

(18) Adolfo Fernandez Sainz, sentenced for 15 years;

(19) Jose Daniel Ferrer Garcia, sentenced for 25 years;

(20) Luis Enrique Ferrer Garcia, sentenced for 28 years;

(21) Orlando Fundora Alvarez, sentenced for 20 years;

(22) Prospero Gainza Aguero, sentenced for 25 years;

(23) Miguel Galban Gutierrez, sentenced for 26 years;

(24) Julio Cesar Galvez Rodriguez, sentenced for 15 years;

(25) Jose Luis Garcia Paneque, sentenced for 24 years;

(26) Edel Jose Garcia Diaz, sentenced for 16 years;

(27) Ricardo Gonzalez Alfonso, sentenced for 20 years;

(28) Diosdado Gonzalez Marrero, sentenced for 20 years;

(29) Lester Gonzalez Penton, sentenced for 20 years;

(30) Alejandro Gonzalez Raga, sentenced for 14 years;

(31) Jorge Luis Gonzalez Tanquero, sentenced for 20 years;

(32) Leonel Grave de Peralta Almenares, sentenced for 20 years;

(33) Ivan Hernandez Carrillo, sentenced for 25 years;

(34) Normando Hernandez Gonzalez, sentenced for 25 years;

(35) Juan Carlos Herrera Acosta, sentenced for 20 years;

(36) Regis Iglesias Ramirez, sentenced for 18 years;

(37) Jose Ubaldo Izquierdo Hernandez, sentenced for 16 years;

(38) Reinaldo Labrada Pena, sentenced for 6 years;

(39) Nelson Alberto Aguiar Ramirez, sentenced for 13 years;

(40) Marcelo Lopez Banobre, sentenced for 15 years;

(41) Jose Miguel Martinez Hernandez, sentenced for 13 years;

(42) Hector Maseda Gutierrez, sentenced for 20 years;

(43) Mario Enrique Mayo Hernandez, sentenced for 20 years;

(44) Dr. Luis Milan Fernandez, sentenced for 13 years;

(45) Nelson Moline Espino, sentenced for 20 years;

(46) Angel Juan Moya Acosta, sentenced for 20 years;

(47) Jesus Mustafa Felipe, sentenced for 25 years;

(48) Felix Navarro Rodriguez, sentenced for 25 years;

(49) Jorge Olivera Castillo, sentenced for 18 years;

(50) Pablo Pacheco Avila, sentenced for 20 years;

(51) Hector Palacios Ruiz, sentenced for 25 years;

(52) Arturo Perez de Alejo Rodriguez, sentenced for 20 years;

(53) Omar Pernet Hernandez, sentenced for 25 years;

(54) Horacio Julio Pina Borrego, sentenced for 20 years;

(55) Fabio Prieto Llorente, sentenced for 20 years;

(56) Alfredo Pulido Lopez, sentenced for 14 years;

(57) Jose Gabriel Ramon Castillo, sentenced for 20 years;

(58) Arnaldo Ramos Lauzerique, sentenced for 18 years;

(59) Blas Giraldo Reyes Rodriguez, sentenced for 25 years;

(60) Pedro Pablo Alvarez Ramos, sentenced for 25 years;

(61) Alexis Rodriguez Fernandez, sentenced for 15 years;

(62) Omar Rodriguez Saludes, sentenced for 27 years;

(63) Pedro Arguelles Moran, sentenced for 20 years;

(64) Omar Ruiz Hernandez, sentenced for 18 years;

(65) Claro Sanchez Albtarriba, sentenced for 15 years;

(66) Ariel Sigler Amaya, sentenced for 20 years;

(67) Guido Sigler Amaya, sentenced for 20 years;

(68) Ricardo Enrique Silva Gual, sentenced for 10 years;

(69) Fidel Suarez Cruz, sentenced for 20 years;

(70) Manuel Ubals Gonzalez, sentenced for 20 years;

(71) Julio Antonio Valdes Guevara, sentenced for 20 years;

(72) Miguel Valdes Tamayo, sentenced for 15 years;

(73) Hector Raul Valle Hernandez, sentenced for 12 years;

(74) Manuel Vazquez Portal, sentenced for 18 years; and

(75) Antonio Augusto Villarreal Acosta, sentenced for 15 years;

Whereas the imprisoned political opponents of Castro include librarians, journalists, poets, and others who have supported the Varela Project, which seeks to bring free speech, open elections, and democracy to Cuba;

Whereas Fidel Castro seized the opportunity to expand his brutal oppression of the people of Cuba while the attention of the United States and other nations around the world was focused on the war in Iraq;

Whereas the failure to condemn the Government of Cuba's continued political repression of democracy activists will further undermine the opportunity for freedom on the island; and

Whereas the international community missed an opportunity to speak against such brutal repression in a meaningful manner during the 59th Session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights held in Geneva, Switzerland, from March 17, 2003, through April 23, 2003: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) reaffirms—

(A) Senate Resolution 272, 107th Congress, unanimously agreed to June 10, 2002, calling for, among other things, amnesty for all political prisoners in Cuba;

(B) Senate Resolution 97, 108th Congress, unanimously agreed to April 7, 2003, condemning the crackdown on democracy activists in Cuba; and

(C) Senate Resolution 62, 108th Congress, unanimously agreed to June 27, 2003, calling upon the Organization of American States Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the European Union, and human rights activists throughout the world to take certain actions in regard to the human rights situation in Cuba;

(2) calls on the Government of Cuba to immediately release individuals imprisoned for political purposes;

(3) praises the bravery of those Cubans who, because they practiced free speech and signed the Varela Project petition, have been targeted in this most recent government crackdown;

(4) calls on foreign governments to—

(A) increase the pressure on the Government of Cuba to improve its record on human rights in Cuba; and

(B) invite civil society leaders and democracy activists in Cuba to official events;

(5) calls upon the 60th Session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights in Geneva from March 15, 2004, to April 23, 2004, to—

(A) condemn Cuba for its human rights abuses; and

(B) demand that inspectors from the International Committee of the Red Cross be allowed to visit and inspect the conditions of prisons to assess for the international community the extent of human rights abuses and the current situation in Cuba; and

(6) urges the President to direct United States Representatives at the 60th Session of the Commission on Human Rights to make the strong condemnation of the human rights situation in Cuba a top priority.

EXPRESSION OF APPRECIATION FOR PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 337, submitted by Senator MURKOWSKI earlier today.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 337) expressing the appreciation of the Senate for the Paralyzed Veterans of America.

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

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, today it is my distinct honor to rise and submit a Senate resolution recognizing the Paralyzed Veterans of America Awareness Week, which is April 11–17, 2004.

Many of my colleagues may not be aware what an outstanding civic-minded organization the PVA is in our

country. But first let me tell you that these are not just ordinary citizens—they are veterans who sacrificed for our Nation in ways we can never fully repay. The PVA is composed of veterans of the Armed Forces who have spinal cord injuries. They are veterans who honorably and nobly served their country and continue to serve on a daily basis.

The PVA provides invaluable services to veterans' families and to our own Department of Veterans Affairs—ensuring that civil rights and access to viable transportation and affordable housing will always be provided to those with spinal cord injuries. PVA does this so their members may have the same opportunities as the rest of us—for whom these brave members fought—that they may have the independence that we all are blessed with in this country.

The PVA is a leader in medical and prosthetic research, funding two research foundations that investigate a broad spectrum of neurological sciences to seek a cure for spinal cord injury as well as breakthroughs in rehabilitation to improve the quality of life of all Americans with spinal cord injuries.

I would like to also remind my fellow Senators that the PVA is the sponsor of the Nation's largest wheelchair sports programs, fostering a wide range of sporting, and indoor, and outdoor recreational events to encourage physical activity and comradeship so vital to the ongoing rehabilitation of its members.

I encourage all of you, indeed all Americans, to take time next week to thank those who have made such tremendous sacrifices in order for us to enjoy the freedoms we now possess. And please take time from your day and find out how you can help and volunteer with your local PVA chapter.

Mr. FRIST. I ask consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc, and any statements related to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 337) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 337

Whereas for 58 years Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA), a veterans service organization chartered by Congress, has served the needs of its members, veterans of the Armed Forces who have experienced spinal cord injury or dysfunction;

Whereas Paralyzed Veterans of America, with 34 chapters and 6 subchapters, has a stated mission to be a leading advocate for quality health care for its members through the health care system of the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Department network of Spinal Cord Injury Centers, and other private and public health care providers;

Whereas Paralyzed Veterans of America, with 57 service offices and a network of service officers, has helped its members and hundreds of thousands of other veterans receive