

a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives: Bombardier Model DHC-8-401 and 402 Airplanes" (RIN2120-AA64) received on May 3, 2004; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7341. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives: Airbus Model A330-301, 321, 322, 341, and 342 Airplanes Model A340-211, 212, 213-311, 312, and 313 Airplanes" (RIN2120-AA64) received on May 3, 2004; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7342. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives: Boeing Model 747-400F Airplanes" (RIN2120-AA64) received on May 3, 2004; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7343. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives: Pilatus Aircraft Ltd. Models PC-12 and PC-12/45 Airplanes" (RIN2120-AA64) received on May 3, 2004; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7344. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives: Aerospace Technologies of Australia Pty Ltd Airplanes" (RIN2120-AA64) received on May 3, 2004; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7345. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives: McDonnell Douglas Model DC-9-14, 15, 15F, 31, 32, 32 (CD-9C), 32F (C-9A, C-9B), 33F, 34, and 34F Airplanes and Model DC-9-21, DC-9-41, and DC-9-51 Airplanes" (RIN2120-AA64) received on May 3, 2004; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7346. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives: McDonnell Douglas Model DC-9-15 Airplanes" (RIN2120-AA64) received on May 3, 2004; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7347. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives: Airbus Model A310 and A320 Airplanes" (RIN2120-AA64) received on May 3, 2004; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7348. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives: Saab Model SAAB 2000 Airplanes" (RIN2120-AA64) received on May 3, 2004; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7349. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives: McDonnell Douglas Model DC-9-10, 20, 30, 40, and 50 Airplanes" (RIN2120-AA64) received on May 3, 2004; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7350. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives: Boeing Model 757-200 and 200CB Airplanes" (RIN2120-AA64) received on May 3, 2004; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7351. A communication from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Coast Guard, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety/Security Zone Regulations: [Including 95 Regulations]" (RIN1625-AA00) received on May 3, 2004; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7352. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicare Program: Changes to the Criteria for Being Classified as an Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility" (RIN0938-AM71) received on May 3, 2004; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7353. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicare Program: Prospective Payment System for Long-Term Care Hospitals: Annual Rate Updates and Policy Changes" (RIN0938-AM84) received on May 3, 2004; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7354. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a D.C. Act 15-418, "Unemployment Compensation and Domestic Violence Amendment Act of 2004"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-7355. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a D.C. Act 15-417, "Disposal of District-Owned Surplus Real Property in Ward 8 Temporary Amendment Act of 2004"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-7356. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a D.C. Act 15-416, "Commission on Selection and Tenure of Administrative Law Judges Non-Liability Temporary Act of 2004"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-7357. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a D.C. Act 15-415, "Freedom Way Designation Act of 2004"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-7358. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a D.C. Act 15-414, "Language Access Act of 2004"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

POM-413. A joint memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Washington relative to the federal temporary unemployment compensation program; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4031

Whereas, over the past few years, the national economy has struggled unsuccessfully to rebound from the recession, and a strong and sustainable recovery remains elusive; and

Whereas, there are two million four hundred thousand fewer jobs today than when the recession began; and

Whereas, in November 2003, long-term joblessness reached a twenty-year high, and nearly one-fourth of the unemployed have been out of work for at least half a year; and

Whereas, in November 2003, the nation's unemployment rate remained at five and nine-tenths percent, and Washington's unemployment rate was among the highest in the country at six and eight-tenths percent; and

Whereas, Congress and the President originally approved temporary extended unemployment compensation to provide assistance to unemployed workers who were unable to find new jobs before exhausting their regular benefits, and to stimulate the economy by injecting dollars directly into local communities; and

Whereas, unemployed workers in most states could receive up to thirteen weeks of federal temporary extended unemployment compensation; and

Whereas, unemployed workers in states suffering from severe economic distress such as Washington could receive up to twenty-six weeks of federal temporary extended unemployment compensation; and

Whereas, Congress adjourned without providing for a further extension of unemployment compensation benefits after December of 2003; and

Whereas, across the nation, more than one million unemployed workers are expected to exhaust their regular benefits in the first quarter of 2004; and

Whereas, in Washington, more than twenty-five thousand unemployed workers are expected to exhaust their regular benefits in the first quarter of 2004; and

Whereas, these unemployed workers are left with few, if any, job prospects or other means of assistance; and

Whereas, Federal temporary extended unemployment compensation benefits helped these hard-working people and their families put food on the table and pay their bills while they looked for work; and

Whereas, Federal temporary extended unemployment compensation injected cash into troubled economies throughout the nation and in Washington; and

Whereas, the economic and labor market conditions that warranted federal temporary extended unemployment compensation still persist; and

Whereas, if federal temporary extended unemployment compensation benefits are not extended, workers and their families will suffer severe economic hardships and states such as Washington will be deprived of this crucial economic boost: Now, therefore,

Your Memorialists respectfully pray that Congress and the President extend and make retroactive the federal temporary unemployment compensation program. Be it

Resolved, That copies of this Memorial be immediately transmitted to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United States, the Secretary of the Department of Labor, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of Washington.

POM-414. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the Legislature of the State of Michigan relative to treatment of chronic diseases; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 170

Whereas, an estimated 125 million Americans suffer from at least one chronic illness, which includes such maladies as asthma, arthritis, diabetes, heart disease, mental illness, and many cancers. Approximately 60 million people are afflicted with more than one of these conditions; and

Whereas, chronic illnesses, which are responsible for 7 of every 10 deaths, are the

leading cause of death in our country. More than 75 percent of state Medicaid spending goes toward the treatment of chronic illnesses, and more than half of Medicaid spending treats Medicaid enrollees who have more than one chronic disease; and

Whereas, the health care system of the United States could more accurately be called a "sick care" system, as most costs are incurred in the treatment of acute episodes of chronic illnesses that, in many cases, could be avoided or lessened by preventive measures. Many chronic diseases can be mitigated through improved diet, increased exercise, avoiding tobacco use, or other management steps. In spite of this, our country spends only a fraction of its health care money on prevention; and

Whereas, many studies have demonstrated widespread problems with the quality of care delivered to individuals with chronic illnesses. These studies often cite the absence of appropriate screening and follow-up care, inadequate coordination of treatment among health care providers, and many preventable and costly complications; and

Whereas, there are structural barriers to improved treatment of chronic illnesses. Specifically, Medicaid and Medicare do not encourage preventive steps or better coordination for the treatment of people with more than one disease. Clearly, with the financial pressures in health care and the aging of our population, we need to take stronger steps to deal with chronic conditions in a more effective manner; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the house of representatives, That we memorialize the Congress of the United States and the United States Department of Health and Human Services to make the treatment of chronic diseases a higher priority. We urge federal policy makers to transform the regulatory, financial, and clinical structures for dealing with chronic diseases, including more support for preventive measures, better coordination of care, and the removal of regulatory barriers within Medicaid and Medicare and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the members of the Michigan congressional delegation, and the United States Department of Health and Human Services.

POM-415. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the Legislature of the State of Michigan relative to pregnancy care centers in Michigan; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 167

Whereas, pregnancy care centers, which are also known as crisis pregnancy centers, are located in Michigan and across our country and provide vitally needed help to women and families at difficult times in their lives. These centers offer free, confidential, and compassionate services, which range from pregnancy testing and childbirth classes to help with housing, counseling, and medical referrals; and

Whereas, pregnancy care centers encourage women to make positive choices in life by providing them with accurate and complete information. This information covers such key topics as nutrition, prenatal care, adoption service, and parenting; and

Whereas, many pregnancy care centers across the country also offer classes in abstinence education, including programs carried out in schools; and

Whereas, the work of pregnancy care centers is largely conducted by volunteers, with contributions of time, talent, and financial support from people who seek the intrinsic

value of helping women and families facing a variety of very personal difficulties. With the strong societal implications of the good work being done at pregnancy care centers across our state, these centers are performing a great volume of services that clearly are carried out for the public benefit; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the house of representatives, That we memorialize the Congress of the United States and the Michigan Department of Community Health to develop collaborative relationships with pregnancy care centers in Michigan. We urge that any assistance made available to help with medical and abstinence education programs be administered in a manner that does not compromise the values of the centers; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the members of the Michigan congressional delegation, and the Michigan Department of Community Health.

POM-416. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the Legislature of the State of Michigan relative funding for DNA testing; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 193

Whereas, one of the most significant breakthroughs in the area of crime fighting is DNA testing. This scientific technology has had a dramatic impact in protecting innocent people accused of crimes and identifying murderers, rapists, and other violent criminals. Because of the effectiveness of this tool, there is enormous frustration among citizens and law enforcement professionals that there is a large backlog of cases awaiting laboratory testing, both here in Michigan and across the country; and

Whereas, in spite of state and federal efforts to date, there remains in Michigan a backlog of over 74,000 cases awaiting DNA testing. It is estimated that Michigan State Police labs can expect 50,000 new DNA samples per year. At the current level of funding available, it is expected that only 42,000 of these can be processed annually, adding to the backlog of cases; and

Whereas, this lag in testing represents a genuine threat to public safety. There have been well-publicized reports of new violent crimes being committed by people who were on the streets solely because tests were still pending. Police across the state are confident that, if the backlog of cases were to be eliminated, thousands of unsolved serious crimes, including murders and rapes, would be solved. The magnitude of removing so many violent criminals from society cannot be ignored; and

Whereas, the issue of finding ample resources to conduct DNA tests on a timely basis is a substantial security issue for our nation. The federal nature of this issue is further underscored by the fact that violent criminals often move around the country. Clearly, this issue is vital to the safety of our citizens; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the house of representatives, That we memorialize the Congress of the United States to increase the level of federal funds available to the states for DNA testing; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.

POM-417. A memorial adopted by the House of Representatives of the Legislature

of the State of Florida relative to the protection of crime victim's rights; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

HOUSE MEMORIAL NO. 335

Whereas, the rights of a victim of violent crime, being capable of protection without denying the constitutional rights of those accused of victimizing him or her, should not be denied; and

Whereas, a victim of a violent crime should have the right to reasonable and timely notice of any public proceeding involving the crime and of any release or escape of the accused; and

Whereas, a victim has the right to be included in such public proceeding and to be reasonably heard at public release, plea, sentencing, reprieve, and pardon proceedings; and

Whereas, a victim has the right to adjudicative decisions that duly consider the victim's safety, interest in avoiding unreasonable delay, and just and timely claims to restitution from the offender; and

Whereas, these rights should not be restricted except when and to the degree dictated by a substantial interest in public safety or the administration of criminal justice or by compelling necessity; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida, That the Congress of the United States is requested to enact a proposed amendment to the Constitution of the United States to protect the rights of crime victims. Be it further

Resolved, That copies of this memorial be dispatched to the President of the United States, to the President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and to each member of the Florida delegation to the United States Congress.

POM-418. A joint memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Washington relative to the Aganda family of Selah, Washington; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4041

Whereas, the plight of the Aganda family of Selah, Washington has touched the hearts of citizens all over the state; and

Whereas, Tomas Aganda, his wife Judy Aganda, and their daughter Jennylyn Aganda face concerted and repeated efforts by the United States Government to deport this family back to the Philippines; and

Whereas, the Aganda family, including sons Herbie and Khmson and daughter Stephanie, have been outstanding members of the Selah community for over a decade; and

Whereas, the Aganda family lawfully entered this country on October 22, 1990, and shortly thereafter purchased a small laundry business in the Selah community; and

Whereas, Judy Aganda's parents are United States citizens who live in Yakima; and

Whereas, the Aganda family first sought an investor's visa so that they could stay and contribute their energy and talents to this community and Country, but were denied because the business was considered too small to support the family; and

Whereas, the business is viable and has supported the family for over a decade; and

Whereas, Judy Aganda has a cancerous growth as the base of her skull that requires continued treatments that would not be available to her in the Philippines; and

Whereas, United States District Court Judge Fred Van Sickle, in granting a six-month stay of the deportation order, noted that the United States Government's insistence on deporting Judy Aganda, in the face of her life-threatening condition, was a

"magnitude of constitutional violation that is what I regard as a manifest injustice"; and Whereas, the protection of the six-month stay will end April 17, 2004, but the need for a compassionate and reasoned resolution of this crisis remains: Now, therefore,

Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the United States Government end its concerted efforts to deport the Aganda family and to instead provide them an opportunity to remain in this country, especially in light of the fact that their daughter Stephanie, who is a United States citizen, will be twenty-one years old in 2005 and will then be able to file an immigrant visa for her parents; and further,

That is the United States Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services, acting in concert with the Department of Homeland Security, is unwilling or unable to provide this compassionate relief, then we call upon the members of our state's congressional delegation to seek relief for the Aganda family through the passage of a private bill of relief. Be it

Resolved, That copies of this Memorial be immediately transmitted to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United States, Tom Ridge, Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, Eduardo Aguirre, Jr., Director of the U.S. Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of Washington.

POM-419. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the Legislature of the State of Michigan relative to granting a federal charter to the Korean War Veterans Association; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 24

Whereas, as our nation witnesses once again the sacrifices of our fellow citizens taking up arms to preserve liberties, we have reawakened our sensitivity to the importance of service to veterans from all of America's wars. Organizations that work to help and advocate on behalf of veterans help fulfill a promise between our country and its defenders; and

Whereas, the Korean War Veterans Association is the only veterans organization comprised exclusively of Korean War veterans. This group has established an excellent record of service to those who served and suffered in Korea and their families; and

Whereas, however, the Korean War Veterans Association is one of the few veterans groups of its size operating without a federal charter. Legislation is currently pending in Congress in both the House of Representatives (H.R. 1043) and the Senate (S. 478) to grant a federal charter; and

Whereas, the long overdue granting of a federal charter would enable the association to significantly enhance its efforts to help needy Korean War veterans and their families. With a charter, which would extend to it the same status as other veterans groups, the Korean War Veterans Association would be able to further its work and participate more fully with other groups. A federal charter also would permit the organization to assist in processing claims for benefits; and

Whereas, as our nation marks the fiftieth anniversary of the end of military hostilities on the Korean Peninsula, granting the federal charter would be most appropriate: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the house of representatives (the senate concurring), That we memorialize the Congress of the United States to enact legislation to grant a federal charter to the Korean War Veterans Association; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.

POM-420. A resolution adopted by the City Council of the City of Gulfport of the State of Mississippi relative to same sex marriages; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

RESOLUTION

Whereas, the Mayor and City Council recognize that marriage as an exclusive ceremonial relationship between a man and a woman is not only traditional, but is a principle upon which this country was founded, and is a union that has been held sacred in society and essential to the moral value system in the City of Gulfport, State of Mississippi, and throughout this land; and that state and local tax laws, criminal laws, marital benefits, rights and benefits arising from the spousal relationship and dependents' rights are structured in this country historically and presently to a man and woman (opposite sex) marital relationship; and

Whereas, it is recognized that same sex relationships are offensive to many citizens in this country for traditional, personal, and religious reasons, and that marriages of a man and woman have always been celebrated as proper, and always will be acknowledged as natural, proper and built and honored upon a foundation of values of the United States of America; and the recognition of same sex marriages on the other hand will have a devastating effect on the moral traditions and on the laws and legal system of the country, and shall ultimately mandate marriage unions to be ordained within religious denominations against serious religious beliefs of certain faiths thereby bringing about a dissolution of freedom of religion in this Country; and

Whereas, believing that States should have a right to protect its traditions and values, especially when confirmed by the will of the people, and for the purpose of protecting the family and its values, the Governing Authority of the City of Gulfport hereby desires to memorialize its support of the position addressed by President George W. Bush that an amendment to the United States Constitution should be placed by the legislative branch of the United States of America on the ballot to allow the electorate to decide whether or not laws prohibiting recognition of same sex marriages are legitimate and not to be overruled by the Courts: Now therefore, be it

Resolved by the Mayor and City Council of Gulfport, Mississippi, as follows:

Section 1. That the matters, facts, and things recited in the Preamble hereto are hereby adopted as the official findings of the Governing Authority.

Section 2. That United States President George W. Bush be, and he is hereby officially commended by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Gulfport, Mississippi, for his position statement and proposal that the legislative branch of the Government of the United States of America enact legislation to allow the electorate of the country to vote on an amendment to the United States Constitution that will clearly establish that laws prohibiting recognition by the States of same sex marriages are constitutionally valid; and the Governing Authority of the City of Gulfport, Mississippi hereby makes publicly known its support of this position by President Bush.

Section 3. That this Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its passage, and shall be spread upon the minutes of the Gulfport City Council, and copies shall be di-

rected to the President of the United States of America, Honorable Dick Cheney, Vice President of the United States of America, to the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, to the Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate, and to Honorable Trent Lott, U.S. Senator, Honorable Thad Cochran, U.S. Senator, and Honorable Gene Taylor, U.S. Representative to Congress, and the Governor and Lieutenant Governor of the State of Mississippi, the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the State of Mississippi, the President Pro Tem of the Mississippi State Senate, and the Harrison County delegation to the Mississippi Legislature, such other officials in government as the Mayor or City Council may direct to receive a copy thereof.

POM-421. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the General Assembly of the State of Tennessee relative to funding for the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 110

Whereas, the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant (JABG) was enacted in the 2002 reauthorization of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act; and

Whereas, this grant provides dollars for use by states and units of local government to promote greater accountability in the juvenile justice system; and

Whereas, between 1998 and 2002, the State of Tennessee received \$20,757,000 in JABG funds for accountability-based juvenile justice system programs; and

Whereas, rural counties across the State have received funds to assist with juvenile court services and with decreasing the backlog of juvenile cases; and

Whereas, the types of programs in Tennessee currently being funded by the JABG include: (1) intensive probation services; (2) residential observation and assessment services; (3) intensive after-care services; (4) alternative school and summary adventure-based programs; (5) additional juvenile court officers and referees to handle cases; (6) improved data systems for tracking juvenile cases; and (7) new youth and drug courts for diversion from the regular juvenile justice system; and

Whereas, because of the JABG funds, juvenile courts in rural areas, which normally have minimal resources; now have a greater variety of services to meet more individualized needs; and

Whereas, because of the services enabled by the JABG funds, juvenile offense referrals in Tennessee for crimes such as homicide, robbery, aggravated assault, rape, larceny, and burglary have been reduced by 16 percent between 1997 and 2001; and

Whereas, the JABG funds are providing for seven staff positions and community-based services through OASIS Center, YCAP Positive Beginnings program, Save Our Children and Frank Reed Memorial Tutoring Program, all of which are community-based youth serving non-profit agencies in Nashville, Tennessee; and

Whereas, because of services provided by JABG funds, the Metropolitan Nashville/Davidson County juvenile court's central intake diversion unit was able to divert 1,700 youth out of the juvenile justice system; and

Whereas, JABG funds are being used in Davidson County to support an onsite mental health specialist in the juvenile court, who facilitates intervention with the mental health cooperative and provides the court with information on youth who are acting in ways that warrant evaluation; and

Whereas, it is necessary to maintain JABG funds to continue the success of reducing juvenile crime in Tennessee and providing

more individualized, accountability-based interventions for youth involved with the juvenile courts: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the senate of the one hundred third general assembly of the state of Tennessee, That the continued success in the reduction of juvenile crime in Tennessee and the increase of vital services provided to children who are in the juvenile criminal system is dependent upon the renewal of Juvenile Accountability Block Grant funds by the federal government. Be it further

Resolved, That the Senate strongly urges the United States Congress and the President of the United States to restore funding for the Juvenile Accountability Block Grants because of the tremendous value these funds provide for local communities in Tennessee. Be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit enrolled copies of this resolution to each member of the Tennessee Congressional Delegation, to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United States, to the Speaker and Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, and to the President and Secretary of the United States Senate.

POM-422. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the General Assembly of the State of Ohio relative to the Election Assistance Commission; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 1550

Whereas, the help America Vote Act of 2002, Public Law No. 107-252, establishes the Election Assistance Commission to serve as a national clearinghouse and resource for the compilation of information and review of procedures with respect to the administration of federal elections; and

Whereas, the Election Assistance Commission, among its other responsibilities, is charged with providing for the testing, certification, decertification, and recertification of voting system hardware and software by accredited laboratories, as well as the adoption of voluntary voting system guidelines; and

Whereas, states desiring to implement voter-verifiable paper ballots for electronic voting systems are dependent upon the Election Assistance Commission issuing its certifications and voluntary voting system guidelines in order to acquire secure voting machines; and

Whereas, the members of the Senate of the 125th General Assembly of Ohio are committed to seeing the provisions of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 implemented in such a manner as to make electronic voting as safe and secure as possible for Ohio citizens: Now therefore be it

Resolved, That we, the members of the Senate of the 125th General Assembly of Ohio, request the Congress of the United States to direct the Election Assistance Commission to develop standards and security accreditation guidelines for all electronic voting devices in accordance with the Help America Vote Act of 2002; and be it further

Resolved, That we, the members of the Senate of the 125th General Assembly of Ohio, request the Congress of the United States to direct the Election Assistance Commission to establish standards for the design and use of reasonably affordable voter-verifiable paper ballots for electronic voting systems for states that desire to implement the use of those ballots; and be it further

Resolved, That we, the members of the Senate of the 125th General Assembly of Ohio, further request the Congress of the United States to direct the Election Assistance Commission to expedite its efforts regarding the testing, certification, decertification,

and recertification of voting system hardware and software and the adoption of voluntary voting system guidelines pursuant to the Help America Vote Act of 2002; and be it further

Resolved, That the Clerk of the Senate transmit duly authenticated copies of this resolution to the members of the Ohio Congressional delegation, to the Speaker and Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, to the President Pro Tempore and Secretary of the United States Senate, and to the news media of Ohio.

POM-423. A joint memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Washington relative to the State's DVA health care system; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8040

Whereas, there are 670,000 veterans who have chosen to call the great State of Washington home; and

Whereas, these citizens are deserving of a world class health care system to deal with injuries and diseases resulting from their selfless service to our country; and

Whereas, Washington State has significantly fewer veterans being served by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (U.S. DVA) than other states in the nation, and in 2002 was ranked second to the last in the number of veterans receiving health care through the U.S. DVA; and

Whereas, veterans in Washington State are being placed on waiting lists by the U.S. DVA in order to receive health care and pharmacy services; and

Whereas, the U.S. DVA national waiting list data from July 2002 through September 2003 indicates the Veterans' Integrated Service Network 20, which includes Washington State, has the largest number of veterans waiting for nonemergent clinic visits; and

Whereas, an increasing number of Washington State veterans who formerly relied on alternate health care providers are finding themselves without health care and are turning to the U.S. DVA for their health care for the first time; and

Whereas, the U.S. DVA Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services (CARES) initiative has not fully considered the current and future need for veterans' health care services across the Veterans' Integrated Service Network; and

Whereas, it is imperative that Washington State receive adequate federal resources to care for the increasing number of veterans who will rely on the U.S. DVA for health care services: Now, therefore,

Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the President will ensure the U.S. DVA health care system in Washington State will be adequate to serve the current and future demands of our state's veterans. Your Memorialists further pray that Congress and the President affirm the debt owed these veterans and provide funding for those services deemed necessary. Be it

Resolved, That copies of this Memorial be immediately transmitted to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United States, the Secretary of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of Washington.

POM-424. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the Legislature of the State of Michigan relative to eligibility for prisoner of war benefits; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 179

Whereas, under current federal law, a former Prisoner of War is eligible for special

benefits when the imprisonment extends for a period of at least 30 days. These benefits include a variety of health services, including some that require a threshold of eligibility of 90 days of internment; and

Whereas, many people strongly feel that the length of time served as a POW necessary to receive special benefits is far too long. The sacrifice being made by members of our military who are incarcerated as prisoners and the conditions they face are such that the 30-day requirement is entirely inappropriate; and

Whereas, much stronger protections should be extended to the men and women who risk everything in defense of their country and their fellow citizens. Creating a minimum threshold for POW benefits eligibility would send an important message to our military that our country is making a true commitment to these heroes commensurate with their suffering and sacrifices: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the house of representatives, That we memorialize the Congress of the United States to enact legislation to reduce the threshold of eligibility for Prisoner of War benefits to one day of imprisonment; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. ROBERTS, from the Select Committee on Intelligence:

Report to accompany S. 2386, An original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2005 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Intelligence Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 108-258).

By Mr. ROBERTS, from the Select Committee on Intelligence, without amendment:

S. 2386. An original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2005 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Intelligence Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. COLEMAN (for himself, Mr. LEVIN, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. REED):

S. 2383. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to require the registration of contractors' taxpayer identification numbers in the Central Contractor Registry database of the Department of Defense, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. BOND (for himself, Ms. SNOWE, and Mr. KENNEDY):

S. 2384. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to permit business concerns that are owned by venture capital operating companies or pension plans to participate in the Small Business Innovation Research Program; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.