

amended by inserting after section 523 the following new section:

“§523A. Annual plan on outreach activities

“(a) ANNUAL PLAN REQUIRED.—The Secretary shall prepare each year a plan for the outreach activities of the Department for the following year.

“(b) ELEMENTS.—Each annual plan under subsection (a) shall include the following:

“(1) Plans for efforts to identify veterans who are not enrolled or registered with the Department for benefits or services under the programs administered by the Secretary.

“(2) Plans for informing veterans and their dependents of modifications of the benefits and services under the programs administered by the Secretary, including eligibility for medical and nursing care and services.

“(c) COORDINATION IN DEVELOPMENT.—In developing an annual plan under subsection (a), the Secretary shall consult with the following:

“(1) Directors or other appropriate officials of organizations approved by the Secretary under section 5902 of this title.

“(2) Directors or other appropriate officials of State and local education and training programs.

“(3) Representatives of non-governmental organizations that carry out veterans outreach programs.

“(4) Representatives of State and local veterans employment organizations.

“(5) Businesses and professional organizations.

“(6) Other individuals and organizations that assist veterans in adjusting to civilian life.

“(d) INCORPORATION OF ASSESSMENT OF PREVIOUS ANNUAL PLANS.—In developing an annual plan under subsection (a), the Secretary shall take into account the lessons learned from the implementation of previous annual plans under such subsection.

“(e) INCORPORATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE OUTREACH AND AWARENESS.—In developing an annual plan under subsection (a), the Secretary shall incorporate the recommendations for the improvement of veterans outreach and awareness activities included in the report submitted to Congress by the Secretary pursuant to section 805 of the Veterans Benefits Improvement Act of 2004 (Public Law 108-454).”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 523 the following new item:

“523A. Annual plan on outreach activities.”.

SEC. 302. EXTENSION OF REPORTING REQUIREMENTS ON EQUITABLE RELIEF CASES.

Section 503(c) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “December 31, 2004” and inserting “December 31, 2009”.

SEC. 303. INCLUSION OF ADDITIONAL DISEASES AND CONDITIONS IN DISEASES AND DISABILITIES PRESUMED TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH PRISONER OF WAR STATUS.

Section 1112(b)(3) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraphs:

“(L) Atherosclerotic heart disease or hypertensive vascular disease (including hypertensive heart disease) and their complications (including myocardial infarction, congestive heart failure and arrhythmia).

“(M) Stroke and its complications.”.

SEC. 304. POST TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER CLAIMS.

The Secretary shall develop and implement policy and training initiatives to standardize the assessment of post traumatic stress disorder disability compensation claims.

Amend the title so as to read: “To amend title 38, United States Code, to extend the availability of \$400,000 in life insurance coverage to servicemembers and veterans, to make a stillborn child an insurable depend-

ent for purposes of the Servicemembers’ Group Life Insurance program, to make technical corrections to the Veterans Benefits Improvement Act of 2004, to make permanent a pilot program for direct housing loans for Native American veterans, and to require an annual plan on outreach activities of the Department of Veterans Affairs.”.

Mr. GRASSLEY. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute be agreed to, the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed, the amendment to the title be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The bill (S. 1235), as amended, was read the third time and passed.

The title amendment was agreed to.

ASSISTANCE FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES AFFECTED BY HURRICANES KATRINA AND RITA ACT OF 2005

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 3864 which was received from the House.

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3864) to assist individuals with disabilities affected by Hurricanes Katrina or Rita through vocational rehabilitation services.

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

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

The bill (H.R. 3864) was read the third time and passed.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SANDRA FELDMAN

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 256, which was submitted earlier today.

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 256) honoring the life of Sandra Feldman.

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

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I extend my deepest sympathies to the family and friends of Sandy Feldman at her untimely passing. We have lost a dedicated educator, a proud labor leader, a committed reformer, and someone my

wife Teresa, and I were so proud to have as a friend in our lives.

From her early days as a civil rights advocate, Sandy had an unshakeable sense of justice and fairness. Sandy did not just talk about helping teachers and their students—she actually did it. While her career spanned more than four decades, Sandy’s commitment grew out of her early work in the civil rights movement. An advocate for civil rights and social justice, she was an activist in the Freedom Rides and the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. It was her firsthand knowledge of the power of an excellent teacher that led Sandy to a lifetime of activism. Sandy understood the importance of quality public education and the wealth of opportunities it can unleash for every student, regardless of who they are or where they’re from.

“Created my future,” that is what Sandy always said about growing up in Brooklyn and the public schools and libraries she spent her childhood in. Sandy’s commitment to education was fueled by her childhood experiences and her dedication to bettering the lives of students and teachers. Beginning as a second grade teacher, Sandy quickly became a union activist when she led the teachers at her elementary school to organize. In 1986, Sandy became president of AFT’s largest affiliate, New York City’s United Federation of Teachers, UFT. During her years as UFT president and then since 1997 when she became president of the AFT, Sandy earned the respect of Presidents, of her colleagues, and of many of us in Congress.

Calling early childhood education “getting it right from the start,” Sandy consistently called for greater investment in public education and a greater emphasis on high standards and increased accountability. Sandy’s focus on early childhood education led her to introduce a program that would provide extended learning opportunities for disadvantaged students before and after the normal kindergarten school year. Within a few years, Sandy’s program, Kindergarten-Plus, had been introduced as Federal legislation, passed or considered in several State legislatures, and passed into law in at least one State.

My hope is that her tragic passing after a courageous battle with cancer will inspire all of us to do just what Sandy fought her entire life for—to make sure we are getting it right from the start and to stand by our children and our teachers. Sandy was an amazing American. I will miss her wisdom and her counsel very much. Our hearts go out to her husband Arthur and their family in this difficult time.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 256) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 256

Whereas Sandra Feldman was born Sandra Abramowitz in October, 1939, to blue-collar parents living in a tenement in Coney Island, New York;

Whereas Sandra Feldman, while at James Madison High School, Brooklyn College, and New York University, began a life-long dedication to education, both in the United States and abroad;

Whereas Sandra Feldman began her career by teaching fourth grade at Public School 34 on the Lower East Side of New York City;

Whereas during her service as union leader at Public School 34, Sandra Feldman became employed by the United Federation of Teachers in New York City, and was elected president in 1986, after 20 years of service;

Whereas Sandra Feldman's tenure as president of the United Federation of Teachers was distinguished by her devotion to better working conditions for the teachers she represented;

Whereas in 1997, the American Federation of Teachers elected Sandra Feldman to serve as their president, until she retired 7 years later;

Whereas Sandra Feldman effectively represented the educators, healthcare professionals, public employees, and retirees who made up the membership of the American Federation of Teachers;

Whereas Sandra Feldman was a tireless advocate for public education, working with President George W. Bush on the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 to improve accountability standards and provide increased resources to schools to help increasing professional development to better equip teachers to instruct students, and using research-driven methods to redesign school programs;

Whereas Sandra Feldman was equally devoted to promoting the rights of public servants, fighting against discrimination, raising the nursing shortage into national public awareness, advocating for smaller class sizes and patient-to-nurse ratios promoting increased benefits and compensation for workers, and spreading her message beyond her own membership by advocating for workers overseas as well;

Whereas Sandra Feldman lent her expertise to both the national and international labor movements in her capacities as a member of the AFL-CIO executive council and a vice president of Education International; and

Whereas Sandra Feldman succumbed on September 18, 2005, to a difficult struggle against breast cancer at the age of 65: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) mourns the loss of Sandra Feldman, a vibrant and dedicated public servant;

(2) recognizes the contributions of Sandra Feldman to public education;

(3) expresses its deepest condolences to those who knew and loved Sandra Feldman; and

(4) directs the Secretary of the Senate to transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the family of Sandra Feldman.

RECOGNIZING THE SPIRIT OF JACOB MOCK DOUB

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 257, which was submitted earlier today.

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 257) recognizing the spirit of Jacob Mock Doub and many young people who have contributed to encouraging youth to be physically active and fit, and expressing support for "National Take a Kid Mountain Biking Day."

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

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 257) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 257

Whereas according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, obesity rates have nearly tripled in adolescents in the United States since 1980;

Whereas overweight adolescents have a 70 percent chance of becoming overweight or obese adults;

Whereas research conducted by the National Institutes of Health indicates that, while genetics do play a role in childhood obesity, the large increase in childhood obesity rates over the past few decades can be traced to overeating and lack of sufficient exercise;

Whereas the Surgeon General and the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports recommend regular physical activity, including bicycling, for the prevention of overweight and obesity;

Whereas Jacob Mock "Jack" Doub, born July 11, 1985, was actively involved in encouraging others, especially children, to ride bicycles and was an active youth who was introduced to mountain biking at the age of 11 near Grandfather Mountain, North Carolina, and quickly became a talented cyclist;

Whereas Jack Doub died unexpectedly from complications related to a bicycling injury on October 21, 2002;

Whereas Jack Doub's family and friends have joined, in association with the International Mountain Bicycling Association, to honor Jack Doub's spirit and love of bicycling by establishing the Jack Doub Memorial Fund to promote and encourage children of all ages to learn to ride and lead a physically active lifestyle;

Whereas the International Mountain Bicycling Association's worldwide network, which is based in Boulder, Colorado, includes 32,000 individual members, more than 450 bicycle clubs, 140 corporate partners, and 240 bicycle retailer members, who coordinate more than 1,000,000 volunteer trail work hours each year and have built more than 5,000 miles of new trails;

Whereas the International Mountain Bicycling Association has encouraged low-impact riding and volunteer trail work participation since 1988; and

Whereas "National Take a Kid Mountain Biking Day" was established in honor of Jack Doub in 2004 by the International Mountain Bicycling Association, and is celebrated on the first Saturday in October of each year: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes—

(A) the health risks associated with childhood obesity;

(B) the spirit of Jacob Mock "Jack" Doub and so many others who have been actively

promoting physical activity to combat childhood obesity; and

(C) Jack Doub's contribution to encouraging youth of all ages to be physically active and fit, especially through bicycling;

(2) supports the goals and ideals of "National Take a Kid Mountain Biking Day", which was established in honor of Jack Doub in 2004 by the International Mountain Bicycling Association, and is celebrated on the first Saturday in October of each year; and

(3) encourages parents, schools, civic organizations, and students to support the International Mountain Bicycling Association's "National Take a Kid Mountain Biking Day" to promote increased physical activity among youth in the United States.

COMMENDING TIMOTHY SCOTT WINEMAN

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 258, which was submitted earlier today.

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 258) to commend Timothy Scott Wineman.

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

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 258) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 258

Whereas Timothy S. Wineman became an employee of the United States Senate on October 19, 1970, and since that date has ably and faithfully upheld the high standards and traditions of the staff of the United States Senate for a period that included 19 Congresses;

Whereas Timothy S. Wineman has served in the senior management of the Disbursing Office for more than 25 years, first as the Assistant Financial Clerk of the United States Senate from August 1, 1980 to April 30, 1998, and finally as Financial Clerk of the United States Senate from May 1, 1998 to October 14, 2005;

Whereas Timothy S. Wineman has faithfully discharged the difficult duties and responsibilities of his position as Financial Clerk of the United States Senate with great pride, energy, efficiency, dedication, integrity, and professionalism;

Whereas Timothy S. Wineman has earned the respect, affection, and esteem of the United States Senate; and

Whereas Timothy S. Wineman will retire from the United States Senate on October 14, 2005, with 35 years of service with the United States Senate all with the Disbursing Office: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the United States Senate commends Timothy S. Wineman for his exemplary service to the United States Senate and the Nation, and wishes to express its deep appreciation and gratitude for his long, faithful, and outstanding service.

SEC. 2. The Secretary of the Senate shall transmit a copy of this resolution to Timothy S. Wineman.