

The purpose of the hearing, entitled Power Generation Resource Incentives & Diversity Standards, is to receive testimony regarding ways to encourage the diversification of power generation resources. Issues to be discussed include: Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS) efforts among states and the cost and benefits of a federal RPS program. New approaches to promoting a variety of clean power resources, such as wind, solar, clean coal technology and nuclear power, will also be considered.

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

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session on Tuesday, March 8, 2005, at 10 a.m., to hear testimony on "Physician-Owned Specialty Hospitals: In the Interest of Patients of a Conflict of Interest?"

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 8, 2005, at 2:30 p.m. to hold a hearing on the Black Sea Strategy.

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet to conduct a hearing on Tuesday, March 8, 2005 at 9:30 a.m. on "Judicial Nominations." The hearing will take place in the Dirksen Senate Office Building Room 226. The tentative witness is attached.

Agenda:

PANEL I: Senators.

PANEL II: Thomas B. Griffith, of Utah, to be United States Circuit Judge for the District of Columbia Circuit.

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

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Rules and Administration be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 8, 2005, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing to examine and discuss S. 271, a bill which reforms the regulatory and reporting structure of organizations registered under Sections 527 of the Internal Revenue Code.

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

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 8, 2005 at 2:30 p.m. to hold a closed hearing.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Public Lands and Forests be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 8 at 10 a.m.

The purpose of the hearing is to receive testimony on S. 179, to provide for the exchange of land within the Sierra National Forest, California, and for other purposes; S. 213, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain federal land to Rio Arriba County, New Mexico; S. 267, to reauthorize the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000, and for other purposes; and S. 305, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to recruit volunteers to assist with or facilitate the activities of various agencies and offices of the Department of the Interior; S. 476, to authorize the Boy Scouts of America to exchange certain land in the state of Utah acquired under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act; and S. 485, to reauthorize and amend the National Geologic Mapping Act of 1992.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON TERRORISM, TECHNOLOGY AND HOMELAND SECURITY

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Committee on the Judiciary Subcommittee on Terrorism, Technology, and Homeland Security be authorized to meet to conduct a hearing on "Terrorism and the EMP Threat to Homeland Security," on Tuesday, March 8, 2005, at 2:30 p.m. in Room 226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

Panel I: Dr. Lowell Wood, Commissioner, Congressional EMP Commission, Livermore, CA; Dr. Peter Pry, Senior Staff, Congressional EMP Commission, Washington, DC; Dr. Peter Fonash, National Communications System Deputy Manager (Acting), Department of Homeland Security, Washington, DC.

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

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent Alison Thompson, a Marine fellow on Senator DOLE's staff, be granted privileges of the floor for the duration of today's session.

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

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 539

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk that is due for its second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct. The clerk will read the title of the bill for the second time.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 539) to amend title 28, United States Code, to provide the protections of habeas corpus for certain incapacitated individuals whose life is in jeopardy, and for other purposes.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, in order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to further proceedings.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard. The bill will be placed on the calendar.

APPOINTMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the President of the Senate, and after consultation with the Majority Leader, pursuant to Public Law 106-286, appoints the following Members to serve on the Congressional-Executive Commission on the People's Republic of China: The Senator from Nebraska, Mr. HAGEL, Chairman; the Senator from Kansas, Mr. BROWNBACK; the Senator from Oregon, Mr. SMITH; the Senator from South Carolina, Mr. DEMINT; and the Senator from Florida, Mr. MARTINEZ.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 74, submitted earlier today by Senators BIDEN, CLINTON, LUGAR, KOHL, and others.

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 74) designating March 8, 2005, as "International Women's Day."

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

Mr. DURBIN. Today, March 8, is International Women's Day. This day provides a special opportunity for us to reflect on the status of women throughout the world and to think about what we can do to improve the health and well-being of some of the world's most vulnerable women.

Today, I would like us to think about Uganda, where I sat on a porch with mothers who were HIV-positive. These mothers were gathering scrapbooks, photos, notes, and little memorabilia of their lives to leave to their children. Their children, playing in the yard, had already lost one parent, and were now about to lose a second.

I would like us to think about South Africa, where I saw women waiting for hours on wooden benches, inside a clinic made from old rail cars, in the hope that they might be sick enough to qualify for antiretroviral treatment for HIV.

And, I would like us to think about Bangladesh, where I saw women who had known nothing but poverty, but who, thanks to a tiny loan, had become entrepreneurs. They were offering cell phone service to their villages, made possible by their ownership of a single, solar-powered cell phone.

The stories of women like these from around the world are often stories of great sadness, but also stories of hope. The health and economic well-being of these women and their families are deeply intertwined. If we can improve one, we may be able to improve the other as well.

The connection between health and economic well-being is clearly apparent in two areas of international assistance: fighting HIV/AIDS, and providing family planning.

Women are now the face of AIDS in many parts of the world. In sub-Saharan Africa, 57 percent of those infected with HIV are women. Younger women are at particular risk. They are three times more likely than young men to be infected. This striking statistic, according to Stephen Lewis, the United Nations Secretary General's Special Envoy for HIV/AIDS in Africa, "is unprecedented in the history of the pandemic and . . . perhaps the most ominous warning of what is yet to come."

HIV/AIDS exploits and widens the inequities that make women more vulnerable. Women may have fewer economic opportunities, making them dependent on others for simple survival. When a family's resources are limited, any available money may go first for care and treatment for the men. Where women do not have rights to property, a husband's death can leave a widow and her children with literally nothing except infection with HIV. Women are also too often at risk for sexual violence and coercion.

The list of problems is long. It is clear that to win the fight against HIV/AIDS, we must address the many and wide-ranging impacts of the disease on women. Our strategies to fight HIV/AIDS should include approaches such as microcredit programs that provide women with small loans. These loans, often as small as \$10, enable women to start businesses to sustain themselves and their families. We should also support efforts to keep girls in school, using education's effectiveness as a "social vaccine" against HIV infection. We should work to make prevention, care, and treatment accessible to women. We must address the problem of gender-based violence and intimidation.

And, as part of our strategy, we should also support promising women-centered technologies such as microbicides. This is why I am a co-sponsor of the Microbicides Development Act being introduced today. This bill calls on the Federal Government to accelerate and coordinate research and development of microbicides.

Family planning is another area that can have important benefits for women's health and economic well being. The World Bank has called family planning "a development success story" because it contributes so greatly not just to women's health and opportunities, but also to the social and economic development of entire societies. Family planning improves eco-

nomical and educational opportunities for women and their families. It also has a direct effect on health.

Worldwide, over half a million women die each year from pregnancy or delivery. Family planning makes pregnancy safer by reducing unintended pregnancies and by allowing couples to space births, giving mothers' bodies more time to recover between pregnancies. Spacing births 3 to 5 years apart can prevent the deaths of women and children. It decreases a mother's risk of dying from childbirth by 2.5 times, and also decreases by 2.5 times the baby's risk of dying before the age of five.

Unfortunately, many couples still lack access to family planning care. Worldwide, an estimated 200 million women want to delay the birth of their next child or stop childbearing altogether, but lack access to effective contraceptive methods.

Fully funding this unmet need for contraceptives could reduce abortions by 22 million, infant deaths by 1.4 million, and pregnancy-related deaths by 142,000. Improving access to family planning care is also a wise economic investment. Studies from Mexico, Thailand, Egypt, and Vietnam have found that every dollar spent on family planning saves \$8 to \$31 in government expenditures.

The United States has been a leading supporter of family planning programs since the 1960s. For family planning's many benefits to women's health and lives, I hope we will continue our leadership in this area.

Today, on International Women's Day, we have an opportunity to recognize the progress that has been made in advancing the health and economic well-being of women. We also have an obligation to renew our commitment to providing the care that is needed to help some of the world's most vulnerable women and their families.

When we face challenges, we must not be deterred. When we experience success, we ought not to become complacent. Winston Churchill reminds us, "Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts." The women that I have met in Uganda, South Africa, and Bangladesh have all had the courage to continue. We too must continue our efforts to improve the health and lives of women around the world.

Mrs. CLINTON. Mr. President, today we commemorate International Women's Day. Discussions that will take place this week in celebration of International Women's Day allow women leaders, policy makers and experts from governments around the world to take stock of our progress and recommend concrete steps for future action.

I commend U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan for using his platform at the United Nations to advocate on behalf of women's rights. More than most, the Secretary General knows firsthand that global progress depends

on securing the rights of women worldwide. I am grateful to him for raising his voice on behalf of women and for the pivotal role the U.N. continues to play in advancing women's rights on every continent.

About 2 weeks ago, I had the privilege of traveling to Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan with some of my colleagues on the Senate Armed Services Committee. I visited U.S. troops and had a chance to see the extraordinary work these dedicated men and women are doing under extremely trying circumstances.

I also spent a few very valuable moments with Iraqi and Afghan women, just as I had done on a previous visit to Iraq and Afghanistan during Thanksgiving in 2003. What I saw, and what I heard from these women, was both inspiring and unnerving. In many ways the experiences of Iraqi women, and their counterparts in Afghanistan, underscore the opportunities unfolding for women all over the globe. But they also represent an enduring truth—that no matter how far we have come and how much hope is on the horizon, women must continue to work, struggle, and fight for every ounce of progress we make. Even then there are no guarantees.

Ten years ago, women from 189 countries came together for the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing. It was a gathering that lasted only a few days, but it changed the world.

We were women of all colors, races, ethnicities, languages, and religious backgrounds. Yet we knew that, as women, we shared common aspirations and dreams, as well as concerns and worries about the futures of our families and our communities.

In Beijing, after years, decades, indeed centuries, we broke our silence. Together we spoke up and we spoke out.

We spoke out on behalf of women and their daughters, mothers and sisters; women who were underpaid, under-educated and undervalued; women who were deprived of the right to go to school, earn a living, see a doctor, own property, get a loan, cast a vote or run for office; women who were persecuted, abused, violated, even killed because there were no laws to protect them or no enforcement of the laws that were supposed to protect them.

Although some governments and officials doubted that a United Nations conference on women would have an impact, what transpired in Beijing was the beginning of a global movement. It was a global movement focusing attention on the issues that matter most in the lives of women and their families: access to education, health care, jobs and credit, and the opportunity to enjoy the full range of political, legal and human rights.

We called on governments around the world to promote and protect women's rights unequivocally and to act on the ideal that "women's rights are human

rights and human rights are women's rights."

We made our case that global progress depends on the progress of women; that democratic institutions cannot thrive and survive without the participation of women; that market economies cannot grow and prosper without the inclusion of women; that societies are not truly free and just without legal protections and rights for women; that a nation cannot advance into the 21st century and in the Information Age without educated, literate women.

Today, as we face new and daunting enemies—from stateless terrorism to the global pandemic of HIV/AIDS to the scourge of human trafficking—we are learning that our Nation and our world cannot be secure or at peace if women are denied the right to fulfill their God-given potential at home, at school, at work, at the ballot box, in the courthouse and in the board room.

The Beijing Conference got us going. Governments, working with NGOs, used the Beijing Platform for Action as a road map. In the 10 years since, many have taken significant steps in the right direction.

From Mongolia to Indonesia to Tajikistan, we are seeing more equitable laws protecting women from discrimination, abuse and violence. From Gambia to Chile more women are getting elected or appointed to leadership roles in government. Our global movement is having a profound impact around the world.

Turkey recently passed sweeping legislative reforms to protect the rights of women with regard to rape and honor killings.

In Ethiopia, a center funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development opened last summer to offer medical assistance and counseling to women and girls who are victims of human trafficking.

Morocco instituted new family law that gives women equal rights to make decisions about marriage, divorce custody and alimony.

In Afghanistan, for the first time, a woman, Dr. Masooda Jalal, ran for the presidency. And Habiba Sarobi was just appointed governor of one of Afghanistan's central provinces. She is the first woman to hold a provincial government post in Afghanistan.

In Mexico, Amalia Garcia became the third woman ever to be elected governor of a state in her country.

In Iran, Dr. Shirin Ebadi, a woman lawyer, judge, and human rights activist, was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2003.

The following year in Kenya, Wangari Maathai, the deputy minister of the environment, won the Nobel Peace prize for her efforts to protect the environment and advance opportunities for poor women.

In the United States, the Clinton administration launched the Vital Voices democracy initiative to help women around the globe build democratic in-

stitutions and market economies in their own countries. During my husband's administration, I was honorary chair of the President's Interagency Council on Women, whose job was to follow up on Beijing and make sure that policies and programs relating to women and girls were a priority in every federal agency.

President Clinton's administration was the first ever to understand that social investment particularly investments in women and girls should be an integral part of foreign policy. Secretary Madeleine Albright led the charge, and I am grateful for her energy and vision.

These achievements might not have been possible without the galvanizing effects of Beijing. We should all be very proud of the work we have done here in the United States, as well as around the world, to advance the Beijing agenda and ensure that we continue to make progress on all of these fronts.

But where do we go from here?

Despite our advances, women still comprise the majority of the world's poor, illiterate and uneducated. Women remain undercompensated for the work they do in every country on Earth. Women in too many countries still do not have adequate access to medical care or the fundamental right to plan their own families. Women are underrepresented in leadership positions in government and business. Women continue to be targeted for unspeakable atrocities in war and conflict.

At this very moment, women and girls in some parts of the world are being forced into marriages they do not want. They are dying of HIV/AIDS in disproportionate numbers. They are getting trapped in the bondage of international trafficking rings. They are being subjected to rape, mutilation and murder as a tactic or prize of war. They are left diseased, destitute and dying in refugee camps.

In too many instances, the march to globalization has also meant the marginalization of women and girls. That has to change.

This week's events offer an opportunity not just to assess our progress and pat ourselves on the back. We also must reaffirm the goals laid out in the Beijing platform for action and adopt our strategies to meet the new and complex challenges of the 21st century.

Specifically:

One, we must continue to improve access to quality health care, including reproductive and sexual health and HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment.

When women and girls are healthy, we all benefit from lower rates of maternal and child mortality, improved public health, a decline in population growth, a more productive work force and more stable families.

Among the most serious health crises facing women today is HIV/AIDS. About half of those infected worldwide are women. In Africa, young women are three times more likely to contract the virus than men. A vicious cycle of

poverty, inadequate health care, illiteracy, sexual coercion and gender-based violence make this a daunting problem with implications well beyond the developing world.

That is why Senator BOXER and I proposed an amendment to the Global AIDS bill that would provide assistance to foreign countries to combat HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria.

We also have to ensure that women enjoy the fundamental right to plan their own families and that they have access to family planning services.

This is not an easy issue. There are people with equally strong passions and convictions on both sides. But we should all be able to agree that we want every child born in this country and around the world to be wanted, cherished and loved. And the best way to achieve that is to educate the public about reproductive health and how to prevent unsafe and unwanted pregnancies.

Research shows that the primary reason that teenage girls abstain is because of their religious and moral values. We should embrace this and support programs that reinforce the idea that abstinence at a young age is not just the smart thing to do; it is the right thing to do. But we should also recognize what works and what does not work and the jury is still out on the effectiveness of abstinence-only programs. I do not think this debate should be about ideology, it should be about facts. We have to deal with the choices young people make and not only the choices we want them to make. We should use all the resources at our disposal to ensure teens are getting the information they need to make the right decisions.

Today, roughly 20 million women worldwide risk unsafe abortions every year. About 68,000, most of them in developing countries, die in the process. Many more suffer horrific injuries. The World Health Organization estimates that about 600,000 women die each year from pregnancy-related causes. Many times that number suffer grievous injury. Many of these deaths could be prevented by providing women with the information and means to choose the size and spacing of their families.

Yet, the Bush administration is making it more difficult for women in these situations to receive safe medical care. Under the global gag rule, none of our foreign aid dollars can go to foreign NGOs that provide abortions beyond cases of rape, incest or endangerment to the mother. Or provide abortion counseling or advocate the legalization of abortion in their countries.

In places such as Nepal and Afghanistan, which suffer from some of the highest maternal mortality rates in the world, clinics funded by our government provided a full range of health services to women and girls. But with the Bush administration's reinstatement of the global gag rule, those funds have dried up; the doors to the clinics are closed. When I visited Afghanistan two years ago and recently,

Afghan women asked that the U.S. renew women's health assistance for that country.

Practically speaking, making it harder for women to get information, counseling and family planning services is a counterproductive policy. It does nothing to reduce abortion; in fact, it may do quite the opposite. Without access to contraception and family planning services, there will be more unwanted pregnancies. Without access to adequate medical care, many pregnant women will die undergoing unsafe abortions.

There is no reason why governments cannot help educate women and assist girls and women with their health care needs. It is the most effective way to reduce abortions and improve the health and well-being of women and their families.

Two, we must prevent violence against women, and that includes the trafficking of women and girls worldwide, and we must make sure that the criminals who engage in these activities are brought to justice and not allowed to go free.

For all the benefits of globalization, modern technology and instant communications, there are dark sides. One of the most insidious is the crime and heinous human rights violation of human trafficking.

As many as 800,000 men, women and children are trafficked across international borders each year, lured by the promise of jobs or a better life, only to find themselves trapped in prostitution, forced labor and debt bondage.

I will never forget visiting a school in northern Thailand that took in young girls whose lives were ruined by prostitution and taught them vocational skills. Many of the girls had contracted HIV/AIDS. I remember crouching in front of a teenage girl in a wheelchair who was so ill that she could barely raise her hands to greet me. The girl had been sold into prostitution by her family because they were desperate for money. She had escaped her brothel, returned home, and was sold again. She died a few days after my visit.

I also met with women leaders from Eastern and Central Europe and our government launched campaigns in Lviv, Ukraine, and in Istanbul to combat trafficking. I am proud that in March of 1998, President Clinton condemned human trafficking as a violation of human rights and outlined the prevention, protection and prosecution framework and strategy which led to the first anti-trafficking bill, which he signed into law in 2000.

Now the Senate must ratify the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children. Our government played a major role in developing this Protocol that has led many countries around the world to enact new antitrafficking legislation and we and other member states must ratify it. So far 79 countries have ratified it and I

believe that it is past time for our country to provide clearer leadership to other countries who have not yet ratified this landmark instrument of international cooperation.

But more is needed. I am heartened that since we initially helped bring global attention to this issue that our work continues to grow. But I am equally concerned that current efforts have not yet achieved the concrete results desperately needed by the victims of trafficking like the girls I visited whose lives were ravaged by their servitude. We have a deep responsibility to all of trafficking's victims to do better and I am committed to continue to work on their behalf.

In a related area, the U.S. and other nations must, for moral and economic reasons, support efforts to curb all forms of violence against women, be it mass rapes in Bosnia and Darfur or battered women suffering in the silence of their own homes in America.

Three, we must continue to increase participation of women in decision-making positions in government and the private sector.

Women are on the front lines when it comes to issues involving their children, their families and their communities. But too often their voices are not part of the political dialogue. We need to make sure that women have every opportunity to make their voices heard, to be part of civic life and to contribute to the formation of policies and programs that will affect their lives and the lives of those around them.

NGOs have been a critical element of promoting women's human rights. They were the voice for women in Afghanistan during the dark days of the Taliban. Thanks to organizations such as the Vital Voices Global Partnership, more and more women around the world are learning the skills necessary to run political organizations and campaigns, build political networks and win elective office. As more women enter the political arena, research shows that their presence raises the standards of ethical behavior, lowers corruption and makes political institutions more responsive to constituents.

We have seen women in Rwanda win nearly half the seats in their parliament during the 2003 elections. Their active participation makes Rwanda stronger.

We have seen Afghan women refuse to sell their voter registration cards to tribal warlords and defy expectations by voting. Their active participation makes Afghanistan stronger.

We just saw Iraqi women refuse to run away from polling stations in January despite the enormous risk and sometimes flying bullets. Their active participation will make Iraq stronger.

We were all moved by photos of women and men on Election Day in Iraq holding up their ink-stained fingers, showing their courage and determination to vote freely in their country's first democratic elections. We

were encouraged that a significant number of women were candidates and won.

The wide participation in this election gives us good reason to be cautiously optimistic that Iraq is on the path to building a stable and secure democratic government. But there are also troubling signs: Women have been targeted for retribution, with tragic consequences. Women have been attacked for wearing Western dress or promoting progressive ideas. I have been told that fear of violence has kept some women confined to their homes.

And so it is important that we recognize and applaud the progress that has been made, and that we remain vigilant for the future. We cannot become complacent and see women freed from one tyranny only to be imprisoned by another: the tyranny of violence or of extremism.

Decisions are being considered right now in Iraq that will determine the role that women have in governance, under the law and in society.

To ensure that Iraqi women are not marginalized under their new government, their rights must be ensured, their personal security guaranteed and their access to opportunity protected.

Four, we must extend full economic opportunities to women, including access to microfinance and microenterprise.

It seems obvious that, with women making up more than half of the world's population, global prosperity depends on women having the right to education, jobs, property ownership and credit. Yet it is only relatively recently that this fact became more widely accepted. Over the past several decades we have seen the enormous benefits accrued when women are given even a small slice of the economic pie.

Microcredit is one of those stunningly simple, inexpensive tools that can forever alter the economic landscape for the better. Women now make up 80 percent of the world's 70 million microcredit borrowers. From India to Nicaragua to South Africa to Costa Rica, women are proving that small loans can transform individual lives, families and entire communities.

Five, we must ensure that the doors of primary education are open to every girl—and boy—in every country and on every continent.

If there is a domino effect at work here, it begins with primary education. Today, 55 percent of girls in sub-Saharan Africa do not complete primary school. This failure has real consequences for our global economy and our national security, not to mention for tens of millions of children with limitless potential who are losing the chance to discover their worth and importance as global citizens.

Girls who are educated are more likely to have healthy and stable families, lower mortality rates, higher nutrition levels, delayed sexual activity and less chance of contracting HIV/AIDS or

having unwanted pregnancies. Educated children also correlate to increases in the GDP.

Equally important today, the education of children in the developing world is one of our best weapons against terror. We cannot just win the military battles; we have to win the hearts and minds of hundreds of millions of people around the world, many of them between the ages of 15 and 24. We have to educate them, and we have to engage them in discussions about our future.

I am pleased to have introduced the Education For All Act last year, which calls for a clear, global strategy to achieve universal global education by 2015. By dramatically increasing our investment in global education, the legislation would make educating children, including girls, a top priority of U.S. foreign policy.

No country can do this alone. We need other reform-minded countries to step up to the plate. We need to leverage the strength and resources of private voluntary organizations. We have to work together to achieve this goal.

Six, we must strengthen the role of women as agents of peace because we know that women are among our best emissaries when it comes to easing religious, racial and ethnic tensions, crossing cultural divides, and reducing violence in areas of war and conflict.

War and conflict disproportionately impact women, yet women are rarely included in peace negotiations or the peace process. Too many societies continue to view women's roles narrowly, thus losing the chance to benefit from the special wisdom and insights that women offer.

In Rwanda, Sierra Leone and Colombia, women have formed groups to support orphans and widows left in the wake of genocide and have advocated for peace.

The 2004 U.N. Report of the High Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change recommends that in order to more capably resolve conflicts between states, the U.N. should engage in greater consultation with important voices from civil society, especially those of women, who are often neglected during peace talks.

The report goes on to say that in order to protect civilians, the Security Council, U.N. agencies and Member States should fully implement Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security, which passed unanimously in 2000; it is the first resolution ever passed by the Security Council that specifically addresses the impact of war on women, and women's contributions to conflict resolution and sustainable peace.

From my own experiences, I know that women can serve as tremendously courageous and effective peace brokers. I have listened to women from Central America talk about combating domestic violence after helping end real combat in deadly civil war. I have seen Catholic and Protestant women meet over tea, finding common ground

amidst the conflict of Northern Ireland. I have seen Bosnian, Croat, and Serbian women bridge their differences by working together, eating together and learning side by side.

Finally, it is time to ensure that women have equal opportunity for meaningful representation in all areas of decision-making. Not just token positions. We need to be partners in developing budgets, writing laws, serving in security forces, dispensing justice, conducting business and serving in government.

Doing all of these things is not just the right thing to do. It is the smart thing to do. Stronger, healthier, fulfilled and productive women are the key to building stronger societies.

Ten years after Beijing, politicians and policymakers around the globe have become increasingly sophisticated at talking about gender equality and the important role women play in society. Political speeches, election outreach and advertisements all suggest a growing acceptance of women's rights. But listen carefully to the words, match them to their deeds and you will see that we still have a lot of work to do.

It is not enough to enshrine equal rights in a constitution. It is a critical first step, but nations have to interpret and actively enforce equal rights for women. We are working with women in Iraq to make sure this happens and that their rights are not eroded under a new government.

It is not enough to say women deserve a voice in politics. Nations have to take steps to ensure the full participation and representation of women in their conferences and committees, their plenaries and parliaments. Our sisters in Nigeria are struggling with this as we speak. Although the constitution guarantees equal rights, Nigerian women have been virtually excluded from the political process.

It is not enough to say we want to educate our girls and give women economic opportunities. Women must be able to safely conduct business, have access to loans and participate fully in economic activities. They must have a say in how society allocates its resources.

It is not enough to say violence targeted against women is wrong. Nor is it acceptable to excuse violence against women as a cultural norm. Violence against women is not cultural. It is criminal, and laws must be written and enforced to punish perpetrators of any and all forms of violence against women.

During this week, women on all continents, who are often divided by national boundaries and by ethnic, linguistic, cultural, economic and political differences, come together to celebrate International Women's Day. It is a time to reflect on our commitment to the ideals of equality, justice, peace and development for women around the world.

Let us use this occasion to redouble our efforts on behalf of the hundreds of

millions of women worldwide who rely on us to speak up and speak out for them because they cannot speak up for themselves.

Let us keep women's rights on the world's agenda. Let us continue to mobilize and galvanize until every woman and every girl is able to exercise her human rights and achieve her full potential.

Women represent our best hope for democracy, stability, prosperity, peace and security as we look forward into this new century.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, gender equality is critical to peace and prosperity around the world. As we become more interconnected, it is crucial that the rights of women are recognized by all countries as fundamental human rights because countries which value women's rights are more stable, freer, and more prosperous. Therefore, it is befitting that I rise today to commemorate, March 8, 2005, International Women's Day.

The genesis of International Women's Day comes from a number of provocative moments in history. On March 8, 1857, women working in the textile and clothing industry in New York City staged a protest demanding better working conditions and higher wages. More than 50 years later on March 8, 1908, 15,000 women marched through New York City in support of voting rights, shorter work hours, and an end to child labor.

It is because of these strong and courageous women that we recognize today as International Women's Day. They lit the torch for gender equality and passed it down through the generations to us. We have a duty and a responsibility to continue their noble work and I am ready to do so by ensuring that the voices of women from around the world are heard loud and clear.

Mohandas K. Gandhi once said, "There is no occasion for women to consider themselves subordinate to men." Yet, even today, there are places around the world where this is not the case. If the United States aims to be a great champion of the rights of women and girls for the rest of the world, we must do more to promote respect for women as well as increase their participation in every aspect of a country's civic, political, and economic life. Today, I would like to highlight several issues related to women that require decisive leadership: the role of women in Iraq and Afghanistan, international family planning programs, and the Convention to Eliminate All Forms of Discrimination Against Women.

We all know that Iraq can only complete a peaceful transition to a country based on the rule of law, human rights, and democracy with the full participation of women. One year ago today, the United States sought to assist Iraq on this path when the Department of State established the Iraqi Women's Democracy Initiative along with the

U.S. Iraqi Women's Network. Through these grants, the U.S. reached out to Iraqi women and informed them of the importance of their vote and role in the new Iraq.

On January 30, 2005, the world watched as 58 percent of Iraqi voters turned out for an election in which 25 percent of the candidates running were women. In the months following the elections, special training will focus on constitution drafting, legal reform, and the legislative process, so that women may ensure their rights are enshrined in the new constitution. While I am encouraged by recent positive events, we must remain vigilant and encourage our Iraqi friends to put the active and meaningful participation of women in the new Iraq at the top of their agenda.

Last year, Women for Women International commissioned a survey of Iraqi women and found that despite ethnic, educational, religious, and economic differences, an overwhelming majority of women in Iraq support a strong role for themselves in the new Iraq. Of the women surveyed, 94 percent want to secure legal rights for women, 84 percent want the right to vote on the final Constitution, and 95 percent think there should be no restrictions on education. It is the duty of the United States to assist Iraqi women in realizing these goals and I encourage my colleagues to continue to support funding for women's initiatives in Iraq.

One of the great success stories of our campaign against terrorism is the liberation of the women and girls of Afghanistan from the brutal oppression of the Taliban regime. Under the Taliban, women in public were forced to cloak themselves in shroud-like burkas while being accompanied by a male relative or else risk being beaten mercilessly. Most Afghan women were restricted by the Taliban from working, receiving an education, from visiting doctors, and from receiving humanitarian aid.

The women of Afghanistan have the opportunity to build a better life for themselves and their families. More and more women in Afghanistan are getting an education, earning a living, receiving medical attention, and participating in public life.

In fact, I was pleased to hear that Hamid Karzai made history last week when he appointed Habiba Sarabi as Afghanistan's first female provincial governor.

During the Taliban regime, Ms. Sarabi fled from Kabul to Pakistan. Following the removal of the Taliban from power in 2001, she was selected for Mr. Karzai's cabinet and instantly became a hero not just for women and girls, but for all Afghans. Her story is truly a testament to the remarkable turnaround taking place in Afghanistan.

Nevertheless, obstacles still remain that prevent women and girls from reaching their full potential.

A recent U.N. report from UN Secretary General Kofi Annan to the Eco-

nomics and Social Council's Commission on the Status of Women states:

while the status of women and girls has improved, overall progress has been uneven. The volatile security situation and traditional social and cultural norms continue to limit women's and girls' role in public life and deny them the full enjoyment of their rights. The massive needs in terms of reconstruction of infrastructure and strengthening of human capacity, including in the fields of education and health care, will require the sustained attention and support of national actors and the international community for many years to come.

Our victory in Afghanistan will be lost if women and girls are not afforded basic human rights and equal opportunity. The United States must not forget our commitment to provide a better future for Afghan women of all ages, and I urge my colleagues to stay the course and support additional assistance for education, health care, and democracy training for women and girls in the years ahead.

Once again, as we commemorate International Women's Day, I regret to point out that the Senate has still not acted on the Convention to Eliminate All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. The Convention, which was adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1979, has been ratified by 179 countries to date, including every other democracy in the world.

By ratifying the Convention, states commit themselves to take appropriate steps to eliminate discrimination against women in political and public life, law, education, employment, health care, commercial transactions, and domestic relations.

I am shocked and disappointed that the United States has failed to ratify this Convention. Every year we fail to ratify this important Convention, we compromise our ability to lead the world as the torchbearer for women's rights. Not only would signing the Convention reaffirm our Nation's leadership role on these issues, it would bring us closer with our friends and allies who have already ratified the pact. I urge the Senate to act on the Convention this year.

The United Nations Population Fund UNFPA is the single largest global source for maternal health and family planning programs, working in over 140 countries.

Nevertheless, since 2002, the Bush administration has withheld over \$90 million in vital U.S. contributions to UNFPA because of its perceived ties with China's family planning program and policies. The administration has taken these actions despite a report from a State Department fact finding team that the UNFPA in no way supported or was involved in coercive abortions or involuntary sterilization. As a result of administration actions, millions of poor women and families have been deprived of desperately needed care.

The work of UNFPA benefits women in need around the world. In the wake of the horrific tsunami that struck

South Asia, UNFPA has been working to ensure that women and girls in this area are receiving the care they need. UNFPA's priorities are reproductive health, including safe childbirth, prevention of violence against women and girls, and psychosocial counseling for those affected by the 26 December tsunami.

In early January, UNFPA asked for \$28 million to support its tsunami-related work in Indonesia, Sri Lanka, and Maldives as part of the United Nations interagency Flash Appeal. A month later, over 70 per cent of the requested funding had been received or pledged from various donors, including Germany, Japan, the Netherlands, China, Norway, and New Zealand. The United States is absent from this list.

No woman should be prevented from receiving the assistance she deserves to plan and care for healthy families. We need to ensure that women have access to the educational and medical resources they need to control their reproductive destinies and their health so they will be able to better their own lives and the lives of their families.

Women are the backbone of our global society. They are our mothers, our sisters, our daughters, and our grandmothers. They nurture us and teach us the lessons of life and how to be a better person. As such, I am proud to commemorate March 8, 2005, as International Women's Day.

There are many great issues facing women and the United States. However, I am confident and optimistic we can address problems such as family planning, the burgeoning roles of women in Iraq and Afghanistan, and eliminating all forms of discrimination against women.

As a United States Senator, I truly believe it is our duty as the leader of the free world to address and seek workable solutions to every problem that women face around the world. We can—and we must.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution and preamble be agreed to, en bloc, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the resolution be printed in the RECORD, without intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 74) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 74

Whereas all over the world, women are contributing to the growth of economies, participating in the world of diplomacy and politics, and improving the quality of the lives of their families, communities, and nations;

Whereas discrimination continues to deny women full political and economic equality and is often the basis for violations of women's basic human rights;

Whereas worldwide, the lives and health of women and girls continue to be endangered

by violence that is directed at them simply because they are female;

Whereas worldwide, violence against women includes rape, genital mutilation, sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, honor killings, human trafficking, dowry-related violence, female infanticide, sex-selection abortion, forced pregnancy, forced sterilization, and forced abortion;

Whereas the World Health Organization asserts that domestic violence causes more deaths and disability among women aged 15 to 44 than cancer, malaria, traffic accidents, and war;

Whereas worldwide, 130,000,000 girls and young women have been subjected to female genital mutilation;

Whereas worldwide, at least 1 in 3 females has been beaten or sexually abused in her lifetime;

Whereas worldwide, 20 to 50 percent of women experience some degree of domestic violence during marriage;

Whereas 1 in 4 women in the United States have been raped or physically assaulted by an intimate partner at some point in their lives;

Whereas somewhere in the United States, a woman is battered, usually by her partner, every 15 seconds;

Whereas more than 3 women are murdered by their husbands or boyfriends in the United States every day;

Whereas battering is the leading cause of injury to women aged 15 to 44 in the United States;

Whereas it is estimated that 1 in 5 adolescent girls in the United States becomes a victim of physical or sexual abuse, or both, in a dating relationship;

Whereas worldwide, women account for 1/2 of all cases of HIV/AIDS, and in Africa, young women are 3 times more likely to contract the virus than men;

Whereas worldwide, sexual violence, including marital rape, has been denounced as a major cause of the rapid spread of HIV/AIDS among women;

Whereas between 75 and 80 percent of the world's millions of refugees are women and children;

Whereas illegal trafficking worldwide for forced labor, domestic servitude, and sexual exploitation involves between 1,000,000 and 2,000,000 women and children each year, of whom approximately 50,000 are transported to the United States;

Whereas 3/4 of the world's nearly 1,000,000,000 illiterate individuals are women;

Whereas 3/4 of the children denied primary education are girls;

Whereas these educational failures have serious consequences for the global economy and the United States national security, as well as for tens of millions of girls who are losing the chance to discover their worth and importance as global citizens;

Whereas girls who are educated are more likely to have healthy and stable families, lower mortality rates, higher nutrition levels, and delayed sexual activity, and have less chance of contracting HIV/AIDS or having unwanted pregnancies;

Whereas in most countries, women work approximately 2 times more unpaid time than men do;

Whereas women work 3/4 of the world's working hours and produce 1/2 of the world's food, yet earn only 10 percent of the world's income and own less than 1 percent of the world's property;

Whereas 3 in 10 households are maintained by women with no husband present;

Whereas rural women produce more than 55 percent of all food grown in developing countries;

Whereas it is estimated that women and girls make up more than 70 percent of the poorest people in the world;

Whereas worldwide, women earn less, own less property, and have less access to education, employment, and health care than do men;

Whereas microcredit is a stunningly simple, inexpensive tool that can forever alter the economic landscape for the better;

Whereas women now make up 80 percent of the world's 70,000,000 microcredit borrowers, and from India to Nicaragua to South Africa to Costa Rica, women are proving that small loans can transform individual lives, families, and entire communities;

Whereas nations should take steps to ensure the full participation and representation of women in political conferences, committees, plenaries, and parliaments;

Whereas social investment, particularly investments in women and girls, should be an integral part of foreign policy;

Whereas despite extraordinary advances, women still comprise the majority of the world's poor, illiterate, and uneducated, remain under-compensated for the work they do, still do not have adequate access to medical care in too many countries, are under-represented in leadership positions in government and business, and continue to be targeted for unspeakable atrocities in war and conflict;

Whereas March 8 has become known as International Women's Day for the last century, and is a day on which people, who are often divided by ethnicity, language, culture, and income, come together to celebrate a common struggle for women's equality, justice, and peace;

Whereas the dedication and successes of those working all over the world to end violence against women and girls and fighting for equality should be recognized; and

Whereas the people of the United States should be encouraged to participate in International Women's Day: Now, therefore be it Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates March 8, 2005, as International Women's Day;

(2) reaffirms its commitment to—

(A) improve women's access to quality health care, including HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment;

(B) end and prevent violence against women, including the trafficking of women and girls worldwide, and ensure that the criminals who engage in these activities are brought to justice;

(C) end discrimination and increase the participation of women in decisionmaking positions in government and the private sector;

(D) extend full economic opportunities to women, including access to microfinance and microenterprise; and

(E) strengthen the role of women as agents of peace because women are among the best emissaries for easing religious, racial, and ethnic tensions, crossing cultural divides, and reducing violence in areas of war and conflict; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to observe "International Women's Day" with appropriate programs and activities.

#### GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 75, 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. 75) designating March 25, 2005, as "Greek Independence Day: A National Day of Celebration of Greek and American Democracy."

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. 75) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

#### S. RES. 75

Whereas the ancient Greeks developed the concept of democracy, in which the supreme power to govern was vested in the people;

Whereas the Founding Fathers of the United States drew heavily on the political experience and philosophy of ancient Greece in forming our representative democracy;

Whereas Greek Commander in Chief Petros Mavromichalis, a founder of the modern Greek state, said to the citizens of the United States in 1821, "it is in your land that liberty has fixed her abode and . . . in imitating you, we shall imitate our ancestors and be thought worthy of them if we succeed in resembling you";

Whereas Greece played a major role in the World War II struggle to protect freedom and democracy through such bravery as was shown in the historic Battle of Crete that presented the Axis land war with its first major setback, setting off a chain of events that significantly affected the outcome of World War II;

Whereas the price for Greece in holding our common values in their region was high, as hundreds of thousands of civilians were killed in Greece during the World War II period;

Whereas, throughout the 20th century, Greece was 1 of only 3 nations in the world, beyond the former British Empire, that was allied with the United States in every major international conflict;

Whereas President George W. Bush, in recognizing Greek Independence Day, said, "Greece and America have been firm allies in the great struggles for liberty. Americans will always remember Greek heroism and Greek sacrifice for the sake of freedom . . . [and] as the 21st Century dawns, Greece and America once again stand united; this time in the fight against terrorism. The United States deeply appreciates the role Greece is playing in the war against terror. . . . America and Greece are strong allies, and we're strategic partners.";

Whereas Greece is a stabilizing force by virtue of its political and economic power in the volatile Balkan region and is one of the fastest growing economies in Europe;

Whereas Greece, through excellent work and cooperation with United States and international law enforcement agencies, arrested and convicted key members of the November 17 terrorist organization;

Whereas President Bush stated that Greece's successful "law enforcement operations against a terrorist organization [November 17] responsible for three decades of terrorist attacks underscore the important contributions Greece is making to the global war on terrorism";

Whereas Greece was extraordinarily responsive to United States requests during