

While the tariff on already-finished cork is 6 percent, unfinished cork is subject to a 14 percent tariff. It just does not make good sense to charge a significantly higher levy on an unfinished product that is imported and then handcrafted by American workers.

This inconsistency must end by leveling the difference between the two tariffs. The reduction will enable American workers to continue manufacturing custom-made fishing rod grips, keep the price of all fishing poles down, and bring a measure of common sense to this portion of our tariff law. Once resolved, domestic businesses will

be able to finish fly rods here, leading to an increasingly competitive place in the market for American goods. With this change Montana's small businesses will benefit as will our overall economy in the state.

I am pleased that some of my colleagues in the House have decided to assist in this effort. I truly appreciate the work of Representative SIMMONS of Connecticut, who is leading this legislation in the House. He has already signed on 17 co-sponsors to this legislation at last count. His assistance has been invaluable, and I look forward to working with him as this legislation moves forward.

I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 931

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. CERTAIN ARTICLES OF NATURAL CORK.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 99 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States is amended by inserting in numerical sequence the following new heading:

“ 9902.45.03 Articles of natural cork (provided for in subheading 4503.90.60) .. 6%	No change	No change	On or before	”.
			12/31/2008	

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) applies with respect to goods entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after the 15th day after the date of the enactment of this Act.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. DODD, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. CORZINE, Mr. AKAKA, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mr. DAYTON):

S. 932. A bill to provide for paid sick leave to ensure that Americans can address their own health needs and the health needs of their families; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, the ability of American families to live the American dream is becoming harder and harder. With each passing month, it's more difficult for families to earn a living—to pay the mortgage and the doctor bills, and send their sons and daughters to college.

In the Bush economy, families are worried about their job security, their income, and the cost of living. They're working longer and harder and finding it more and more difficult to balance their work and their family responsibilities.

Most Americans assume that paid sick days are a right. They're not. Half of all American workers are not guaranteed the right to time off when they're ill, without losing their pay, or even their job.

In 1993, Congress and the administration guaranteed unpaid leave for millions of working men and women to deal with serious medical problems.

It's time to build on this success, and ensure that millions of workers can also take time off when they need an annual check-up, when their children are sick with a cold, and when their ailing elderly parents need to be taken to the doctor.

Hard-working men and women deserve better. That's why Congresswoman DELAUNO and I are introducing legislation to guarantee workers 7 days of paid sick leave a year to care for their own medical needs and those of

their family members. This proposal covers workers at all businesses, except small businesses with fewer than 15 employees.

This is a family issue. When my son was diagnosed with cancer in his leg as a child, and had to undergo surgery, I was able to take the time I needed to be there for him. But year after year, countless employees have to choose between the job they need and the family they love. Families deserve the flexibility to care for each other when they get sick.

It's an economic issue. Paid sick days actually save businesses money through reduced turnover and increased productivity. A recent study by Cornell University examined the problem of employees coming to work despite medical problems. They found it costs business \$180 billion annually in lost productivity.

It's also a public health issue. Too often, employees come to work sick and co-workers and many others can easily be infected. Recently, a court ruled that because of the lack of paid sick leave, a stomach virus in one worker infected 600 guests and 300 employees at the Reno Hilton Hotel in Nevada.

Paid sick days will help prevent the spread of illnesses like that. Taking time off to treat illnesses and injuries will save health costs in the long run. It will make an important difference for insurers, for hospitals, and for the health of millions of Americans.

It's long past time to provide paid sick days for workers. This bill is a first step to guarantee that every worker who needs sick leave has it and can afford to take it.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 126—HONORING FRED T. KOREMATSU FOR HIS LOYALTY AND PATRIOTISM TO THE UNITED STATES AND EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES TO HIS FAMILY, FRIENDS, AND SUPPORTERS ON HIS DEATH

Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. INOUE, and Mr. STEVENS) submitted

the following resolution which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 126

Whereas on January 30, 1919, Fred Toyosaburo Korematsu was born in Oakland, California, to Japanese immigrants;

Whereas Fred Korematsu graduated from Oakland High School and tried on 2 occasions to enlist in the United States Army but was not accepted due to a physical disability;

Whereas on December 7, 1941, Japan attacked the United States military base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, forcing the United States to enter World War II against Japan, Germany, and Italy;

Whereas on February 19, 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order number 9066 (42 Fed. Reg. 1563) as “protection against espionage and against sabotage to national defense”, which authorized the designation of “military areas . . . from which any or all persons may be excluded, and with respect to which, the right of any person to enter, remain in, or leave shall be subject to whatever restriction the . . . Military Commander may impose in his discretion”;

Whereas the United States Army issued Civilian Exclusion Order Number 34, directing that after May 9, 1942, all persons of Japanese ancestry were to be removed from designated areas of the West Coast because they were considered to be a security threat;

Whereas in response to that Civilian Exclusion Order, Fred Korematsu's family reported to Tanforan, a former racetrack in the San Francisco area that was used as 1 of 15 temporary detention centers, before being sent to an internment camp in Topaz, Utah;

Whereas more than 120,000 Japanese Americans were similarly detained in 10 permanent War Relocation Authority camps located in isolated desert areas of the States of Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Idaho, Utah, and Wyoming, without any charges brought or due process accorded;

Whereas Fred Korematsu, then 22 years old and working as a shipyard welder in Oakland, California, refused to join his family in reporting to Tanforan, based on his belief that he was a loyal American and not a security threat;

Whereas on May 30, 1942, Fred Korematsu was arrested and jailed for remaining in a military area, tried in United States district court, found guilty of violating Civilian Exclusion Order Number 34, and sentenced to 5 years of probation;

Whereas Fred Korematsu unsuccessfully challenged that Civilian Exclusion Order as it applied to him, and appealed the decision of the district court to the United States

Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit, where his conviction was sustained;

Whereas Fred Korematsu was subsequently confined with his family in the internment camp in Topaz for 2 years, and during that time, he appealed his conviction to the United States Supreme Court;

Whereas on December 18, 1944, the Supreme Court issued its decision in *Korematsu v. United States*, 323 U.S. 214, which upheld Fred Korematsu's conviction by a vote of 6-to-3, based on the finding of the Supreme Court that Fred Korematsu was not removed from his home "because of hostility to him or his race" but because the United States was at war with Japan and the United States military "feared an invasion of our West Coast";

Whereas Fred Korematsu continued to maintain his innocence for decades following World War II;

Whereas, under section 552 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the "Freedom of Information Act"), an historian discovered numerous government documents indicating that, at the time *Korematsu v. United States*, 323 U.S. 214, was decided, the Federal Government suppressed findings that Japanese Americans on the West Coast were not security threats;

Whereas in light of this newly discovered information, Fred Korematsu filed a writ of error coram nobis with the United States District Court for the Northern District of California;

Whereas on November 10, 1983, United States District Judge Marilyn Hall Patel overturned Fred Korematsu's conviction, concluding that senior government officials knew there was no factual basis for the claim of "military necessity" when they presented their case before the Supreme Court in 1944;

Whereas in that decision, Judge Patel stated that, while *Korematsu v. United States* "remains on the pages of our legal and political history . . . [as] historical precedent it stands as a constant caution that in times of war or declared military necessity our institutions must be vigilant in protecting constitutional guarantees";

Whereas the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians, authorized by Congress in 1980 to review the facts and circumstances surrounding the relocation and internment of Japanese Americans under Executive Order Number 9066 (42 Fed. Reg. 1563), concluded that "today the decision in *Korematsu* lies overruled in the court of history";

Whereas the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians concluded that a "grave personal injustice was done to the American citizens and resident aliens of Japanese ancestry who, without individual review or any probative evidence against them were excluded, removed and detained by the United States during World War II", and that those acts were "motivated largely by racial prejudice, wartime hysteria, and a failure of political leadership";

Whereas the overturning of Fred Korematsu's conviction and the findings of Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians influenced the decision by Congress to pass the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 (50 U.S.C. App. 1989b et seq.) to request a Presidential apology and symbolic payment of compensation to persons of Japanese ancestry who lost liberty or property because of discriminatory action by the Federal Government;

Whereas on August 10, 1988, President Reagan signed that Act into law, stating, "[H]ere we admit a wrong; here we reaffirm our commitment as a nation to equal justice under the law";

Whereas on January 15, 1998, President Clinton awarded the Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian award of the United States, to Fred Korematsu, stating, "In the long history of our country's constant search for justice, some names of ordinary citizens stand for millions of souls: Plessy, Brown, Parks. To that distinguished list, today we add the name of Fred Korematsu.";

Whereas Fred Korematsu remained a tireless advocate for civil liberties and justice throughout his life, particularly speaking out against racial discrimination and violence targeting Arab, Muslim, South Asian, and Sikh Americans in the wake of the September 11, 2001, tragedy, and cautioning the Federal Government against repeating mistakes of the past by singling out individuals for heightened scrutiny on the basis of race, ethnicity, or religion;

Whereas on March 30, 2005, Fred Korematsu died at the age of 86 in Larkspur, California; and

Whereas Fred Korematsu was a role model for all Americans who love the United States and the promises contained in the Constitution, and his strength and perseverance serve as an inspiration for all people striving for equality and justice: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors Fred T. Korematsu for his loyalty and patriotism to the United States, his work to advocate for the civil rights and civil liberties of all Americans, and his dedication to justice and equality; and

(2) expresses its deepest condolences to his family, friends, and supporters on his death.

SENATE RESOLUTION 127—CONGRATULATING CHARTER SCHOOLS AND THEIR STUDENTS, PARENTS, TEACHERS, AND ADMINISTRATORS ACROSS THE UNITED STATES FOR THEIR ONGOING CONTRIBUTIONS TO EDUCATION, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. GREGG (for himself, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. FRIST, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. SUNUNU, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. DEMINT, Mrs. DOLE, Mr. VITTER, Mr. BURR, and Mr. ALLARD) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 127

Whereas charter schools deliver high-quality education and challenge our students to reach their potential;

Whereas charter schools provide thousands of families with diverse and innovative educational options for their children;

Whereas charter schools are public schools authorized by a designated public entity that are responding to the needs of our communities, families, and students and promoting the principles of quality, choice, and innovation;

Whereas in exchange for the flexibility and autonomy given to charter schools, they are held accountable by their sponsors for improving student achievement and for their financial and other operations;

Whereas 41 States, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico have passed laws authorizing charter schools;

Whereas nearly 3,300 charter schools are now operating in 40 States, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and serving approximately 900,000 students;

Whereas over the last 10 years, Congress has provided more than \$1,500,000,000 in support to the charter school movement

through facilities financing assistance and grants for planning, startup, implementation, and dissemination;

Whereas charter schools improve their students' achievement and stimulate improvement in traditional public schools;

Whereas charter schools must meet the student achievement accountability requirements under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 in the same manner as traditional public schools, and often set higher and additional individual goals to ensure that they are of high quality and truly accountable to the public;

Whereas charter schools give parents new freedom to choose their public school, routinely measure parental satisfaction levels, and must prove their ongoing success to parents, policymakers, and their communities;

Whereas nearly 40 percent of charter schools report having a waiting list, and the total number of students on all such waiting lists is enough to fill over 1,000 average-sized charter schools;

Whereas charter schools nationwide serve a higher percentage of low-income and minority students than the traditional public system;

Whereas charter schools have enjoyed broad bipartisan support from the Administration, Congress, State Governors and legislatures, educators, and parents across the United States; and

Whereas the sixth annual National Charter Schools Week, to be held May 1 through 7, 2005, is an event sponsored by charter schools and grassroots charter school organizations across the United States to recognize the significant impacts, achievements, and innovations of charter schools: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) the Senate acknowledges and commends charter schools and their students, parents, teachers, and administrators across the United States for their ongoing contributions to education and improving and strengthening our public school system;

(2) the Senate supports the sixth annual National Charter Schools Week; and

(3) it is the sense of the Senate that the President should issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States to conduct appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities to demonstrate support for charter schools during this weeklong celebration in communities throughout the United States.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 582. Mr. TALENT proposed an amendment to amendment SA 567 proposed by Mr. INHOFE to the bill H.R. 3, Reserved.

SA 583. Mr. LOTT submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 584. Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Ms. SNOWE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 585. Mr. SPECTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 586. Mr. KOHL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 587. Mr. LEVIN (for himself and Ms. STABENOW) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.