

Mr. REID. Mr. President, if I could say a word before closure takes place, I know the burden on the majority leader is significant. There is so much to do and so little time to do it. Through the Chair, I express my desire to the majority leader that we figure out a way—he figure out a way—we can move to the DOD authorization bill at the earliest possible date. I think it is so important we do that.

I visited Walter Reed yesterday. It is important we set the right tone for those men and women fighting over there. Part of that would be to do the DOD authorization.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, we have a lot to do in the next week and a half. DOD authorization, as the Democrat leader and as my colleagues know, is a high priority. We also are doing our very best to come to an agreement on how to bring stem cells to the floor of the Senate, to bring the native Hawaiian issue to the floor of the Senate, and gun liability issues we talked about earlier this morning.

We are making progress. We did not quite finish foreign operations today but we will tomorrow. As we complete that bill and we finish with the Dorr nomination, we will hopefully be able to accomplish all of those bills. It is asking a lot.

PROVIDING EXTENSION OF PROGRAMS FUNDED OUT OF THE HIGHWAY TRUST FUND

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 3332 received from the House.

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

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3332) to provide an extension of highway, highway safety, motor carrier safety, transit, and other programs funded out of the Highway Trust Fund pending enactment of a law reauthorizing the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st century.

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

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

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

The bill (H.R. 3332) was read the third time and passed.

AUTHORIZATION TO SIGN DULY ENROLLED BILLS OR JOINT RESOLUTIONS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that during the adjournment of the Senate, the majority leader and majority whip be authorized to sign duly enrolled bills or joint resolutions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

DISCHARGE AND REFERRAL

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 2385, and that the bill be referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

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

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that we vitiate that last request on the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

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

URGING THE GOVERNMENT OF SUDAN AND THE SUDAN PEOPLE'S LIBERATION MOVEMENT/ARMY TO FULLY IMPLEMENT THE COMPREHENSIVE PEACE AGREEMENT OF JANUARY 9, 2005

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 202, which was submitted earlier today.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 202) urging the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army to fully implement the Comprehensive Peace Agreement of January 9, 2005.

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

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I have submitted this resolution with regard to Sudan, a country in Africa I have personally spent a lot of time in and participated with, both in the south and the north, in promoting peace there.

There have been 2 million people who have died in the Sudan as a product of a civil war that is now about 24 years old, and about 5 to 6 million people have been displaced.

The Sudan Peace Act looked predominantly at the north versus the south, although it is much more complicated than that oversimplified comment. It is a separate issue than the Darfur crisis in western Sudan, which this body has also paid a lot of attention to.

Real progress is being made in that part of the world, but continued focus will be required to bring peace to that part of Africa.

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. 202) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 202

Whereas the people of Sudan have been devastated by war for all but 10 years since Sudan gained its independence in 1956;

Whereas the second civil war in Sudan between the Government of Sudan in the north and the Sudan People's Liberation Army in the south began in 1983 and lasted for more than 20 years;

Whereas more than 2,000,000 people died and more than 4,000,000 people were internationally displaced or became refugees as a direct or indirect result of the civil war in Sudan;

Whereas the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army failed on numerous occasions to bring a peaceful and just end to the civil war in Sudan throughout the 1990s;

Whereas in September 2001, President George W. Bush appointed former Senator John Danforth as Special Envoy for Peace in Sudan to explore the potential of the United States to become involved in searching for a just resolution to the civil war in Sudan, and appointed Andrew Natsios, the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, as the Special Humanitarian Coordinator for Sudan to enhance the delivery of assistance that could help reduce the suffering of the people of Sudan;

Whereas in July 2002, the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army reached the historic Machakos Protocol, an agreement on the role of religion in Sudan and the right to self-determination for the people of southern Sudan;

Whereas in October 2002, the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army signed a memorandum of understanding that called for a cessation of hostilities and unimpeded humanitarian access to all areas of Sudan;

Whereas peace talks continued throughout 2003, with discussions focusing on wealth sharing and the control of 3 contested areas of Sudan;

Whereas on November 19, 2004, the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army signed a declaration committing themselves to reach a final comprehensive peace agreement by December 31, 2004, in the context of a special session of the United Nations Security Council;

Whereas on November 19, 2004, the United Nations Security Council unanimously adopted Security Council Resolution 1574, which welcomed the commitment of the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army to reach an agreement by the end of 2004, and highlighted the intention of the international community to assist the people of Sudan and support the implementation of a comprehensive peace agreement;

Whereas the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army initialed the final elements of a comprehensive peace agreement on December 31, 2004;

Whereas on January 9, 2005, the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army formally signed the Comprehensive Peace Agreement;

Whereas the Comprehensive Peace Agreement provides for a new constitution, new arrangements for power sharing and wealth sharing, and a 6-year interim period to be followed by a referendum in southern Sudan so that the people of southern Sudan can decide their political future;

Whereas the Comprehensive Peace Agreement provides for new institutions to be created and a new Government of National

Unity to be installed in Sudan once the constitution is ratified;

Whereas despite progress on reaching a peace agreement on the North-South conflict there has been little progress to end the ongoing conflict in the region of Darfur;

Whereas after tens of thousands of civilians died due to a targeted campaign of violence by the government of Khartoum, Congress declared on July 22, 2004, that the atrocities in Darfur were genocide, committed primarily by the Government of Sudan and its allied Janjaweed militias;

Whereas on September 9, 2004, Secretary of State Colin Powell testified that "genocide has been committed in Darfur";

Whereas on June 30, 2005, President Bush confirmed that "the violence in Darfur region is clearly genocide [and] the human cost is beyond calculation";

Whereas the Comprehensive Peace Agreement provides a model for the resolution of all conflicts in Sudan, including Darfur, eastern Sudan, and elsewhere;

Whereas on July 9, 2005, the 6-year interim period under the Comprehensive Peace Agreement began with the formation of a new transitional government and the signing of an interim constitution, and Dr. John Garang, the Chairman of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army, was sworn in by President Omar Hassan al Bashir as First Vice President of Sudan;

Whereas millions of the people across Sudan continue to suffer from the effects of war, including displacement and war-related disease, hunger, and malnutrition;

Whereas the people of southern Sudan are in desperate need of reconstruction assistance to build and improve vital infrastructure components that are nearly nonexistent in southern Sudan;

Whereas despite the historic signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in January 2005, the key to success will now be the full and timely implementation of the agreement by all sides, wholly consistent with the letter, spirit, and intent of the agreement; and

Whereas the impact and efficacy of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement will also be measured by the political resolution of ongoing conflict in other parts of Sudan, including Darfur and the east of Sudan: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends the people of Sudan on the signing of the historic Comprehensive Peace Agreement on January 9, 2005;

(2) urges the new Government of National Unity of Sudan, consisting of elements of the National Congress Party and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army, to fully implement the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in a timely manner consistent with the letter, spirit, and intent of the agreement;

(3) requests that the United States Government—

(A) commit to high-level, sustained engagement to closely monitor the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and events on the ground in Sudan, including in Darfur and elsewhere; and

(B) sustain pressure as appropriate to ensure the Comprehensive Peace Agreement is implemented in a full, timely, and thorough manner;

(4) urges the United States Government—

(A) to maintain sanctions on the Government of Sudan as appropriate until the Comprehensive Peace Agreement has been fully honored and implemented; and

(B) to renew efforts to implement additional sanctions through the United Nations Security Council until peace in Darfur is achieved and those responsible for genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and criminal acts are brought to justice;

(5) strongly urges the Government of National Unity of Sudan to use the Comprehensive Peace Agreement as the basis for negotiation of a peaceful resolution of the conflicts in Darfur and other areas of Sudan;

(6) strongly supports the expansion of the size and role of the mission of the African Union in Darfur to protect civilians in Darfur and encourages continued support for this mission from the United States, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, and other countries and international organizations;

(7) strongly supports the United Nations Mission in the Sudan and the expansion of this mission to protect civilians and aid workers throughout Sudan;

(8) supports the continued provision of humanitarian and reconstruction assistance from the United States to the people of southern Sudan, in addition to the assistance allocated for the people of Darfur, so that the people of Sudan may experience and appreciate the benefits of peace;

(9) supports international efforts to facilitate the safe and voluntary return of refugees and internationally displaced persons to their homes in Sudan; and

(10) calls upon the governments of all countries in the Sudan region and around the world to actively support and monitor the full implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement to help ensure that the people of Sudan pursue the path to peace, prosperity, and security.

NATIONAL HEALTH CENTER WEEK

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 31.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The committee is discharged, and the clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 31) expressing the sense of the Senate that the week of August 7, 2005, be designated as "National Health Center Week" in order to raise awareness of health services provided by community, migrant, public housing, and homeless health centers, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, the purpose of this resolution, expressing the sense of the Senate with regard to August 7 being designated as National Health Center Week, is to raise awareness of the tremendous health services that are provided by homeless health centers and migrant care centers and community health centers, and other purposes. I commend Senator COLEMAN for this resolution.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment at the desk be agreed to, the resolution, as amended, 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 amendment (No. 1302) was agreed to, as follows:

On page 4, strike lines 1 through 4 and insert:

"(2) calls upon the people of the United States to observe the week with appropriate ceremonies and activities"

The resolution (S. Res. 31), as amended, was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 31

Whereas community, migrant, public housing, and homeless health centers are non-profit, community owned and operated health providers and are vital to the Nation's communities;

Whereas there are more than 1,000 such health centers serving more than 15,000,000 people in over 3,600 communities;

Whereas such health centers are found in urban and rural communities in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Virgin Islands;

Whereas such health centers have provided cost-effective, high-quality health care to the Nation's poor and medically underserved (including the working poor, the uninsured, and many high-risk and vulnerable populations), acting as a vital safety net in the Nation's health delivery system;

Whereas these health centers provide care to 1 of every 7 uninsured individuals, 1 of every 9 Medicaid beneficiaries, 1 of every 7 people of color, and 1 of every 9 rural Americans, all of whom would otherwise lack access to health care;

Whereas these health centers are engaged with other innovative programs in primary and preventive care to reach out to over 621,000 homeless persons and more than 709,000 farm workers;

Whereas these health centers make health care responsive and cost-effective by integrating the delivery of primary care with aggressive outreach, patient education, transportation, translation, and enabling support services;

Whereas these health centers increase the use of preventive health services such as immunizations, Pap smears, mammograms, and glaucoma screenings;

Whereas in communities served by these health centers, infant mortality rates have been reduced over the past 4 years even as infant mortality rates across the country have risen;

Whereas these health centers are built by community initiative, and run by the patients they serve;

Whereas Federal grants provide seed money empowering communities to find partners and resources to recruit doctors and needed health professionals;

Whereas Federal grants on average contribute 25 percent of such a health center's budget, with the remainder provided by State and local governments, Medicare, Medicaid, private contributions, private insurance, and patient fees;

Whereas there are more than 100 health centers that receive no Federal grant funding, yet continue to serve their communities regardless of their patients' ability to pay;

Whereas all health centers tailor their services to fit the special needs and priorities of their communities, working together with schools, businesses, churches, community organizations, foundations, and State and local governments;

Whereas all health centers contribute to the health and well-being of their communities by keeping children healthy and in school and helping adults remain productive and on the job;

Whereas all health centers encourage citizen participation and provide jobs for nearly 100,000 community residents; and

Whereas the designation of the week of August 7, 2005, as "National Health Center Week" would raise awareness of the health services provided by all health centers: Now, therefore, be it