

Whereas, As a stabilizing force, the United States has an obligation to promote peace in the region and to work with other foreign governments to end the genocide in the Darfur region of Sudan; now, therefore be it

Resolved, That we, the members of the 126th General Assembly of the State of Ohio, wish to focus attention on the killing of tens of thousands of civilians at the hands of the armed belligerents; and be it further

Resolved, That we, the members of the 126th General Assembly of the State of Ohio, encourage the President of the United States and the Congress of the United States to continue supporting the humanitarian efforts of international aid groups to relieve the suffering of those who have been affected by the genocide occurring in the Darfur region of Sudan, to protect the workers of those aid groups, to encourage foreign governments to provide water, food, shelter, and medical care to those suffering in Darfur, and to lead multilateral efforts to bring those responsible for the egregious human rights violations to justice; and be it further

Resolved, That we, the members of the 126th General Assembly of the State of Ohio, encourage Ohio companies and institutions, multinational corporations operating in Ohio, and agencies and political subdivisions of the state to divest themselves of interests in any companies that conduct business in Sudan; and be it further

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

POM-276. A concurrent resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the Legislature of the State of Louisiana relative to amending the No Child Left Behind Act; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 30

Whereas, the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 requires that paraprofessionals who are employed in Title I schools meet high standards of qualification and requires that students who need the most help receive instructional support only from qualified paraprofessionals; and

Whereas, for the purposes of No Child Left Behind, a paraprofessional is defined as a school employee who provides instructional support in a program supported with federal funds pursuant to Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act; and

Whereas, this definition includes a paraprofessional who provides instructional support in any manner as follows:

- (1) Provides one-on-one tutoring if such tutoring is scheduled at a time when a student would not otherwise receive instruction from a teacher;
- (2) Assists with classroom management such as organizing instructional and other materials;
- (3) Provides instructional assistance in a computer laboratory;
- (4) Conducts parental involvement activities;
- (5) Provides support in a library or media center;
- (6) Acts as a translator; and
- (7) Provides instructional support services under the direct supervision of a teacher; and

Whereas, in compliance with the requirements of No Child Left Behind, Louisiana has developed different pathways for para-

professionals who are employed in Title I schools to choose from in order to meet the definition of "highly qualified"; and

Whereas, these choices include taking forty-eight semester hours of relevant course work or taking and passing a paraprofessional academic assessment instrument; and

Whereas, these choices and the requirements of No Child Left Behind do not take into consideration the fact that some of these paraprofessionals were employed in public school systems prior to the enactment of No Child Left Behind and have many years of experience serving in such capacity; and

Whereas, there are concerns among many about the financial burden that the requirements of No Child Left Behind place upon paraprofessionals who receive minimal salaries and cannot afford the college courses, test preparation, or test costs; and

Whereas, although many local school systems in Louisiana are assisting paraprofessionals in paying these costs, there are other issues involved that make these requirements extremely difficult, if not impossible, for some paraprofessionals to meet—especially those who work in rural areas of the state and may not have access to postsecondary education; and

Whereas, these burdens have resulted in the loss of many paraprofessionals from the public schools in this state who have been forced to seek other types of employment; and

Whereas, paraprofessionals employed in Title I schools play a very important role in improving student achievement and many of them have been employed in such schools for a number of years and their experience and expertise in their jobs is a tremendous asset to public education; and

Whereas, because the legislature values these employees for the crucial role they play in public education and wants to keep them in our public schools where they can continue to make a difference in students' lives, it is imperative that all steps necessary be taken to remove these burdens which are forcing many of the more experienced and qualified paraprofessionals to leave the public education system: Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to amend the No Child Left Behind Act to provide that paraprofessionals who were employed in Title I schools prior to the enactment of the No Child Left Behind Act shall be deemed to have met the definition of "highly qualified" for purposes of such legislation due to such employment and the experience gained as a result of such employment; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

POM-277. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of Michigan relative to enacting legislation reauthorizing the Ryan White Care Act to provide comprehensive care for the neediest victims of HIV/AIDS; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 95

Whereas, The numbers of children, youth, and particularly young women who are infected with HIV or have developed AIDS are increasing. In the United States, more than 9,000 children under the age of thirteen are living with HIV/AIDS. Of the nearly 40,000 Americans infected every year with HIV, nearly fifteen percent are under twenty-five

years of age. Among the newly infected in the age group of thirteen to nineteen, fifty-eight percent are women; and

Whereas, Children and young people infected with HIV and living with AIDS have unique needs for specialized medical services and psychosocial support. Programs funded under the Ryan White CARE Act successfully deliver family-centered, coordinated health care and support services for women, children, youth and families. These programs have played a significant role in reducing the number of mother-to-child HIV infections from 2,000 to fewer than 200 per year; and

Whereas, Recent patterns in the United States show that HIV/AIDS increasingly affects African Americans, Latinos, and other racial and ethnic minorities. In 2004, minorities accounted for almost three-fourths of new cases of AIDS in an HIV/AIDS surveillance report by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Of these newly identified AIDS patients, 48 percent were African Americans and 21 percent were Latinos. The rate also continued to rise among women, who accounted for 27 percent of new AIDS cases in 2004. Of these women newly diagnosed with AIDS, 67 percent were African Americans and 15 percent were Latinas; and

Whereas, In his State of the Union address, President George W. Bush supported reauthorization of the Ryan White CARE Act to encourage prevention of HIV/AIDS and provide care and treatment for the neediest HIV/AIDS victims. The Secretary of Health and Human Services proposed five guiding principles to reauthorize the Act. First, serve the neediest victims of HIV/AIDS. Second, focus on delivering life-saving and life-extending services. Third, increase prevention efforts through more routine testing. Fourth, increase the accountability of states and organizations receiving federal funds. Fifth, give the federal government flexibility to reallocate unspent funds. By following these principles, care will be delivered to the neediest patients that will help them live longer and healthier lives: now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That we memorialize the Congress of the United States to enact legislation reauthorizing the Ryan White CARE Act; and be it further

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

POM-278. A resolution adopted by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands relative to amending 33 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 160, to exempt the Virgin Islands from the passenger information reporting requirements that went into effect in 2005; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of committees were submitted:

By Ms. SNOWE for the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

Eric M. Thorson, of Virginia, to be Inspector General, Small Business Administration.

By Mr. SPECTER for the Committee on the Judiciary.

Donald J. DeGabrielle, Jr., of Texas, to be United States Attorney for the Southern District of Texas for the term of four years.

John Charles Richter, of Oklahoma, to be United States Attorney for the Western District of Oklahoma for the term of four years.

Amul R. Thapar, of Kentucky, to be United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Kentucky for the term of four years.

Mauricio J. Tamargo, of Florida, to be Chairman of the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission of the United States for a term expiring September 30, 2009.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. COLEMAN (for himself, Mr. REED, Mr. TALENT, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. ISAKSON, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. BUNNING, Mrs. LINCOLN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. LAUTENBERG, and Mr. BURNS):

S. 2393. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to advance medical research and treatments into pediatric cancers, ensure patients and families have access to the current treatments and information regarding pediatric cancers, establish a population-based national childhood cancer database, and promote public awareness of pediatric cancers; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. ISAKSON:

S. 2394. A bill to improve border security, to increase criminal penalties for certain crimes related to illegal aliens, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GRASSLEY:

S. 2395. A bill to amend title 39, United States Code, to require that air carriers accept as mail shipments certain live animals; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. SANTORUM (for himself and Mr. ALLEN):

S. 2396. A bill to direct the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to establish a pilot program to make grants to eligible entities for the development of peer learning opportunities for second-stage small business concerns; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. SMITH (for himself and Mrs. LINCOLN):

S. 2397. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish long-term care trust accounts and allow a refundable tax credit for contributions to such accounts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BAUCUS:

S. 2398. A bill to establish an Advanced Research Projects Administration-Energy to initiate high risk, innovative energy research to improve the energy security of the United States, to extend certain energy tax incentives, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CARPER (for himself and Mr. DEWINE):

S. 2399. A bill to prohibit termination of employment of volunteers firefighters and emergency medical personnel responding to emergencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Ms. STABENOW:

S. Res. 394. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that all people in the United States should participate in a moment of silence to reflect upon the service and sacrifice of members of the Armed Forces both at home and abroad; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. HARKIN (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. REID, Mrs. BOXER, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. STABENOW, and Mr. MENENDEZ):

S. Res. 395. A resolution establishing the American Competitiveness through Education (ACE) resolution; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. STEVENS (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. Res. 396. A resolution congratulating Rosey Fletcher for her Olympic bronze medal in the parallel giant slalom; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. COLEMAN (for himself and Mr. DAYTON):

S. Res. 397. A resolution recognizing the history and achievements of the curling community of Bemidji, Minnesota; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 304

At the request of Mr. LAUTENBERG, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 304, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit certain interstate conduct relating to exotic animals.

S. 451

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. STEVENS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 451, a bill to amend the Animal Welfare Act to ensure that all dogs and cats used by research facilities are obtained legally.

S. 484

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 484, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow Federal civilian and military retirees to pay health insurance premiums on a pretax basis and to allow a deduction for TRICARE supplemental premiums.

S. 811

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 811, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the bicentennial of the birth of Abraham Lincoln.

S. 1038

At the request of Mr. LUGAR, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. DEWINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1038, a bill to amend the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to enhance the ability to produce fruits and vegetables on covered commodity base acres.

S. 1064

At the request of Mr. COCHRAN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1064, a bill to amend the Public

Health Service Act to improve stroke prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and rehabilitation.

S. 1112

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1112, a bill to make permanent the enhanced educational savings provisions for qualified tuition programs enacted as part of the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001.

S. 1496

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1496, a bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a pilot program under which up to 15 States may issue electronic Federal migratory bird hunting stamps.

S. 1907

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1907, a bill to promote the development of Native American small business concerns, and for other purposes.

S. 1948

At the request of Mr. BURNS, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1948, a bill to direct the Secretary of Transportation to issue regulations to reduce the incidence of child injury and death occurring inside or outside of passenger motor vehicles, and for other purposes.

S. 2157

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 2157, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for the Purple Heart to be awarded to prisoners of war who die in captivity under circumstances not otherwise establishing eligibility for the Purple Heart.

S. 2305

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2305, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to repeal the amendments made by the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 requiring documentation evidencing citizenship or nationality as a condition for receipt of medical assistance under the Medicaid program.

S. 2321

At the request of Mr. SANTORUM, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2321, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of Louis Braille.

S. 2351

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2351, a bill to provide additional funding for mental health care for veterans, and for other purposes.