

or a Delegate or Resident Commissioner to, Congress.”.

SEC. 3. BAN ON GIFTS FROM LOBBYISTS.

Paragraph 1(a)(2) of rule XXXV of the Standing Rules of the Senate is amended by adding at the end the following: “This clause shall not apply to a gift from a lobbyist.”.

SEC. 4. PROHIBITION ON PRIVATELY FUNDED TRAVEL.

Paragraph 2(a)(1) of rule XXXV of the Standing Rules of the Senate is amended by striking “an individual” and inserting “an organization recognized under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 that is not affiliated with any group that lobbies before Congress”.

SEC. 5. REGISTERED LOBBYISTS PROHIBITED FROM SERVING ON AUTHORIZED POLITICAL COMMITTEES.

Subsection (d) of section 302 of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (2 U.S.C. 432(e)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(6) No political committee may be designated as an authorized committee if a person registered as a lobbyist under section 4 of the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 is formally affiliated with such committee.”.

By Mr. MARTINEZ (for himself and Mr. NELSON of Florida):

S. 2239. A bill to prohibit offshore drilling on the outer Continental Shelf off the State of Florida, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. President, I rise today to join my colleague from Florida, Senator BILL NELSON, in introducing the Permanent Protection for Florida Act of 2006.

I believe this bipartisan legislation will provide Florida's pristine coastline, beaches, and our critical military training area with strong, permanent protections—while at the same time providing limited oil and gas exploration in areas that have traditionally been under Presidential moratoria.

Our Nation is struggling with crippling energy prices and the growing pressure to explore off Florida's coast has never been greater than now. Instead of sitting on the sidelines and waiting for others to dictate the terms of oil and gas operations on our coast, we felt compelled to offer an alternative that will protect our State's interests in perpetuity.

This legislation offers historic protections that would create a Florida Exclusion Zone—a buffer area extending 150 miles south of the Panhandle that would also place the Florida Straits and Atlantic Coast permanently off limits to oil and gas exploration.

All leases inside the Florida Exclusion Zone would be relinquished or removed in exchange for royalty forgiveness on active leases in the Central and Western Gulf of Mexico. These relinquished leases must also be environmentally restored to their original condition. In addition, the Permanent Protection for Florida Act would remove the mandatory inventory of the Outer Continental Shelf and extend the current Presidential moratorium through 2020.

This bill sends a message that is loud and clear—Florida's waters are off lim-

its. Florida's leaders have worked too long and too hard on building up these protections just to have them disappear during a brief moment of high energy prices. We have a lot at stake and it is time to solidify our protections into law.

I believe these historic protections will garner significant support from our State's congressional delegation and coastal members of Congress that are concerned with resource exploration off their coasts.

I urge those that are looking for bipartisan solutions to energy exploration to join with me and my colleague Senator NELSON in supporting this legislation.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce with my fellow Senator from Florida, MEL MARTINEZ, legislation we believe will enhance our Nation's military preparedness, while also protecting the State of Florida's economy from harm by oil drilling.

It could be said that debate on this issue began 37 years ago last month. It was in January 1969 when an explosion at an offshore drilling site caused a 200,000-gallon crude oil spill off California's coast. While small in comparison to other spills, that incident dealt a devastating blow to neighboring beaches and aquatic life.

As tides brought an 800-square-mile slick ashore, oil coated 35 miles of the coastline, blackening beaches and killing thousands of birds, dolphins, seals, fish and other wildlife. A national outcry followed, and sparked a movement that led to legal bans on drilling on the Outer Continental Shelf, including the eastern Gulf of Mexico off of Florida.

Unfortunately, this past year has seen a number of legislative and administrative attempts to undo this longstanding ban—without a cause that is worth the risk.

In fact, Senator MARTINEZ and I have been fighting an almost daily battle to protect our State's tourism economy, which is heavily dependent on our beautiful beaches and abundant fisheries. At the same time, we have been fighting to preserve our military's vital testing and training sites there in the eastern gulf.

The Martinez-Nelson Permanent Protection for Florida Act will forever safeguard the State's tourism-dependent economy from offshore drilling, while also removing active drilling leases in the eastern gulf. It creates the Florida Exclusion Zone, which will extend out at least 260 miles off much of the State's west coast, and at least 150 miles off the Florida Straits and all the way around the entire east coast.

In short, our proposal will protect Florida's economy and its environment; and, at the same time, enhance our Nation's military preparedness. We, therefore, expect to receive strong support from the Florida Congressional Delegation.

We also expect to receive support from our fellow Senators representing

other coastal States. That is because we are fighting not only to protect Florida, but many other environmentally fragile areas along our Nation's coastline. In fact, a key provision of our bill extends the Outer Continental Shelf moratorium from 2012 to 2020.

Senator MARTINEZ and I speak as one on this issue, and, together, we believe we can accomplish great things for Florida and the country. We ask our colleagues to recall with us the words of former President Teddy Roosevelt, who, in essence, said, “A nation that destroys its environment destroys itself.”

We look forward to working with the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Energy Committee, and the rest of our colleagues, to enact this legislation as soon as possible.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 363—DESIGNATING FEBRUARY 2006 AS “GO DIRECT MONTH”

Mr. COLEMAN (for himself and Mr. KENNEDY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 363

Whereas the Department of Treasury issued over 70,000 checks worth approximately \$61,000,000 that were illegally signed for in 2004;

Whereas the Department of the Treasury receives approximately 500,000 telephone calls each year regarding problems with paper checks;

Whereas the use of direct deposit has resulted in approximately \$5,000,000,000 in savings for the Federal Government since 1986;

Whereas 1 out of every 5 newly eligible Social Security recipients has yet to sign up for direct deposit;

Whereas the United States would generate approximately \$120,000,000 in annual savings if all federal beneficiaries used direct deposit;

Whereas the use of direct deposit is a more secure, reliable, and cost effective method of payment because the use of direct deposit—

(1) eliminates the risk of lost or stolen checks;

(2) helps protect against fraud; and

(3) provides citizens of the United States with more control over their money;

Whereas the Department of the Treasury and the Federal Reserve Bank has launched “Go Direct”, a national campaign organized to encourage citizens of the United States to use direct deposit for the receipt of Social Security and other Federal benefits; and

Whereas, by working with financial institutions, advocacy groups, and community organizations, the sponsors of “Go Direct” educate citizens of the United States about the advantages of using direct deposit and assist them during the enrollment process: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideas of “Go Direct”;

(2) proclaims February 2006 as “Go Direct Month”;

(3) commends Federal, State, and local governments, and the private sector, for promoting February as “Go Direct Month”; and

(4) encourages all citizens of the United States to—

(A) participate in events and awareness initiatives held during the month of February;

(B) become informed about the convenience and safety of direct deposit; and

(C) consider signing up for direct deposit of Social Security or other Federal benefits.

SENATE RESOLUTION 364—HONORING THE VALUABLE CONTRIBUTIONS OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS IN THE UNITED STATES

Mr. VITTER (for himself and Ms. LANDRIEU) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 364

Whereas Catholic schools in the United States have received international acclaim for academic excellence while providing students with lessons that extend far beyond the classroom;

Whereas Catholic schools present a broad curriculum that emphasizes the lifelong development of moral, intellectual, physical, and social values in the young people of the United States;

Whereas Catholic schools in the United States today educate 2,420,590 students and maintain a student-to-teacher ratio of 15 to 1;

Whereas the faculty members of Catholic schools teach a highly diverse body of students;

Whereas more than 27.1 percent of school children enrolled in Catholic schools are minorities, and more than 13.6 percent are non-Catholics;

Whereas Catholic schools saved the United States \$19,000,000,000 in educational funding during fiscal year 2005;

Whereas Catholic schools produce students strongly dedicated to their faith, values, families, and communities by providing an intellectually stimulating environment rich in spiritual, character, and moral development; and

Whereas in the 1972 pastoral message concerning Catholic education, the National Conference of Catholic Bishops stated, "Education is one of the most important ways by which the Church fulfills its commitment to the dignity of the person and building of community. Community is central to education ministry, both as a necessary condition and an ardently desired goal. The educational efforts of the Church, therefore, must be directed to forming persons-in-community; for the education of the individual Christian is important not only to his solitary destiny, but also the destinies of the many communities in which he lives." Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the goals of Catholic Schools Week, an event cosponsored by the National Catholic Educational Association and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops that recognizes the vital contributions of thousands of Catholic elementary and secondary schools in the United States; and

(2) congratulates Catholic schools, students, parents, and teachers across the United States for their ongoing contributions to education, and for the vital role they play in promoting and ensuring a brighter, stronger future for this Nation.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 79—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT NO UNITED STATES ASSISTANCE SHOULD BE PROVIDED DIRECTLY TO THE PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY IF ANY REPRESENTATIVE POLITICAL PARTY HOLDING A MAJORITY OF PARLIAMENTARY SEATS WITHIN THE PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY MAINTAINS A POSITION CALLING FOR THE DESTRUCTION OF ISRAEL

Mr. THUNE (for himself, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. TALENT, Mr. BROWBACK, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. VOINOVICH, and Mr. JOHNSON) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. CON. RES. 79

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That it is the sense of Congress that no United States assistance should be provided directly to the Palestinian Authority if any representative political party holding a majority of parliamentary seats within the Palestinian Authority maintains a position calling for the destruction of Israel.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2697. Mr. NELSON, of Florida (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. KOHL, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. DAYTON, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. NELSON, of Nebraska, and Mr. SARBANES) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4297, to provide for reconciliation pursuant to section 201(b) of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2006; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2698. Mr. BINGAMAN (for himself, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KOHL, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. KERRY, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. DAYTON, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mr. BAYH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4297, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2699. Mr. LAUTENBERG submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4297, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2700. Mr. KENNEDY (for himself and Mr. HARKIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4297, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2701. Mr. DURBIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4297, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2702. Mr. KENNEDY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4297, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2697. Mr. NELSON of Florida (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. KOHL, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. DAYTON, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, and Mr. SARBANES) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by

him to the bill H.R. 4297, to provide for reconciliation pursuant to section 201(b) of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2006; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . PROTECTION FOR MEDICARE BENEFICIARIES WHO ENROLL IN THE PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFIT DURING 2006.

(a) EXTENDED PERIOD OF OPEN ENROLLMENT DURING ALL OF 2006 WITHOUT LATE ENROLLMENT PENALTY.—Section 1851(e)(3)(B) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-21(e)(3)(B)) is amended—

(1) in clause (iii), by striking "May 15, 2006" and inserting "December 31, 2006"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new sentence:

"An individual making an election during the period beginning on November 15, 2006, and ending on December 15, 2006, shall specify whether the election is to be effective with respect to 2006 or with respect to 2007 (or both)."

(b) ONE-TIME CHANGE OF PLAN ENROLLMENT FOR MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFIT DURING ALL OF 2006.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1851(e) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-21(e)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (2)(B)—

(i) in the heading, by striking "FOR FIRST 6 MONTHS";

(ii) in clause (i), by striking "the first 6 months of 2006," and all that follows through "is a Medicare+Choice eligible individual," and inserting "2006,"; and

(iii) in clause (ii), by inserting "(other than during 2006)" after "paragraph (3)"; and

(B) in paragraph (4), by striking "2006" and inserting "2007" each place it appears.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 1860D-1(b)(1)(B)(iii) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-101(b)(1)(B)(iii)) is amended by striking "subparagraphs (B) and (C) of paragraph (2)" and inserting "paragraph (2)(C)".

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect as if included in the enactment of the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003 (Public Law 108-173).

SA 2698. Mr. BINGAMAN (for himself, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KOHL, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. KERRY, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. DAYTON, Mr. FEINSTEIN, and Mr. BAYH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4297, to provide for reconciliation pursuant to section 201(b) of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2006; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . TRANSITION REQUIREMENTS.

(a) REQUIREMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1860D-4(b) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-104(b)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(4) FORMULARY TRANSITION.—The sponsor of a prescription drug plan is required to provide at least a 30-day supply of any drug that a new enrollee in the plan was taking prior to enrolling in such plan. For individuals residing in a long-term care setting, the sponsor of a prescription drug plan is required to