

temporarily suspended for the sole and specific purpose of permitting an official photograph to be taken of Members of the United States Senate on June 13, 2006.

SEC. 2. The Sergeant at Arms of the Senate is authorized and directed to make the necessary arrangements therefore, which arrangements shall provide for a minimum of disruption to Senate proceedings.

SENATE RESOLUTION 506—TO DESIGNATE THE PERIOD BEGINNING ON JUNE 5, 2006, AND ENDING ON JUNE 8, 2006, AS “NATIONAL HEALTH IT WEEK”

Ms. STABENOW (for herself, Ms. SNOWE, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mr. LAUTENBERG) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 506

Whereas the Center for Information Technology Leadership estimated that the implementation of national standards for interoperability and the exchange of health information would save the United States approximately \$77,000,000,000 in expenses relating to healthcare each year;

Whereas the RAND Corporation estimated that, if the healthcare system of the United States implemented the use of computerized medical records, the system could save the United States more than \$81,000,000,000 each year;

Whereas healthcare information technology has been shown to improve the quality and safety of the delivery of healthcare in the United States;

Whereas healthcare information technology and management systems have been recognized as essential tools for improving the quality and cost efficiency of the healthcare system;

Whereas the President and Secretary of Health and Human Services have made a commitment to leveraging the benefits of the healthcare information technology and management systems by establishing of the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology and the American Health Information Community;

Whereas Congress has placed an emphasis on improving the quality and safety of the delivery of healthcare in the United States; and

Whereas 42 organizations have come together to support National Healthcare IT Week to improve public awareness relating to the potential benefits of improved quality and cost efficiency that the healthcare system could achieve by implementing health information technology: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate designates the period beginning on June 5, 2006, and ending on June 8, 2006, as “National Health IT Week”.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 98—COMMEMORATING THE 39TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REUNIFICATION OF THE CITY OF JERUSALEM

Mr. BROWNBACK (for himself, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. ALLEN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. FRIST, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. SANTORUM, Mr. SMITH, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. REID, Mrs. DOLE, and Mr. INHOFE) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. CON. RES. 98

Whereas, for 3,000 years, Jerusalem has been the holiest city of Judaism and the focal point of Jewish religious devotion;

Whereas Jerusalem is also considered a holy city by members of other religious faiths;

Whereas, from 1948 to 1967, Jerusalem was a divided city, and Israeli citizens of all faiths, as well as Jewish citizens of all countries, were denied access to certain holy sites;

Whereas, in 1967, Jerusalem was reunited by Israel during the conflict known as the “Six Day War”;

Whereas, since 1967, Jerusalem has been a united city, and persons of all religious faiths have been guaranteed full access to holy sites within the city;

Whereas this year marks the 39th year that Jerusalem has been administered as a unified city in which the rights of every ethnic and religious group are protected;

Whereas, in 1990, the Senate and House of Representatives overwhelmingly adopted S. Con. Res. 106 (101st Congress) and H. Con. Res. 290 (101st Congress), declaring that Jerusalem, the capital of Israel, “must remain an undivided city” and calling on Israel and the Palestinians to begin negotiations to resolve their differences;

Whereas each sovereign country, under international law and custom, has the right to designate its own capital;

Whereas Jerusalem is the seat of the Government of Israel, including the President, the Parliament, and the Supreme Court;

Whereas the Jerusalem Embassy Act of 1995 (Public Law 104-45; 109 Stat. 398), which became law on November 8, 1995, states as a matter of United States policy that Jerusalem should remain the undivided capital of Israel in which the rights of every ethnic and religious group are protected;

Whereas section 214 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Year 2003 (5 U.S.C. 8411 note; Public Law 107-228) directs that the Secretary of State shall, upon the request of a citizen or a legal guardian of a citizen, record the place of birth of a United States citizen born in the city of Jerusalem as Israel: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—

(1) congratulates the residents of Jerusalem and the people of Israel on the 39th anniversary of the reunification of that historic city;

(2) strongly believes that Jerusalem must remain an undivided city in which the rights of every ethnic and religious group are protected as they have been by Israel during the past 39 years;

(3) calls upon the President and Secretary of State to publicly affirm, as a matter of United States policy, that Jerusalem must remain the undivided capital of the State of Israel;

(4) strongly urges the President—

(A) to discontinue use of the waiver contained in the Jerusalem Embassy Act of 1995 (Public Law 104-45; 108 Stat. 398);

(B) to carry out the provisions of that Act immediately; and

(C) to begin the process of relocating the United States Embassy in Israel to Jerusalem; and

(5) further urges officials of the United States to carry out section 214 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Year 2003 (Public Law 107-228; 116 Stat. 1365).

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 4194. Mr. CARPER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the

bill H.R. 8, to make the repeal of the estate tax permanent; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4195. Mr. CARPER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 8, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 4194. Mr. CARPER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 8, to make the repeal of the estate tax permanent; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. PERMANENT EXTENSION OF ESTATE TAX AS IN EFFECT IN 2009.

(a) EXCLUSION EQUIVALENT OF UNIFIED CREDIT EQUAL TO \$3,500,000.—Subsection (c) of section 2010 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to unified credit against estate tax) is amended to read as follows:

“(c) APPLICABLE CREDIT AMOUNT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this section, the applicable credit amount is the amount of the tentative tax which would be determined under section 2001(c) if the sum determined under subsection (b)(1) were equal to the applicable exclusion amount.

“(2) APPLICABLE EXCLUSION AMOUNT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this subsection, the applicable exclusion amount is \$3,500,000.

“(B) INFLATION ADJUSTMENT.—In the case of any decedent dying in a calendar year after 2010, the dollar amount in subparagraph (A) shall be increased by an amount equal to—

“(i) such dollar amount, multiplied by

“(ii) the cost-of-living adjustment determined under section 1(f)(3) for such calendar year by substituting ‘calendar year 2009’ for ‘calendar year 1992’ in subparagraph (B) thereof.

If any amount as adjusted under the preceding sentence is not a multiple of \$10,000, such amount shall be rounded to the nearest multiple of \$10,000.”.

(b) MAXIMUM ESTATE TAX RATE EQUAL TO 45 PERCENT.—Subsection (c) of section 2001 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to imposition and rate of tax) is amended—

(1) by striking “but not over \$2,000,000” in the table contained in paragraph (1),

(2) by striking the last 2 items in such table,

(3) by striking “(1) IN GENERAL.—”, and

(4) by striking paragraph (2).

(c) MODIFICATIONS OF ESTATE AND GIFT TAXES TO REFLECT DIFFERENCES IN UNIFIED CREDIT RESULTING FROM DIFFERENT TAX RATES.—

(1) ESTATE TAX.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Section 2001(b)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to computation of tax) is amended by striking “if the provisions of subsection (c) (as in effect at the decedent’s death)” and inserting “if the modifications described in subsection (g)”.

(B) MODIFICATIONS.—Section 2001 of such Code is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(g) MODIFICATIONS TO GIFT TAX PAYABLE TO REFLECT DIFFERENT TAX RATES.—For purposes of applying subsection (b)(2) with respect to 1 or more gifts, the rates of tax under subsection (c) in effect at the decedent’s death shall, in lieu of the rates of tax

in effect at the time of such gifts, be used both to compute—

“(1) the tax imposed by chapter 12 with respect to such gifts, and

“(2) the credit allowed against such tax under section 2505, including in computing—

“(A) the applicable credit amount under section 2505(a)(1), and

“(B) the sum of the amounts allowed as a credit for all preceding periods under section 2505(a)(2).

For purposes of paragraph (2)(A), the applicable credit amount for any calendar year before 1998 is the amount which would be determined under section 2010(c) if the applicable exclusion amount were the dollar amount under section 6018(a)(1) for such year.”.

(2) GIFT TAX.—Section 2505(a) of such Code (relating to unified credit against gift tax) is amended by adding at the end the following new flush sentence:

“For purposes of applying paragraph (2) for any calendar year, the rates of tax in effect under section 2502(a)(2) for such calendar year shall, in lieu of the rates of tax in effect for preceding calendar periods, be used in determining the amounts allowable as a credit under this section for all preceding calendar periods.”.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to estates of decedents dying, generation-skipping transfers, and gifts made, after December 31, 2009.

(e) MODIFICATIONS TO ESTATE TAX.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subtitles A and E of title V of the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001, and the amendments made by such subtitles, are hereby repealed; and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 shall be applied as if such subtitles, and amendments, had never been enacted.

(2) SUNSET NOT TO APPLY.—

(A) Subsection (a) of section 901 of the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001 is amended by striking “this Act” and all that follows and inserting “this Act (other than title V) shall not apply to taxable, plan, or limitation years beginning after December 31, 2010.”.

(B) Subsection (b) of such section 901 is amended by striking “, estates, gifts, and transfers”.

(3) REPEAL OF DEADWOOD.—Sections 2011, 2057, and 2604 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 are hereby repealed.

SA 4195. Mr. CARPER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 8, to make the repeal of the estate tax permanent; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Amend the title as to read:

“An Act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the estate tax in effect in 2009, including the step-up-in-basis regime, and for other purposes.”

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee to meet on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, June 8, 2006, at 9:30 a.m., in closed session, to receive a classified briefing on overhead imagery systems.

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

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent, that the Com-

mittee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, June 8, 2006, at 4 p.m., to receive a briefing on the loss of personal information about Department of Defense personnel as a result of the theft of a computer from a Department of Veterans Affairs analyst.

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

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, June 8, 2006, at 5:20 p.m., to receive a classified briefing on the death of Al-Zarqawi.

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

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 8, 2006, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on the nominations of Ms. Sheila C. Bair, of Kansas, to be a member and chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation; Mr. James B. Lockhart III, of Connecticut, to be the Director of the Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight; Mr. Donald L. Kohn, of Virginia, to be Vice Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System; and Ms. Kathleen L. Casey, of Virginia, to be a member of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

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

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet on Thursday, June 8, 2006, at 2:30 p.m. on Nominations.

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

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, June 8, 2006, at 10 a.m. The purpose of this hearing is to consider the nominations of: Philip D. Moeller, of Washington, to be a member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for the term expiring June 30, 2010, Vice Patrick Henry Wood III, resigned and Jon Wellingshoff, of Nevada, to be a member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for the term expiring June 30, 2008, Vice William Lloyd Massey, term expired.

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

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Com-

mittee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session on Thursday, June 8, 2006, at 11 a.m., in 215 Dirksen Senate Office Building, to consider original bills entitled, the “Medicare, Medicaid, and SCHIP Indian Health Care Improvement Act of 2006”, and the “Improving Outcomes for Children Affected by Meth Act of 2006”.

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, June 8, 2006, at 9:30 a.m. to hold a hearing on The Role of Non-Governmental Organizations in the Development of Democracy.

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

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security Affairs Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet on Thursday, June 8, 2006, at 10 a.m., for a hearing titled, “National Emergency Management: Where Does FEMA Belong?”

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet to conduct a markup on Thursday, June 8, 2006, at 9:30 a.m., in the Dirksen Senate Office Building room 226. The agenda will be provided when it becomes available.

I. Nominations: Andrew J. Guilford, to be U.S. District Judge for the Central District of California; Frank D. Whitney, to be U.S. District Judge for the Western District of North Carolina; Kenneth L. Wainstein, to be an Assistant Attorney General; Charles P. Rosenberg, to be U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia.

II. Bills: S. 2453, National Security Surveillance Act of 2006, Specter; S. 2455, Terrorist Surveillance Act of 2006, DeWine, Graham; S. 2468, A bill to provide standing for civil actions for declaratory and injunctive relief to persons who refrain from electronic communications through fear of being subject to warrantless electronic surveillance for foreign intelligence purposes, and for other purposes, Schumer; S. 3001, Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Improvement and Enhancement Act of 2006, Specter, Feinstein; S. 2831, Free Flow of Information Act of 2006, Lugar, Specter, Graham, Schumer, Biden.

III. Matters: S.J. Res. 12, Flag Desecration resolution, Hatch, Feinstein, Brownback, Coburn, Cornyn, DeWine, Graham, Grassley, Kyl, Sessions, Specter.

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