

United States at the behest or direction of, or with funds provided by, the Palestinian Authority during any period for which a certification described in section 620K(b) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (as added by section 2(b)(2) of this Act) is not in effect with respect to the Palestinian Authority.

(b) **ENFORCEMENT.**—

(1) **ATTORNEY GENERAL.**—The Attorney General shall take the necessary steps and institute the necessary legal action to effectuate the policies and provisions of subsection (a).

(2) **RELIEF.**—Any district court of the United States for a district in which a violation of subsection (a) occurs shall have authority, upon petition of relief by the Attorney General, to grant injunctive and such other equitable relief as it shall deem necessary to enforce the provisions of subsection (a).

(c) **WAIVER.**—Subsection (a) shall not apply if the President determines and certifies to the appropriate congressional committees that the establishment or maintenance of an office, headquarters, premises, or other facilities is vital to the national security interests of the United States.

SEC. 8. INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS.

(a) **REQUIREMENT.**—The President should direct the United States Executive Director at each international financial institution to use the voice, vote, and influence of the United States to prohibit assistance to the Palestinian Authority (other than assistance described under subsection (b)) during any period for which a certification described in section 620K(b) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (as added by section 2(b)(2) of this Act) is not in effect with respect to the Palestinian Authority.

(b) **EXCEPTIONS.**—The prohibition on assistance described in subsection (a) should not apply with respect to the following types of assistance:

(1) Assistance to meet food, water, medicine, or sanitation needs, or other assistance to meet basic human needs.

(2) Assistance to promote democracy, human rights, freedom of the press, non-violence, reconciliation, and peaceful co-existence, provided that such assistance does not directly benefit Hamas or other foreign terrorist organizations.

(c) **DEFINITION.**—In this section, the term “international financial institution” has the meaning given the term in section 1701(c)(2) of the International Financial Institutions Act (22 U.S.C. 262r(c)(2)).

SEC. 9. DIPLOMATIC CONTACTS WITH PALESTINIAN TERROR ORGANIZATIONS.

No funds authorized or available to the Department of State may be used for or by any officer or employee of the United States Government to negotiate with members or official representatives of Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade, or any other Palestinian terrorist organization (except in emergency or humanitarian situations), unless and until such organization—

(1) recognizes Israel’s right to exist;

(2) renounces the use of terrorism;

(3) dismantles the infrastructure in areas within its jurisdiction necessary to carry out terrorist acts, including the disarming of militias and the elimination of all instruments of terror; and

(4) recognizes and accepts all previous agreements and understandings between the State of Israel and the Palestinian Authority.

SEC. 10. ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN PEACE, RECONCILIATION AND DEMOCRACY FUND.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT OF FUND.**—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment

of this Act, the Secretary of State shall establish a fund to be known as the “Israeli-Palestinian Peace, Reconciliation and Democracy Fund” (in this section referred to as the “Fund”). The purpose of the Fund shall be to support, primarily, through Palestinian and Israeli organizations, the promotion of democracy, human rights, freedom of the press, and non-violence among Palestinians, and peaceful coexistence and reconciliation between Israelis and Palestinians.

(b) **ANNUAL REPORT.**—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for so long as the Fund remains in existence, the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on programs sponsored and proposed to be sponsored by the Fund.

(c) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of State \$20,000,000 for fiscal year 2007 for purposes of the Fund.

SEC. 11. REPORTING REQUIREMENT.

Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that—

(1) describes the steps that have been taken by the United States Government to ensure that other countries and international organizations, including multilateral development banks, do not provide direct assistance to the Palestinian Authority for any period for which a certification described in section 620K(b) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (as added by section 2(b)(2) of this Act) is not in effect with respect to the Palestinian Authority; and

(2) identifies any countries and international organizations, including multilateral development banks, that are providing direct assistance to the Palestinian Authority during such a period, and describes the nature and amount of such assistance.

SEC. 12. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.**—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on International Relations and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives; and

(B) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

(2) **PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY.**—The term “Palestinian Authority” has the meaning given the term in section 620K(e)(2) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (as added by section 2(b)(2) of this Act).

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Friday, June 23, 2006, at 1 p.m. to hold a closed briefing on State Department/Defense Department Cooperation Overseas.

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

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

SECOND HIGHER EDUCATION EXTENSION ACT OF 2006

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 5603 which was received from the House.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 5603) to temporarily extend the programs under the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that 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. 5603) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

LEGAL REPRESENTATION AUTHORIZATION

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 520, 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. 520) to authorize the production of records, testimony, and legal representation.

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

Mr. FRIST. 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. 520) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 520

Whereas, the United States Department of Justice is conducting an investigation into improper activities by lobbyists and related matters;

Whereas, the Committee on Indian Affairs and the Committee on Rules and Administration have received specific requests from the Department of Justice for records that may be relevant for use in the investigation;

Whereas, pursuant to sections 703(a) and 704(a)(2) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, 2 U.S.C. §§288b(a) and 288c(a)(2), the Senate may direct its counsel to represent employees of the Senate with respect to any subpoena, order, or request for testimony relating to their official responsibilities;

Whereas, by the privileges of the Senate of the United States and Rule XI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, no evidence under the control or in the possession of the Senate can, by administrative or judicial process, be taken from such control or possession but by permission of the Senate; and

Whereas, when it appears that evidence under the control or in the possession of the Senate is needed for the promotion of justice, the Senate will take such action as will promote the ends of justice consistent with the privileges of the Senate: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Committee on Indian Affairs and the Committee on Rules and Administration are authorized to provide to the U.S. Department of Justice the specific documents that have been requested by the Department of Justice to date for use in legal and investigatory proceedings, and to provide related testimony from their staffs, if necessary, except where a privilege should be asserted.

SEC. 2. The Senate Legal Counsel is authorized to represent employees of the Committee on Indian Affairs and the Committee on Rules and Administration in connection with the document production and testimony authorized in section one of this resolution.

THE SAFE AND TIMELY INTERSTATE PLACEMENT OF FOSTER CHILDREN ACT

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 5403, the Safe and Timely Interstate Placement of Foster Children Act.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 5403) to improve protections for children and to hold States accountable for the safe and timely placement of children across State lines, and for other purposes.

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

Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, today I rise to speak on passage of the Safe and Timely Interstate Placement of Foster Children Act. This legislation seeks to expedite the interstate placement of foster children into the safe and nurturing families they so desperately need and deserve. In doing so, it encourages and provides incentives to States to help expedite the completion of home studies, which are all too often the cause or delays in interstate placement cases.

Nationwide, there are currently over 500,000 children in foster care, and more than 2,500 in my home State of Arkansas. On trips back home and in meetings with my constituents, I have listened to the many heartbreaking tales of children who continue to suffer needlessly because of barriers to their timely placement. While a recent increase in the number of adoptions has allowed many of these children to spend less time in foster care homes, an unacceptably large number still encounter barriers that delay their timely placement. This is particularly the situation for children placed across State lines. In fact, recent reports indicate that interstate placements take an average of one year longer than placements within a State.

The situation is unacceptable, and I am grateful that we are addressing this issue by taking a step forward. Al-

though we are taking that step here today, we must also recognize that we are improving a process, not fixing it. In cooperation with our State child welfare agencies and State court systems, we need to continue working to finish the task before us by carefully evaluating improvements that result from passage of this legislation and looking at other ways Federal and State agencies can work together in the future to make interstate placements work even better.

We must work together to provide both better guidelines for the process of gaining approval for sending children across State lines while allowing States the much-needed flexibility to cater them to their specific circumstances. We must work together to find a way to set deadlines that expedite the processing of home studies yet does not set unrealistic timelines on our States. We must work together to find better ways to ensure more efficiency in the process while also taking each State's circumstances under consideration.

In short, we must continue working together to ensure that no more of our children are unnecessarily stuck in foster homes because of bureaucratic inefficiencies, unnecessary delays, and red tape. We can do better by these children. The opportunity to grow up in a nurturing, loving, and stable family is something that none of us should take for granted. It is our duty in this Congress to ensure that these children are not denied this opportunity, but given timely placement with the home and the family that each and every one of them deserve.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that 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. 5403) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, this bill, H.R. 5403, the adoption bill, is a bill that is aimed at improving protection for children. It holds States accountable for the safe and timely placement of children across State lines.

I am gratified we have passed this bill today to help our children who are in foster care. Finding permanent and loving homes for foster care children is the first order of a compassionate society. Far too often, these children bounce from one temporary situation to another and then to another, never finding a permanent loving family.

The bill we passed just a few moments ago speeds their placement by making interstate placements easier, particularly with extended family. I, in particular, commend the former majority leader of the House, Tom DeLay, for his passionate crusade for at-risk children. A foster parent himself, Tom has worked tirelessly on adoption and

foster care issues during his long service in the House of Representatives.

It is a fitting tribute to Tom DeLay's service that the House passed this bill on his last day in office. And I am gratified we just passed it a few moments ago.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—H.R. 5638

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the title of the bill for the first time.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 5638) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the unified credit against the estate tax to an exclusion equivalent of \$5,000,000 and to repeal the sunset provision for the estate and generation-skipping taxes, and for other purposes.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I now ask for a second reading, and in order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard. The bill will be read for the second time on the next legislative day.

PALESTINIAN ANTI-TERRORISM ACT OF 2006

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be discharged from further consideration of S. 2370, and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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 (S. 2370) to promote the development of democratic institutions in areas under the administrative control of the Palestinian Authority, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, today I would like to applaud my colleagues for passing S. 2370, the Palestinian Anti-Terrorism Act of 2006.

My friend, the senior Senator from Delaware, Mr. BIDEN, and I cosponsored this legislation. We were joined in our efforts by Senators FRIST, REID of Nevada, DEMINT, MIKULSKI, MARTINEZ, NELSON of Florida, HAGEL, NELSON of Nebraska, DEWINE, TALENT, ALLEN, BURNS, BOXER, BUNNING, KERRY, SALAZAR, LIEBERMAN and THUNE; all of whom are original cosponsors of this bill.

I particularly thank my colleague, the senior Senator from Indiana, Mr. LUGAR, for his leadership on this issue. He has been instrumental in fashioning language on the important question of how the United States addresses the challenges posed by the new Hamas-dominated government in the West Bank and Gaza.