

and agencies for the conduct of research or surveys, the preparation of reports, and other activities necessary to the discharge of the duties of the Commission, to the extent or in such amounts as are provided in appropriation Acts.

SEC. 915. FUNDING.

Of the amounts authorized to be appropriated to the Department of Justice, \$600,000 shall be available to carry out this subtitle.

SEC. 916. SUNSET.

The European American Commission shall terminate 60 days after it submits its report to Congress.

SUBTITLE B—COMMISSION ON WARTIME

TREATMENT OF JEWISH REFUGEES

SEC. 921. ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMISSION ON WARTIME TREATMENT OF JEWISH REFUGEES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—There is established the Commission on Wartime Treatment of Jewish Refugees (referred to in this subtitle as the 'Jewish Refugee Commission').

(b) MEMBERSHIP.—The Jewish Refugee Commission shall be composed of 7 members, who shall be appointed not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act as follows:

(1) Three members shall be appointed by the President.

(2) Two members shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, in consultation with the minority leader.

(3) Two members shall be appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, in consultation with the minority leader.

(c) TERMS.—The term of office for members shall be for the life of the Jewish Refugee Commission. A vacancy in the Jewish Refugee Commission shall not affect its powers, and shall be filled in the same manner in which the original appointment was made.

(d) REPRESENTATION.—The Jewish Refugee Commission shall include 2 members representing the interests of Jewish refugees.

(e) MEETINGS.—The President shall call the first meeting of the Jewish Refugee Commission not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(f) QUORUM.—Four members of the Jewish Refugee Commission shall constitute a quorum, but a lesser number may hold hearings.

(g) CHAIRMAN.—The Jewish Refugee Commission shall elect a Chairman and Vice Chairman from among its members. The term of office of each shall be for the life of the Jewish Refugee Commission.

(h) COMPENSATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Members of the Jewish Refugee Commission shall serve without pay.

(2) REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES.—All members of the Jewish Refugee Commission shall be reimbursed for reasonable travel and subsistence, and other reasonable and necessary expenses incurred by them in the performance of their duties.

SEC. 922. DUTIES OF THE JEWISH REFUGEE COMMISSION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—It shall be the duty of the Jewish Refugee Commission to review the United States Government's refusal to allow Jewish and other refugees fleeing persecution or genocide in Europe entry to the United States as provided in subsection (b).

(b) SCOPE OF REVIEW.—The Jewish Refugee Commission's review shall cover the period between January 1, 1933, through December 31, 1945, and shall include, to the greatest extent practicable, the following:

(1) A review of the United States Government's decision to deny Jewish and other refugees fleeing persecution or genocide entry to the United States, including a review of the underlying rationale of the United States Government's decision to refuse the Jewish and other refugees entry, the information the United States Government received or acquired suggesting such refusal was necessary, the perceived benefit

of such refusal, and the impact of such refusal on the refugees.

(2) A review of Federal refugee law and policy relating to those fleeing persecution or genocide, including recommendations for making it easier in the future for victims of persecution or genocide to obtain refuge in the United States.

(c) FIELD HEARINGS.—Jewish Refugee Commission shall hold public hearings in such cities of the United States as it deems appropriate.

(d) REPORT.—Jewish Refugee Commission shall submit a written report of its findings and recommendations to Congress not later than 18 months after the date of the first meeting called pursuant to section X021(e).

SEC. 923. POWERS OF THE JEWISH REFUGEE COMMISSION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Jewish Refugee Commission or, on the authorization of the Commission, any subcommittee or member thereof, may, for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this subtitle, hold such hearings and sit and act at such times and places, and request the attendance and testimony of such witnesses and the production of such books, records, correspondence, memorandum, papers, and documents as the Commission or such subcommittee or member may deem advisable. The Jewish Refugee Commission may request the Attorney General to invoke the aid of an appropriate United States district court to require, by subpoena or otherwise, such attendance, testimony, or production.

(b) GOVERNMENT INFORMATION AND CO-OPERATION.—The Jewish Refugee Commission may acquire directly from the head of any department, agency, independent instrumentality, or other authority of the executive branch of the Government, available information that the Jewish Refugee Commission considers useful in the discharge of its duties. All departments, agencies, and independent instrumentalities, or other authorities of the executive branch of the Government shall cooperate with the Jewish Refugee Commission and furnish all information requested by the Jewish Refugee Commission to the extent permitted by law, including information collected as a result of the Commission on Wartime and Internment of Civilians Act (Public Law 96-317; 50 U.S.C. App. 1981 note) and the Wartime Violation of Italian Americans Civil Liberties Act (Public Law 106-451; 50 U.S.C. App. 1981 note). For purposes of section 552a(b)(9) of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the 'Privacy Act of 1974'), the Jewish Refugee Commission shall be deemed to be a committee of jurisdiction.

SEC. 924. ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

The Jewish Refugee Commission is authorized to—

(1) appoint and fix the compensation of such personnel as may be necessary, without regard to the provisions of title 5, United States Code, governing appointments in the competitive service, and without regard to the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of such title relating to classification and General Schedule pay rates, except that the compensation of any employee of the Commission may not exceed a rate equivalent to the rate payable under GS-15 of the General Schedule under section 5332 of such title;

(2) obtain the services of experts and consultants in accordance with the provisions of section 3109 of such title;

(3) obtain the detail of any Federal Government employee, and such detail shall be without reimbursement or interruption or loss of civil service status or privilege;

(4) enter into agreements with the Administrator of General Services for procurement of necessary financial and administrative services, for which payment shall be made by reimbursement from funds of the Commis-

sion in such amounts as may be agreed upon by the Chairman of the Commission and the Administrator;

(5) procure supplies, services, and property by contract in accordance with applicable laws and regulations and to the extent or in such amounts as are provided in appropriation Acts; and

(6) enter into contracts with Federal or State agencies, private firms, institutions, and agencies for the conduct of research or surveys, the preparation of reports, and other activities necessary to the discharge of the duties of the Commission, to the extent or in such amounts as are provided in appropriation Acts.

SEC. 925. FUNDING.

Of the amounts authorized to be appropriated to the Department of Justice, \$600,000 shall be available to carry out this subtitle.

SEC. 926. SUNSET.

The Jewish Refugee Commission shall terminate 60 days after it submits its report to Congress.

SMALL BUSINESS TAX RELIEF ACT OF 2007—MOTION TO PROCEED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont is recognized.

Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, I want to take this opportunity to say a few words about health care in general and about the needs of our children in particular. Let me preface my remarks by saying that I think it is clear to most Americans that our health care system today is disintegrating, and that we unfortunately and tragically remain the only country in the industrialized world that does not guarantee health care to all of its people as a right of citizenship.

Now, I hear a whole lot of talk in the Senate—I heard it in the House—about health care. But, up front, we should be aware that there is something fundamentally wrong in terms of the way we do business that 46 million Americans have zero health insurance, that the cost of health care is soaring every single year, and that tens of millions of Americans who do have health insurance have very weak insurance programs and are underinsured.

On top of all of that, with 46 million uninsured, tens of millions underinsured, we continue to pay by far the highest prices in the world for our prescription drugs. In other words, we have a problem, and the time is long overdue for the Senate to stand up to the insurance companies and the drug companies and start representing the American people.

In my view, the solution is moving us toward a national health care program which provides health care to every man, woman, and child as a right of citizenship.

When people say, well, something like that will be very expensive. Well, not really. What we have now is clearly the most inefficient and wasteful non-system in the world by which we are spending twice as much per capita for health care as any other major country.

So people say: Well, gee, the Canadian system is not perfect; The British system is not perfect; The Danish system is not perfect. True enough. Neither is our system. And we spend twice as much per person on health care as does any other system.

Tonight, and in the coming few days, we are going to be focusing on the needs of our children. In the midst of a nation with 46 million uninsured, we have over 9 million children, one in nine, who are also uninsured. Every 46 seconds another baby is born uninsured in the United States.

I have heard a lot through my career in the U.S. Congress about family values. So let me be very clear and suggest that it is not a family value to live in a country in which 9 million children have no health insurance at all.

Uninsured children are almost 12 times as likely as insured children to have an untreated medical need, are four times as likely as insured children to have an unmet dental need.

The statistics go on. An estimated two-thirds of children and adolescents with mental health needs are not getting the care they need. Only one in five children with serious emotional disturbances receives specialized treatment. Given this sorry state of affairs, I find it ironic that we are having any debate about increasing health care coverage for children under the CHIP program. It seems to me that the very least this Nation should be doing is providing health insurance to every child in America—something, by the way, this bill does not do.

If this bill, in its current form, were to pass tomorrow, it would provide health insurance to approximately one-third of the children who are uninsured—one-third. In my opinion, as we move toward a national health care program guaranteeing health care to every man, woman, and child, the very least we should be doing is making sure all of our children are covered. That is why I have recently introduced S. 1564, the All Healthy Children Act of 2007.

This bill, in fact, would provide the opportunity for every child in America to have health care coverage. In addition, since insurance coverage alone does not guarantee access—in other words, you can have health insurance, but you cannot necessarily find a doctor or a dentist who will treat you—we must also make certain there is an adequate supply of health professionals and conveniently located sites of care.

Along with Senator MURKOWSKI, I have also introduced S. 941, the Community Health Centers Investment Act, to significantly expand the number of community-based, federally qualified centers, a proven cost-effective system of primary health care that is governed by the people who use it. These health care democracies serve all regardless of ability to pay and insurance status.

The issue we are dealing with in terms of health care is not only pro-

viding health insurance but making sure there are doctors and clinics and hospitals available to treat the people who need the help. One of the crises, of the many we are facing as a nation in terms of health care, is, believe it or not, we are not producing the doctors we need for today, especially in rural areas and primarily in primary health care. We are not producing the dentists we need. We are not producing the nurses we need. As our Nation becomes older, those problems will only become more severe.

In that regard, I have done what I could and will continue to move forward to significantly increase the funding for the National Health Service Corps, to provide scholarships and loan repayment to those choosing primary care specialties and agreeing to practice in underserved areas. I am happy we are on a path to increase funding for community health centers, but clearly we have a long way to go in order to fund the national health service.

While the debate on these initiatives awaits another day, we must pass a CHIP bill that matches the House bill in funding level. Accordingly, I will be cosponsoring the Kerry amendment to provide SCHIP with a \$50 billion increased authorization over the next 5 years. At a minimum, though, I certainly hope the Senate passes the bill approved by the Senate Finance Committee.

I know some of the objections raised about expanding health care coverage for children come from people who think spending the amount of money proposed in this legislation is too much. I mention to those Members who, in many cases—certainly including the President of the United States—are supporting the repeal of the inheritance tax, the estate tax, to tell them that with the full repeal of the estate tax, one of the wealthiest families in America would receive in tax breaks almost as much money as we are attempting to spend right now to provide health care for over 3 million American children. So on the one hand, there are people—the President of the United States, among others—who say we have to repeal the inheritance tax, all of which benefits now will go to the wealthiest three-tenths of 1 percent. One family getting \$32 billion, that is a good idea. But to provide \$35 billion to provide health care for over 3 million American children, that is a bad idea. I think those priorities are a little bit backwards.

Let me conclude by saying all of us are very proud to be Americans. We want this country to be No. 1 in many respects. It should not give any of us pride to know that in every other major country on Earth virtually all of the people have health insurance as a right, have lower cost prescription drugs than we do. The idea that today and tomorrow we will be debating whether we can afford to provide another 3 million children with health in-

surance suggests to me we have a long way to go in this debate. We should not only provide health insurance to 3 million children, we should provide health insurance to the over 9 million children who are without health insurance. We should provide health insurance not just to 9 million uninsured children but to 46 million uninsured Americans.

In my view, health care is a right, not a privilege. The idea that there are people today who are scared to death about what happens when they or their children become ill because of the high cost of health insurance is something that should not take place in this country. This bill is a small but important step forward.

At the end of the day, we have to join the rest of the industrialized world and make sure all of our people, regardless of income, have high quality health care.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SANDERS. I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

NOMINATION OF LESLIE SOUTHWICK

Mr. HATCH. Madam President, I rise in strong support of Judge Leslie Southwick's nomination to the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit.

The evaluations, hearings, and investigations are complete.

The American Bar Association's highest rating is in.

It is time for this body, the United States Senate, to decide whether to consent to this judicial nomination by voting up or down. That is our role and we should assert it rather than avoid it.

Vote yes or vote no, but it is time for this body to do its duty and vote on the Southwick nomination.

This Senator will proudly vote to confirm this excellent nominee.

Before looking specifically at the Southwick nomination, I must respond to some recent remarks made by my Democratic colleagues concerning the confirmation process.

Three of their claims require a response.

First, Democrats have said that the three appeals court nominees confirmed so far this year are "three more than were confirmed in this similar year in the last Clinton term."

That is a factual claim and it is either true or false.

An evaluation of this claim is simple:

We are in the third year of President Bush's second term and the Senate is controlled by the other party.

The third year of President Clinton's second term was 1999, when the Senate also was controlled by the other party.