

complex multi-trauma associated with combat injuries.

(c) **COLLABORATION.**—In carrying out the research required by subsection (a), the Secretary shall collaborate with facilities that—

(1) conduct research on rehabilitation for individuals with traumatic brain injury; and

(2) receive grants for such research from the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research of the Department of Education.

(d) **REPORT.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a report describing in comprehensive detail the research to be carried out pursuant to subsection (a).

SEC. 207. AGE-APPROPRIATE NURSING HOME CARE.

(a) **FINDING.**—Congress finds that young veterans who are injured or disabled through military service and require long-term care should have access to age-appropriate nursing home care.

(b) **REQUIREMENT TO PROVIDE AGE-APPROPRIATE NURSING HOME CARE.**—Section 1710A of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (d); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (b) the following new subsection (c):

“(c) The Secretary shall ensure that nursing home care provided under subsection (a) is provided in an age-appropriate manner.”

SEC. 208. EXTENSION OF PERIOD OF ELIGIBILITY FOR HEALTH CARE FOR COMBAT SERVICE IN THE PERSIAN GULF WAR OR FUTURE HOSTILITIES.

Section 1710(e)(3)(C) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “2 years” and inserting “5 years”.

SEC. 209. MENTAL HEALTH: SERVICE-CONNECTION STATUS AND EVALUATIONS FOR CERTAIN VETERANS.

(a) **PRESUMPTION OF SERVICE-CONNECTION OF MENTAL ILLNESS FOR CERTAIN VETERANS.**—Section 1702 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking “psychosis” and inserting “mental illness”; and

(2) in the heading, by striking “psychosis” and inserting “mental illness”.

(b) **PROVISION OF MENTAL HEALTH EVALUATIONS FOR CERTAIN VETERANS.**—Upon the request of a veteran described in section 1710(e)(3)(C) of title 38, United States Code, the Secretary shall provide to such veteran a preliminary mental health evaluation as soon as practicable, but not later than 30 days after such request.

SEC. 210. MODIFICATION OF REQUIREMENTS FOR FURNISHING OUTPATIENT DENTAL SERVICES TO VETERANS WITH A SERVICE-CONNECTED DENTAL CONDITION OR DISABILITY.

Section 1712(a)(1)(B)(iv) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “90-day” and inserting “180-day”.

SEC. 211. DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM ON PREVENTING VETERANS AT-RISK OF HOMELESSNESS FROM BECOMING HOMELESS.

(a) **DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM.**—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall carry out a demonstration program for the purpose of—

(1) identifying members of the Armed Forces on active duty who are at risk of becoming homeless after they are discharged or released from active duty; and

(2) providing referral, counseling, and supportive services, as appropriate, to help prevent such members, upon becoming veterans, from becoming homeless.

(b) **PROGRAM LOCATIONS.**—The Secretary shall carry out the demonstration program in at least three locations.

(c) **IDENTIFICATION CRITERIA.**—In developing and implementing the criteria to identify members of the Armed Forces, who upon becoming veterans, are at-risk of becoming homeless, the

Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall consult with the Secretary of Defense and such other officials and experts as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(d) **CONTRACTS.**—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may enter into contracts to provide the referral, counseling, and supportive services required under the demonstration program with entities or organizations that meet such requirements as the Secretary may establish.

(e) **SUNSET.**—The authority of the Secretary under subsection (a) shall expire on September 30, 2011.

(f) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There are authorized to be appropriated \$2,000,000 for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this section.

SEC. 212. CLARIFICATION OF PURPOSE OF THE OUTREACH SERVICES PROGRAM OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) **CLARIFICATION OF INCLUSION OF MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVE IN PROGRAM.**—Subsection (a)(1) of section 6301 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by inserting “, or from the National Guard or Reserve,” after “active military, naval, or air service”.

(b) **DEFINITION OF OUTREACH.**—Subsection (b) of such section is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and (2) as paragraphs (2) and (3), respectively; and

(2) by inserting before paragraph (2) the following new paragraph (1):

“(1) the term ‘outreach’ means the act or process of reaching out in a systematic manner to proactively provide information, services, and benefits counseling to veterans, and to the spouses, children, and parents of veterans who may be eligible to receive benefits under the laws administered by the Secretary, to ensure that such individuals are fully informed about, and assisted in applying for, any benefits and programs under such laws;”.

TITLE III

SEC. 301. FISCAL YEAR 2008 INCREASE IN MILITARY BASIC PAY.

(a) **WAIVER OF SECTION 1009 ADJUSTMENT.**—The adjustment to become effective during Fiscal year 2008 required by section 1009 of title 37, United States Code, in the rates of monthly basic pay authorized for members of the uniformed services shall not be made.

(b) **INCREASE IN BASIC PAY.**—Effective on January 1, 2008, the rates of monthly basic pay for members of the uniformed services are increased by 3.5 percent.

**SENATE LEGAL COUNSEL
AUTHORIZATION**

Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 284 submitted earlier today.

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 284) to authorize testimony and legal representation in City and County of Denver v. Susan I. Gomez, Daniel R. Egger, and Carter Merrill.

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

Mr. REID. Madam President, this resolution concerns a request for testimony and representation in trespass actions in Denver County Court in Denver, CO. In these actions, protesters have been charged with trespassing in the building housing Senator KEN SALAZAR's Denver, CO, office on February 21, 2007, for refusing repeated requests by the police to leave the premises. Trials on charges of tres-

pass are scheduled to commence on August 22, 2007. The defense has subpoenaed a member of the Senator's staff who had conversations with the defendant protesters during the charged events. Senator SALAZAR would like to cooperate by providing testimony from his staff. This resolution would authorize that staff member, and any other employee of Senator SALAZAR's office from whom evidence may be required, to testify in connection with these actions, with representation by the Senate Legal Counsel.

Mr. SANDERS. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating thereto be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 284) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 284

Whereas, in the cases of City and County of Denver v. Susan I. Gomez (07GS008693), Daniel R. Egger (07GS008692), and Carter Merrill (07GS967589), pending in Denver County Court in Denver, Colorado, testimony has been requested from Matthew Cheroutes, an employee in the office of Senator Ken Salazar;

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 may, by the judicial or administrative process, be taken from such control or possession but by permission of the Senate;

Whereas, when it appears that evidence under the control or in the possession of the Senate may promote the administration 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 Matthew Cheroutes and any other employees of Senator Salazar's office from whom testimony may be required are authorized to testify in the cases of City and County of Denver v. Susan I. Gomez, Daniel R. Egger, and Carter Merrill, except concerning matters for which a privilege should be asserted.

SEC. 2. The Senate Legal Counsel is authorized to represent Matthew Cheroutes and other employees of Senator Salazar's staff in the actions referenced in section one of this resolution.

REGARDING COURTS WITH FIDUCIARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR A CHILD OF A DECEASED MEMBER OF THE ARMED FORCES

Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H. Con. Res. 175, just received from the House and at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 175) expressing the sense of Congress that courts with fiduciary responsibility for a child of a deceased member of the Armed Forces who receives a death gratuity payment under section 1477 of title 10, United States Code, should take into consideration the expression of clear intent of the member regarding the distribution of funds on behalf of the child.

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

Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, without intervening action or debate.

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

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 175) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

STOPPING GENOCIDE AND VIOLENCE IN DARFUR, SUDAN

Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 242, S. Res. 203.

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 203) calling on the Government of the People's Republic of China to use its unique influence and economic leverage to stop genocide and violence in Darfur, Sudan.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution, which had been reported from the Committee on Foreign Relations with an amendment to strike out all after the resolving clause: an amendment to strike the preamble and insert in lieu thereof the following:

S. RES. 203

Whereas since the conflict in Darfur, Sudan began in 2003, hundreds of thousands of people have been killed and more than 2,500,000 displaced as a result of the ongoing and escalating violence;

Whereas on July 23, 2004, Congress declared, "the atrocities unfolding in Darfur, Sudan, are genocide" and on September 23, 2004, then Secretary of State Colin Powell stated before the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate that, "genocide has occurred and may still be occurring in Darfur," and "the Government of Sudan and the Janjaweed bear responsibility";

Whereas on October 13, 2006, the President signed the Darfur Peace and Accountability Act (Public Law 109-344), which identifies the Government of Sudan as complicit with the forces committing genocide in the Darfur region and urges the President to, "take all necessary and appropriate steps to deny the Government of Sudan access to oil revenues";

Whereas President George W. Bush declared in a speech delivered on April 18, 2007, at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum that no one "can doubt that genocide is the only

word for what is happening in Darfur—and that we have a moral obligation to stop it";

Whereas the presence of approximately 7,000 African Union peacekeepers has not deterred the violence and the increasing attacks by the Government-sponsored Janjaweed militia and rebel groups;

Whereas the Government of Sudan has previously refused to allow implementation of the full-scale peacekeeping mission authorized under United Nations Security Council Resolution 1706;

Whereas former United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan subsequently negotiated a compromise agreement with the Government of Sudan for a hybrid United Nations-African Union peacekeeping mission to be implemented in 3 phases;

Whereas the African Union and the United Nations have both affirmed that the Government of Sudan has now stated that it will accept implementation of a hybrid United Nations-African Union peacekeeping mission;

Whereas the Sudanese government has reneged on and obstructed earlier agreements;

Whereas it is critical that the nations of the world, and particularly the members of the United Nations Security Council, take steps to implement the full deployment of this hybrid peacekeeping mission as soon as possible;

Whereas the Government of the People's Republic of China has long-standing economic and military ties with Sudan and continues to strengthen these ties in spite of the on-going genocide in Darfur, as evidenced by the following actions:

(1) China reportedly purchases as much as 70 percent of Sudan's oil;

(2) China currently has at least \$3,000,000,000 invested in the Sudanese energy sector, for a total of \$10,000,000,000 since the 1990s;

(3) Sudan's Joint Chief of Staff, Haj Ahmed El Gaili, recently visited Beijing for discussions with Chinese Defense Minister Cao Gang Chuan and other military officials as part of an eight-day tour of China; Cao pledged closer military relations with Sudan, saying that China was "willing to further develop cooperation between the two militaries in every sphere";

(4) China has reportedly cancelled approximately \$100,000,000 in debt owed by the Sudanese Government; and

(5) China is building infrastructure in Sudan and provided funds for a presidential palace in Sudan at a reported cost of approximately \$20,000,000;

Whereas given its economic interests throughout the region, China has a unique ability to positively influence the Government of Sudan to abandon its genocidal policies and to accept United Nations peacekeepers to join a hybrid United Nations-African Union peacekeeping mission;

Whereas the President's Special Envoy to Sudan, Andrew S. Natsios, further said in testimony on April 11, 2007, that "China's substantial economic investment in Sudan gives it considerable potential leverage, and we have made clear to Beijing that the international community will expect China to be part of the solution";

Whereas the Government of the People's Republic of China has previously influenced the Government of Sudan to take steps toward reducing violence and conflict by—

(1) abstaining from, and choosing not to obstruct, several important votes in the United Nations Security Council on resolutions related to Sudan, including Resolution 1556, which demanded Sudan disarm militias in Darfur, and Resolution 1706, which called for the deployment of additional United Nations peacekeepers, including up to 17,300 military personnel and up to 3,300 civilian police;

(2) helping to facilitate the Addis Ababa framework reached on November 16, 2006, which provides for a joint United Nations-African Union peacekeeping force;

(3) sending high-level delegations, including Chinese President Hu Jintao, to Sudan, and encouraging President Bashir to show flexibility and allow the joint United Nations-African Union peacekeeping force to be deployed;

(4) making frequent public statements that the Government of Sudan must carry out agreements made within the Addis Ababa framework of November 2006 to admit United Nations peacekeepers to join the United Nations-African Union peacekeeping force in Darfur;

(5) pledging to provide military engineers to support African Union peacekeeping forces in Darfur;

(6) announcing on May 10, 2007, the appointment of a senior diplomat as China's special representative on African affairs who is to focus specific attention on the Darfur issue; and

(7) reportedly exercising its influence to help convince the Khartoum government to accept the hybrid peacekeeping mission;

Whereas due to its vast population, its rapidly growing global economy, its large research and development investments and military spending, its seat as a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council and on the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, China is an emerging power that is increasingly perceived as a leader with significant international reach and responsibility;

Whereas in November 2006, China hosted its third Forum on China-Africa Cooperation with more than 40 heads of state in attendance and which focused heavily on trade relations and investment on the African continent as it is expected to double by 2010;

Whereas China is preparing to host the Olympic Summer Games of 2008, the most honorable, venerated, and prestigious international sporting event;

Whereas China should be held accountable to act consistently with the Olympic standard of preserving human dignity in Darfur, Sudan and around the world; and

Whereas China has previously been reluctant to use its full influence to improve the human rights situation in Darfur, but recent events have demonstrated the impact that China can have as a positive influence on this situation: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the close relationship between China and Sudan and strongly urges the Government of the People's Republic of China to use its full influence to—

(A) urge the President of Sudan, Omar al-Bashir, to abide by his agreement to allow a robust peacekeeping force under United Nations command and control as described in United Nations Security Council Resolution 1706;

(B) call for Sudanese compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1556 and 1564, and the Darfur Peace Agreement, all of which demand that the Government of Sudan disarm militias operating in Darfur;

(C) call on all parties to the conflict to adhere to the 2004 N'Djamena ceasefire agreement and the recently-agreed United Nations communicate which commits the Sudanese government to improve conditions for humanitarian organizations and ensure they have unfettered access to the populations they serve;

(D) emphasize that there can be no military solution to the conflict in Darfur and that the formation and implementation of a legitimate peace agreement between all parties will contribute toward the welfare and stability of the entire nation and broader region;

(E) urge all rebel groups to unify and assist all parties to come to the negotiating table in good faith;

(F) urge the Government of southern Sudan to play a more active role in pressing for legitimate peace talks and take immediate steps to support and assist in the revitalization of such talks along 1 single coordinated track;

(G) continue to engage collaboratively in high-level diplomacy and multilateral efforts toward a renewed peace process; and