

(2) the number of aliens who applied for adjustment of status under section 3(a);

(3) the number of aliens who were granted adjustment of status under section 3(a); and

(4) the number of aliens whose conditional permanent resident status was removed under section 4.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. COCHRAN, and Mr. HARKIN:

S.J. Res. 21. A joint resolution proposing amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to contributions and expenditures intended to affect elections; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, today I am proud to join Senators SCHUMER, SPECTER and COCHRAN in introducing a constitutional amendment to overturn the 1976 Supreme Court decision in the case of Buckley v. Valeo and restore Congress's power to regulate campaign finances.

This constitutional amendment is a necessary first step in restoring confidence in our system of government. The Court's decision in Buckley, which equated money with speech, was fundamentally flawed. Unfortunately, since that decision, our democracy has been perverted. Costs of elections have spiraled out of control, office seekers are required to spend more time than ever raising money, and special interests correspondingly have greater access than ever before. As a result, the integrity of our democracy continues to wane.

Make no mistake, I am extremely reluctant to amend the Constitution. Amending the Constitution rightly is an extraordinary step that has seldom been done in our history. But, when it has been truly needed, we have done so. Reluctantly, I have reached the conclusion that it is needed now. Without this amendment, our nation is simply too limited in its ability to deal with corruption and to restore confidence in our electoral system. The integrity of our democratic system not only deems it appropriate for us to approve a constitutional amendment, it requires it.

Until we have the ability to truly create a system of campaign finance, we will continue to have an escalation of spending on campaigns, and an escalation of continued distrust by the American people in their political system. This amendment is a necessary first step and I encourage my colleagues to support this vital measure.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the joint resolution be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the joint resolution was ordered to be placed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. J. RES. 21

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled (two-thirds of each House concurring therein). That the following article is proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which shall be valid to all intents and purposes as part of the Constitution when ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several States

within seven years after the date of its submission by the Congress:

“ARTICLE—

“SECTION 1. Congress shall have power to regulate the raising and spending of money, including through setting limits, for campaigns for nomination for election to, or for election to, Federal office.

“SECTION 2. A State shall have power to regulate the raising and spending of money, including through setting limits, for—

“(1) State or local ballot initiatives, referenda, plebiscites, or other similar ballot measures; and

“(2) campaigns for nomination for election to, or for election to, State or local office.

“SECTION 3. Congress shall have power to implement and enforce this article by appropriate legislation.”

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 351—DESIGNATING THE WEEK BEGINNING OCTOBER 21, 2007, AS “NATIONAL CHARACTER COUNTS WEEK”

Mr. DOMENICI (for himself, Mr. DODD, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. ENZI, Mr. PRYOR, and Ms. STABENOW) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 351

Whereas the well-being of the United States requires that the young people of the United States become an involved, caring citizenry with good character;

Whereas the character education of children has become more urgent as violence by and against youth increasingly threatens the physical and psychological well-being of the people of the United States;

Whereas more than ever, children need strong and constructive guidance from their families and their communities, including schools, youth organizations, religious institutions, and civic groups;

Whereas the character of a nation is only as strong as the character of its individual citizens;

Whereas the public good is advanced when young people are taught the importance of good character and the positive effects that good character can have in personal relationships, in school, and in the workplace;

Whereas scholars and educators agree that people do not automatically develop good character and that, therefore, conscientious efforts must be made by institutions and individuals that influence youth to help young people develop the essential traits and characteristics that comprise good character;

Whereas, although character development is, first and foremost, an obligation of families, the efforts of faith communities, schools, and youth, civic, and human service organizations also play an important role in fostering and promoting good character;

Whereas Congress encourages students, teachers, parents, youth, and community leaders to recognize the importance of character education in preparing young people to play a role in determining the future of the United States;

Whereas effective character education is based on core ethical values, which form the foundation of democratic society;

Whereas examples of character are trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, citizenship, and honesty;

Whereas elements of character transcend cultural, religious, and socioeconomic differences;

Whereas the character and conduct of our youth reflect the character and conduct of society, and, therefore, every adult has the responsibility to teach and model ethical values and every social institution has the responsibility to promote the development of good character;

Whereas Congress encourages individuals and organizations, especially those who have an interest in the education and training of the young people of the United States, to adopt the elements of character as intrinsic to the well-being of individuals, communities, and society;

Whereas many schools in the United States recognize the need, and have taken steps, to integrate the values of their communities into their teaching activities; and

Whereas the establishment of National Character Counts Week, during which individuals, families, schools, youth organizations, religious institutions, civic groups, and other organizations focus on character education, is of great benefit to the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week beginning October 21, 2007, as “National Character Counts Week”; and

(2) calls upon the people of the United States and interested groups—

(A) to embrace the elements of character identified by local schools and communities, such as trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship; and

(B) to observe the week with appropriate ceremonies, programs, and activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 352—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF UNITED STATES-MONGOLIA RELATIONS

Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself, Mr. LUGAR, and Mr. BIDEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 352

Whereas the United States established diplomatic relations with the Government of Mongolia in January 1987 and established its first embassy in Ulaanbaatar in June 1988;

Whereas the United States and Mongolia are both fully democratic states committed to the rule of law;

Whereas, in 1991, the United States established normal trade relations with Mongolia and began a Peace Corps program that now boasts approximately 100 volunteers;

Whereas the United States has a continued commitment to Mongolia's economic and political development and has contributed over \$150,000,000 in aid for that purpose since 1991;

Whereas the United States has supported Mongolia's participation in the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and the Asian Development Bank;

Whereas the United States and Mongolia strengthened their trade relationship through the signing of a Trade and Investment Framework Agreement in 2004 to boost bilateral commercial ties and resolve trade disputes;

Whereas Mongolia continues to work with the United States to combat global terrorism and, since April 2003, has contributed engineers, troops, and medical personnel to Operation Iraqi Freedom and has participated in training National Army artillery units in Afghanistan;

Whereas Mongolia has demonstrated an expanding desire to join the United States in

global peacekeeping activities by sending a contingent of 250 soldiers to protect the Special Court for Sierra Leone, a platoon to participate in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) mission in Kosovo, and personnel to serve as United Nations observers in Sudan, Ethiopia, and Eritrea;

Whereas the United States and Mongolia share an interest in promoting peaceful cooperation in south central Asia; and

Whereas Mongolia was named eligible for Millennium Challenge Compact assistance on May 6, 2004, submitted its official proposal on October 13, 2005, and had its proposal approved by the Millennium Challenge Corporation on September 12, 2007: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the strength and endurance of the partnership between the United States and Mongolia should be acknowledged and celebrated;

(2) the United States should encourage continued economic cooperation with Mongolia, including in areas such as mining, construction, information technology, tourism, and meat processing, to the betterment of both our economies;

(3) the United States should continue to work with the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and the Asian Development Bank to improve Mongolia's economic system;

(4) the United States should provide Mongolia assistance under the Millennium Challenge Compact and work to finalize the compact in a timely fashion; and

(5) the United States should encourage greater academic and cultural exchanges with Mongolia.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, Mongolia has made incredible strides to improve its relationship with the United States since 1987. Following the downfall of communism in that nation, our ties have grown exponentially.

Mongolia has worked hard in the past two decades to create a robust and strong democracy and the United States has been a partner in that effort from its inception.

Although it lies on the other side of the globe and sits between Russia and China, Mongolia has long sought close ties with the United States, with some even referring to the United States as its "Third Neighbor."

On the economic front, the United States-Mongolian relationship is dynamic and growing with over one hundred U.S. and U.S.-Mongolian joint ventures registered in areas ranging from oil exploration, textiles, animal husbandry, tourism, mining, and banking. The United States is also one of Mongolia's largest sources of foreign investment.

While a large recipient of foreign aid, Mongolia still commits itself to giving back to the global community through its significant peacekeeping efforts in Africa and Eastern Europe, with personnel in Sierra Leone and Kosovo.

Mongolia is also a strong partner in the War on Terror. Mongolia has contributed engineers, troops, and medical personnel to Operation Iraqi Freedom and has participated in training National Army artillery units in Afghanistan. Prior to 2000, Mongolia did not have a national policy of deploying forces beyond its borders. Yet they

were the first coalition country to contribute an infantry battalion to Iraq.

Mongolia's contributions mean a bit more to the State of Alaska. Since 2003, we have partnered with Mongolia through the Alaska-Mongolia National Guard Partnership. Our National Guard has established broad working relationships and increased exchanges with their Mongolian partners. They stand side by side with the Mongolian Armed Forces in Iraq—in fact, the Mongolian Ministry of Defense specifically requested Alaska National Guard support based on Alaska's relationship with their nation.

The success that the partnership has enjoyed is a direct reflection of the willingness and eagerness on both sides to further our relations. The Alaska National Guard tells me that Mongolia is enthusiastic about their democratic reforms and is aggressively working to meet its goals.

So with 2007 being the 20th Anniversary of U.S.-Mongolia relations, I am proud to introduce this resolution marking our ties and the significant progress that has been achieved between our two countries in that short time frame. I look forward to what the next 20 years will bring.

SENATE RESOLUTION 353—EX-PRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING THE IMPORTANCE OF A SOVEREIGN, DEMOCRATIC, AND PROSPEROUS LEBANON AND THE NEED FOR FREE AND FAIR PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS IN LEBANON WITHOUT INTIMIDATION OR FOREIGN INTERFERENCE

Mr. SUNUNU (for himself, Mr. KERRY, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. COLEMAN, Mr. DODD, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. MARTINEZ, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. SMITH, Mr. BOND, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. COBURN, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Ms. STABENOW) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 353

Whereas, in 2004, the term of the current President of Lebanon, Emile Lahoud, was extended through the interference of the Government of Syria in the internal affairs of the Government of Lebanon;

Whereas United Nations Security Council Resolution 1559, adopted on September 2, 2004, called for free and fair presidential elections in Lebanon conducted in accordance with the constitution of Lebanon and without foreign interference and influence;

Whereas such a presidential election has not yet occurred;

Whereas the Parliament of Lebanon is preparing to elect a new president of Lebanon before the November 24, 2007, conclusion of the mandate of the current President;

Whereas the Governments of Syria and Iran, through their proxies in Lebanon, have sought undue influence over the election of the next president of Lebanon;

Whereas the preparation for these elections has thus far been characterized by violence and intimidation tactics, and on September 19, 2007, Member of the Parliament of Lebanon Antoine Ghanem became the 8th Lebanese leader to be assassinated since 2005;

Whereas the democratically-elected Government of Lebanon has been under steady attack by domestic and foreign elements and forces that have been instigating civil unrest, disrupting the operation of the cabinet and Parliament, and perpetrating acts of terror against the people of Lebanon;

Whereas United Nations Security Council Resolution 1701, adopted on August 11, 2006, reiterated "strong support for the territorial integrity, sovereignty, and political independence of Lebanon within its internationally recognized borders", and called on states to "take the necessary measures to prevent . . . the sale or supply to any entity or individual in Lebanon of arms and related materiel of all types";

Whereas President Lahoud has threatened to create an unconstitutional rival cabinet and hand over power to it if the opposition is not satisfied with the results of the constitutional electoral process;

Whereas the Governments of Syria and Iran, in clear contravention of numerous United Nations Security Council resolutions, have violated Lebanon's sovereignty by providing arms to illegitimate militias in Lebanon and to other terrorist organizations;

Whereas the armed forces of Lebanon are protecting Lebanon and its people from terrorist organizations like Fatah al Islam;

Whereas United Nations Security Council Resolution 1757 established a Special Tribunal for Lebanon, to be convened outside of Lebanon, to try those accused of the assassination of former Prime Minister of Lebanon Rafiq Hariri and others; and

Whereas a sovereign, democratic, and prosperous Lebanon is in the national security interest of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) calls for free and fair presidential elections in Lebanon, conducted according to the constitution of Lebanon and free from foreign interference and influence or the use of intimidation tactics;

(2) supports ongoing efforts by leaders in Lebanon to reach agreement on a presidential candidate committed to upholding Lebanon's sovereignty and independence;

(3) condemns the Governments of Syria and Iran for their undue material interference in the internal political affairs of Lebanon, including in the election of a new president, and for their repeated violations of the sovereignty and independence of Lebanon, and calls on the Governments of Syria and Iran to comply with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1701, particularly with respect to preventing unauthorized shipment of arms into Lebanon;

(4) affirms its strong support for the armed forces of Lebanon as they work to secure Lebanon against terrorists and illegal armed militias, and conveys its readiness to provide support to assist in these ends;

(5) urges the Secretary of State to continue efforts in support of a Special Tribunal for Lebanon to end impunity for political assassinations, including assisting in efforts to convene the Special Tribunal as soon as possible, affirms its readiness to continue to provide material support to this cause, and calls on all countries to make timely and generous contributions to this end; and

(6) urges the President to use all peaceful means at the disposal of the United States to help promote an independent, democratic, and prosperous Lebanon, including increased diplomatic coordination with key partners in Europe and the Middle East, and supports efforts by the United States to provide ongoing and substantial assistance for reconstruction efforts in Lebanon.