

II. Bills

S. 316, the Preserve Access to Affordable Generics Act, Kohl, Grassley, Leahy, Schumer, Feingold.

S. 236, the Federal Agency Data Mining Reporting Act of 2007, Feingold, Sununu, Leahy, Akaka, Kennedy.

S. 378, the Court Security Improvement Act of 2007, Leahy, Specter, Durbin, Cornyn, Kennedy, Hatch.

S. 442, the John R. Justice Prosecutors and Defenders Incentive Act of 2007, Durbin.

III. Resolutions

S. Res. 41, honoring the life and recognizing the accomplishments of Tom Mooney, president of the Ohio Federation of Teachers, Brown, Voinovich.

S. Res. 47, honoring the life and achievements of George C. Springer, Sr., the Northeast regional director and a former vice president of the American Federation of Teachers, Dodd.

S. Res. 49, recognizing and celebrating the 50th anniversary of the entry of Alaska into the Union as the 49th State, Stevens, Murkowski.

S. Res. 53, congratulating Illinois State University as it marks its sesquicentennial, Durbin, Obama.

S. Res. 69, a resolution recognizing the African-American spiritual as a national treasure, Menendez.

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

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 15, 2007, at 2:30 p.m. to hold a closed hearing.

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

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Special Committee on Aging be authorized to meet Thursday, February 15, 2007, from 10 a.m. to noon in Dirksen 562 for the purpose of conducting a hearing.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATIONS DISCHARGED—
EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session; that the Rules Committee be discharged from further consideration of the following nominations: Rosemary Rodriguez and Caroline Hunter to be members of the Election Assistance Commission; that the nominations be confirmed and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table; further, that the Senate then proceed to Executive Calendar No. 29, the nomination of Leon Sequeira to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor; that the nomination be confirmed and the

motion to reconsider be laid on the table; that any statements be printed in the Record; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; and the Senate return to legislative session.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, and I will not object, I want to take a moment to indicate my enthusiasm for the President's nomination of Leon Sequeira, a former member of my staff, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor, who is an outstanding individual and who I know will serve the administration and the country well in this new capacity.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, this new Assistant Secretary has a lot of good qualifications, but the most important was his employment record with the distinguished Republican leader.

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

The nominations considered and confirmed are as follows:

ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

Rosemary Rodriguez and Caroline Hunter.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Leon R. Sequeira, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary or Labor.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now return to legislative session.

LIVING KIDNEY ORGAN DONATION
CLARIFICATION ACT OF 2007

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask consent that the HELP Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. 487 and the Senate proceed to its 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. 487) to amend the National Organ Transplant Act to clarify that kidney paired donations shall not be considered to involve the transfer of a human organ for valuable consideration.

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

Mr. REID. I understand there is an amendment at the desk. I ask consent the amendment be considered and agreed to, the bill, as amended, be read three times and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid on the table, and any statements be printed at the appropriate place in the RECORD.

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

The amendment (No. 266) was agreed to, as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 266

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Living Kidney Organ Donation Clarification Act of 2007".

SEC. 2. AMENDMENT TO THE NATIONAL ORGAN TRANSPLANT ACT.

Section 301(a) of the National Organ Transplant Act (42 U.S.C. 274e(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following: "For purposes of this section, kidney paired donation shall not be considered to involve the transfer of a human organ for valuable consideration."

SEC. 3. REPORT.

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that details the progress made towards understanding the long-term health effects of living organ donation.

The bill (S. 487) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

REVISION TO THE SHORT TITLE
OF THE FANNIE LOU HAMER,
ROSA PARKS, AND CORETTA
SCOTT KING VOTING RIGHTS
ACT REAUTHORIZATION AND
AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2006

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask consent that the Senate proceed to Calendars No. 23, S. 188.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 188) to revise the short title of the Fannie Lou Hamer, Rosa Parks, and Coretta Scott King Voting Rights Act Reauthorization and Amendments Act of 2006.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill which had been reported from the Committee on the Judiciary, with amendments, as follows:

(The parts of the bill intended to be stricken are shown in boldface brackets and the parts intended to be inserted are shown in italic.)

S. 188

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

Section 1 of the Fannie Lou Hamer, Rosa Parks, and Coretta Scott King Voting Rights Act Reauthorization and Amendments Act of 2006 (Public Law 109-246) is amended by striking "and Coretta Scott King" and inserting "Coretta Scott King, [and César E. Chávez] César E. Chávez, Barbara C. Jordan, and William C. Velásquez".

SEC. 2. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.

Paragraphs (7) and (8) of section 4(a), and section 13(a)(1), of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 1973b(a), 1973k(a)(1)) are each amended by striking "and Coretta Scott King" and inserting "Coretta Scott King, [and César E. Chávez] César E. Chávez, Barbara C. Jordan, and William C. Velásquez".

SEC. 3. CONSTRUCTION.

Title I of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 1973 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 20. A reference in this title to the effective date of the amendments made by, or the date of the enactment of, the Fannie Lou Hamer, Rosa Parks, Coretta Scott King, [and César E. Chávez] César E. Chávez, Barbara C. Jordan, and William C. Velásquez Voting Rights Act Reauthorization and Amendments Act of 2006 shall be considered to refer to, respectively, the effective date of the amendments made by, or the date of the enactment of, the Fannie Lou Hamer, Rosa

Parks, and Coretta Scott King Voting Rights Act Reauthorization and Amendments Act of 2006.”

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, in January, I joined Senator SALAZAR in introducing a bill to include César E. Chávez among the names of the great civil rights leaders we honor in the title of last year’s Voting Rights Act Reauthorization and Amendments Act of 2006, VRARA. We reported this bill out of committee last week, and I am pleased the Senate was able to take it up and pass it so quickly.

I supported taking this action last year during the Senate Judiciary Committee’s consideration of the VRARA when I offered an amendment on behalf of Senator SALAZAR to add the Hispanic civil rights leader to those for whom the law is named. As Senator SALAZAR reminded us, César Chávez is an American hero who sacrificed his life to empower the most vulnerable in America. Like Fannie Lou Hamer, Rosa Parks, and Coretta Scott King, for whom the VRARA is named, he believed strongly in the right to vote as a cornerstone of American democracy. I offered the amendment in the Judiciary Committee last year and it was adopted without dissent.

In order not to complicate final passage of the Voting Rights Act, the Senate proceeded to adopt the House-passed bill without amendment. This was done so that the bill could be signed into law without having to be reconsidered by the House. At that time, I committed to work with Senator SALAZAR to conform the law to include recognition of the contribution to our civil rights, voting rights and American society by César Chávez.

I have supported adding César Chávez’s name to the law as an important recognition of the broad landscape of political inclusion made possible by the Voting Rights Act. This bill would not alter the bill’s vital remedies for continuing discrimination in voting but is overdue recognition of the importance of the Voting Rights Act to Hispanic-Americans. Prior to the VRA, Hispanics, like minorities of all races, faced major barriers to participation in the political process, through the use of such devices as poll taxes, exclusionary primaries, intimidation by voting officials, language barriers, and systematic vote dilution.

We amended the bill in committee to add the names of two more great American leaders, Barbara Jordan and William C. Velasquez. Congresswoman Jordan was not only a pioneer as the first African American woman from a southern State to serve in the House of Representatives but also a great leader with an impressive career in public service as a Texas state legislator, a Member of Congress, and a professor at the University of Texas. She received the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Clinton in 1994. Her work on the House Judiciary Committee in 1975 was instrumental in renewing the Voting Rights Act and add-

ing the vital minority language provisions to the VRA. Barbara Jordan’s life and career, not to mention her powerful speeches, have been an inspiration to so many that I am pleased to support adding her name to the bill.

On behalf of Senator SALAZAR, I offered an amendment to add the name of another Presidential Medal of Freedom honoree from Texas, William C. Velasquez. In 1974, Willie Velasquez founded the Southwest Voter Registration and Education Project, the Nation’s largest voter registration project aimed at the Hispanic community. Under his leadership, the SVREP launched hundreds of successful get-out-the-vote and voter registration drives throughout the Southwest, greatly expanding the number of registered Latino voters and increasing Hispanic participation in the political process. Mr. Velasquez, who was also a leader with the United Farm Workers and helped found the Mexican American Youth Organization, MAYO, and la Raza Unida, helped others believe as he did that “Su voto es su voz”, your vote is your voice. When President Clinton posthumously awarded Mr. Velasquez the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1995, he was only the second Latino to receive the Nation’s highest civilian honor. We should honor him now by adding his name to the title of the VRARA. I offer this additional amendment on behalf of Senator SALAZAR.

Of course, there are many great leaders we could add to honor their great contributions to the expansion of voting rights to all Americans. Without leaders like Congressman JOHN LEWIS and House Judiciary Chairman JOHN CONYERS, we would not have the Voting Rights Act today. We are indebted to them as we are to so many others for the strides that we have made. Taking up and passing this bill today is a sign of our commitment to ensuring that the great promises of the 14th and 15th amendments are kept for all Americans and that the Voting Rights Act Reauthorization and Amendments Act is fully implemented to protect the rights of all Americans.

Mr. REID. I ask consent that the committee-reported amendments be considered and agreed to, the amendment at the desk be considered and agreed to and the bill, as amended, be read three times, 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 committee amendments were agreed to.

The amendment (No. 267) was agreed to, as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 267

(Purpose: To add the name of Dr. Hector P. Garcia to a short title)

On page 2, line 3, strike “and William C. Velasquez” and insert “William C. Velasquez, and Dr. Hector P. Garcia”.

On page 2, line 10, strike “and William C. Velasquez” and insert “William C. Velasquez, and Dr. Hector P. Garcia”.

On page 2, line 19, strike “and William C. Velasquez” and insert “William C. Velasquez, and Dr. Hector P. Garcia”.

The bill (S. 188) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 188

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

Section 1 of the Fannie Lou Hamer, Rosa Parks, and Coretta Scott King Voting Rights Act Reauthorization and Amendments Act of 2006 (Public Law 109-246) is amended by striking “and Coretta Scott King” and inserting “Coretta Scott King, César E. Chávez, Barbara C. Jordan, William C. Velasquez, and Dr. Hector P. Garcia”.

SEC. 2. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.

Paragraphs (7) and (8) of section 4(a), and section 13(a)(1), of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 1973b(a), 1973k(a)(1)) are each amended by striking “and Coretta Scott King” and inserting “Coretta Scott King, César E. Chávez, Barbara C. Jordan, William C. Velasquez, and Dr. Hector P. Garcia”.

SEC. 3. CONSTRUCTION.

Title I of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 1973 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 20. A reference in this title to the effective date of the amendments made by, or the date of the enactment of, the Fannie Lou Hamer, Rosa Parks, Coretta Scott King, César E. Chávez, Barbara C. Jordan, William C. Velasquez, and Dr. Hector P. Garcia Voting Rights Act Reauthorization and Amendments Act of 2006 shall be considered to refer to, respectively, the effective date of the amendments made by, or the date of the enactment of, the Fannie Lou Hamer, Rosa Parks, and Coretta Scott King Voting Rights Act Reauthorization and Amendments Act of 2006.”

NATIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR DAY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to S. Con. Res. 12.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Con. Res. 12) supporting the goals and ideals of a National Medal of Honor Day to mark the significance and importance of the Medal of Honor and to celebrate and honor the recipients of the Medal of Honor on the anniversary of the first award of that medal in 1863.

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I further ask the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table and that any statements relating to this measure be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Con. Res. 12) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. CON. RES. 12

Whereas the Medal of Honor, the highest award for valor in action against an enemy force that can be bestowed to a member of the Armed Forces, is awarded by the President, in the name of Congress, to individuals