care services under the health care programs of the Department of Defense, and for other purposes.

S. 626

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 626, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for arthritis research and public health, and for other purposes.

S. 638

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 638, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for collegiate housing and infrastructure grants.

S. 644

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 644, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to recodify as part of that title certain educational assistance programs for members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces, to improve such programs, and for other purposes.

S. 694

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 694, a bill to direct the Secretary of Transportation to issue regulations to reduce the incidence of child injury and death occurring inside or outside of light motor vehicles, and for other purposes.

S. 721

At the request of Mr. ENZI, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 721, a bill to allow travel between the United States and Cuba.

S. 749

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 749, a bill to modify the prohibition on recognition by United States courts of certain rights relating to certain marks, trade names, or commercial names.

S. 773

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 773, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow Federal civilian and military retirees to pay health insurance premiums on a pretax basis and to allow a deduction for TRICARE supplemental premiums.

S. 823

At the request of Mr. OBAMA, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 823, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to facilitating the development of microbicides for preventing transmission of HIV/AIDS and other diseases, and for other purposes.

S. 829

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 829, a bill to reauthorize the HOPE VI program for revitalization of severely distressed public housing, and for other purposes.

S. 881

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SPECTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 881, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend and modify the railroad track maintenance credit.

S. 935

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 935, a bill to repeal the requirement for reduction of survivor annuities under the Survivor Benefit Plan by veterans' dependency and indemnity compensation, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 489

At the request of Mr. DEMINT, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 489 proposed to S. Con. Res. 21, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2008 and including the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2007 and 2009 through 2012.

AMENDMENT NO. 491

At the request of Mr. ALLARD, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. GREGG) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 491 proposed to S. Con. Res. 21, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2008 and including the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2007 and 2009 through 2012.

AMENDMENT NO. 504

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY), the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. FEINGOLD), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. BIDEN), the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON), the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD) and the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 504 proposed to S. Con. Res. 21, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2008 and including the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2007 and 2009 through 2012.

At the request of Mr. HATCH, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 504 proposed to S. Con. Res. 21, supra.

AMENDMENT NO. 511

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. HAGEL) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 511 proposed to S. Con. Res. 21, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2008 and including the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2007 and 2009 through 2012.

AMENDMENT NO. 517

At the request of Mrs. HUTCHISON, the names of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER), the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. CORKER) and the Senator from Nevada (Mr. ENSIGN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 517 proposed to S. Con. Res. 21, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2008 and including the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2007 and 2009 through 2012.

AMENDMENT NO. 518

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from Alaska (Mr. STEVENS), the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON), the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS), the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. FEINGOLD), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER), the Senator from Florida (Mr. MARTINEZ), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VOINOVICH) and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUYE) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 518 intended to be proposed to S. Con. Res. 21, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2008 and including the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2007 and 2009 through 2012.

AMENDMENT NO. 521

At the request of Mr. ALLARD, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. GREGG) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 521 intended to be proposed to S. Con. Res. 21, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2008 and including the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2007 and 2009 through 2012.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. SESSIONS (for himself, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. KERRY, Mr. LOTT, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. BURR, Mr. DODD, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. BINGAMAN, and Mrs. LINCOLN):

S. 958. A bill to establish an adolescent literacy program; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, today Senator MURRAY and I are pleased to introduce the Striving Readers Act, for the eight million middle and high school students across this country who are not reading well enough to

succeed in school. I thank Senator MURRAY for her longstanding leadership on this issue, as well as the Alliance for Excellent Education, the International Reading Association, and the National Association of Secondary School Principals. I also thank my colleagues, Republican and Democrat, who have agreed to cosponsor the bill Senator COCHRAN, Senator KERRY, Senator LOTT, Senator AKAKA, Senator BURR, Senator DODD, Senator DOMENICI, Senator BINGAMAN, and Senator LINCOLN. I thank them for their support and for demonstrating that improving reading and writing in every grade is something we all can get behind.

This important bill will help schools in every State ensure our adolescents read and write well enough to learn in school, graduate on time, and succeed in college and the workplace. Better literacy is the cornerstone to improving student achievement in all subjects, lowering dropout rates, and ensuring students do well when they go on to college or the workforce. A recent study by the American College Testing Program (ACT) found that students with better literacy skills in high school do better in their math, science, and social studies courses both in high school and in college.

The Striving Readers Act marks an important effort to improve reading for the older student. Last year, Congress appropriated $1 billion for the Reading First program available for every State to ensure children read by the third grade. That was an important step, and we have seen 4th grade reading scores rise nationally because of it. However, research shows that many readers who test well in 4th grade do not carry that knowledge into upper grades. We must not risk squandering the investment Congress has already made for younger students.

Seventy percent of our middle and high school students read below grade level. That means we must continue our support for ongoing programs that reflect the needs of the older student for more advanced vocabulary and comprehension skills. All students, throughout their K–12 educational experience, deserve adequate support to ensure they graduate on time with appropriate skills and knowledge that meet the demands of the 21st century.

To be sure, some problems with the Reading First program have surfaced. Let me assure you that the Striving Readers bill addresses those problems to ensure the law and its implementation are fair, transparent, and driven by research, not special interests. Interestingly, many in my State have told me that the law is good and showing results; the problems have come with poor implementation.

Low literacy skills don't just cost the student; they cost our economy because students don't learn what they should in school. The National Center for Education Statistics found that 53 percent of undergraduates require remediation. One-half of these students required a remedial writing course, and 35 percent took remedial reading. That means community colleges spend $1.4 billion every year catching kids up to where they should have been when they graduated. The Mackinac Center for Public Policy reports an estimated $16.6 billion in remediation costs to the U.S. economy each year. This means that America's businesses and colleges are spending $16.6 billion teaching high school graduates skills they should have learned in high school.

America's declining competitiveness in the global economy is due in part to sub-par literacy skills. International comparisons of reading performance placed American 11th graders close to the bottom, behind students from the Philippines, Indonesia, Brazil, and other developing nations. Our high school graduates continue to lag, as employers move jobs overseas, not for the low-cost labor alone, but also to tap into the highly literate, motivated, and technologically skilled workers that other nations can offer them.

The Striving Readers Act will help our Nation raise its literacy levels and compete in a global arena. We can do this. Research shows that adolescents with lagging literacy skills can master college material if they receive good literacy instruction in school.

Specifically, the Striving Readers bill would do the following:

Help States create statewide literacy initiatives, share data on student progress with parents and the public, and improve teacher training and professional development in literacy so that all students receive high quality instruction.

Help districts and schools create plans to improve literacy, including targeted interventions for students far below grade level, top notch assessments for all students, training for teachers in every subject to incorporate literacy strategies, and regular data to improve teaching and learning.

Allow districts and schools to hire and place literacy coaches, train parents to support the literacy development of their child, and connect learning inside the classroom with learning that takes place outside the classroom.

Ensure States, districts, and schools participate in a rigorous evaluation that demonstrates student progress.

Require the Federal Government to complete an overall evaluation of the program to determine its impact on the Nation's middle and high schools.

I am proud to say that my State has been working on this issue for a long time. In 1998 Alabama launched the Alabama Reading Initiative (ARI), a statewide program designed to ensure every student in grades K to 12 is proficient in reading. We provide ongoing, research-based training to teachers in all subjects so that every educator can help students struggling to read. Fortunately, the Alabama Reading Initiative is now in every elementary school in the State. Unfortunately, fewer middle and high schools have been able to take part, due to limited funding. This is true in other States as well.

For those schools in the program we have seen great gains. ARI schools have made great progress, and those that have had the benefit of additional funding from the Federal Reading First program have shown even more rapid, dramatic gains. Many of you have heard of the outstanding impact of the Alabama Reading Initiative, primarily for younger children. It is time for us to develop new methods to meet the needs of students in the upper grades who are reading and writing below grade level. I applaud Alabama's leadership on this important issue as they work to expand the Alabama Reading Initiative into middle and high schools, and I am honored to offer legislation to promote this effort on the national level. I would like to thank Governor Riley for his commitment to the Alabama Reading Initiative, and Dr. Katherine Mitchell, whose enthusiasm and hard work has made the success of ARI a reality for Alabama's children. Alabama has become a model for the Nation, and I am so proud of the progress they have made.

The Federal Government cannot and should assume the responsibility for education from the States. But we can develop research, supply seed money, and provide leadership to help States make advancements, without unnecessary mandates. We can leverage success in places like Alabama to shine a light for others.

We know that, given the right instruction and opportunity, children can learn to read and write well and use that knowledge to achieve at higher levels of education. I hope that our colleagues in the Senate will join Senator MURRAY and me in supporting the Striving Readers Act. And I hope we will authorize Striving Readers as part of No Child Left Behind so that children in every State have the reading skills they need to succeed in school, college, and the workplace.

Ms. MURRAY. Mr. President, today Senator SESSIONS and I are pleased to introduce the Striving Readers Act. This bipartisan bill will help America's middle and high school students gain the literacy skills they need to succeed in school and graduate ready for college and the workplace.

I want to thank Senator SESSIONS for his work on this issue and for shining a light on his State's success in raising literacy achievement. I also want to thank our original cosponsors Senators AKAKA, BINGAMAN, DODD, KERRY, LINCOLN, BURR, COCHRAN, DOMENICI, and LOTT for partnering with us. Finally, I offer thanks to our staff, Kathryn Young and Liz Stillwell, who have worked on this bill, and the Alliance for Excellent Education, the International Reading Association, and the National Association of Secondary School Principals for their work.

Our bill addresses a serious problem. Today 8 million middle and high school

students across the Nation cannot read well enough to succeed in school. This contributes to their likelihood to disengage and drop out. Those that do graduate too often falter when they begin college or work and then need remediation.

All around the country educators and stakeholders are working to improve literacy, and this bill gives us a way to support their efforts. We know that literacy is at the base of every academic subject, and it is crucial to student academic success.

Our bill will engage and reinvigorate those students on the brink of failure. The Striving Readers Act constitutes a comprehensive effort to give States, districts, and schools the resources they need to ensure every student reads and writes well enough to succeed. It would provide grants to every State to develop State literacy initiatives that guide and support districts and schools to improve reading and writing. It would provide grants to districts and schools to assist students who are below grade level and to train teachers in core subjects in literacy strategies for all students. It would also provide new information on what works for struggling readers by conducting evaluations of programs.

This bill could not come at a more important time. In Washington State, 66 percent of 8th graders read below ''Proficient'' on the National Assessment of Educational Progress. These students, who are at the bottom in terms of achievement, are more likely to drop out than those at the top. Among this group, minority students' scores are of particular concern. Seventy-three percent of Washington State's African-American students and 85 percent of Hispanic students read below the ''Proficient'' level. These students are falling behind, and they need our support.

I'm pleased to report that my State has made great efforts to remedy the problem of low literacy levels. My State launched the Washington State Reading Initiative in 2003 to provide support to struggling readers in every grade, including middle and high school. Since then, our K–12 Reading Model has attracted national attention as a systematic reform model. Our program includes statewide training for teachers to identify and provide intervention for students at all grade levels. My State trains teachers in all subjects to teach reading strategies to students. And my State provides guidance to teachers and administrators for applying best practices in classrooms. But they should not have to continue these efforts alone.

The challenges we face in Washington are not unique; every State struggles with adolescent literacy. Nationally 71 percent of 8th graders and 65 percent of 12th graders read below grade level. It should not surprise us, then, that only 34 percent of American teenagers graduate with the skills they need to do well in college or in the workforce.

If we are to remain globally competitive, Congress must authorize and fund a significant adolescent literacy investment for every State. The Striving Readers Act would fulfill this need. As a country, we currently only substantially support reading initiatives through the third grade. International comparisons of reading performance placed American 11th graders close to the bottom, behind students from the Philippines, Indonesia, Brazil, and other developing nations. The Striving Readers Act will help support these middle and high schoolers and help our Nation raise its literacy levels to compete in a global market.

Students are not the only ones who pay the price for low literacy achievement. With every student who falls behind, our economy suffers. The National Center for Education Statistics found that 53 percent of undergraduates require remediation. One-half of these students required a remedial writing course, and 35 percent took remedial reading. That means community colleges spend $1.4 billion every year catching kids up to where they should have been when they graduated. The Mackinac Center for Public Policy reports that America's businesses and colleges are spending $16.6 billion each year to teach graduates what they should have learned in middle and high school. This is a costly consequence of failing to intervene in a timely manner. We must not continue to make this mistake at the expense of students' futures.

The good news is that research shows we can help struggling students make progress. For example, research shows that adolescents with lagging literacy skills can master college material if they receive high quality literacy instruction in school. In fact, a recent study by ACT found that students with better literacy skills in high school do better in their math, science, and social studies courses—both in high school and in college. Better literacy is the foundation for improving student achievement in all subjects, lowering dropout rates, and ensuring students do well when they go on to college or the workforce. The Striving Readers bill provides a path for this.

Specifically, the Striving Readers bill would: Help States create statewide literacy initiatives, share data on student progress to parents and the public, and improve teacher training and professional development in literacy so that all students receive high quality instruction.

Help districts and schools create plans to improve literacy, including targeted interventions for students way below grade level, top notch assessments for all students, training for teachers in every subject to incorporate literacy strategies, and regular data to improve teaching and learning.

Allow districts and schools to hire and place literacy coaches, train parents to support the literacy development of their child, or connect learning inside the classroom with learning that takes place outside the classroom.

Ensure States, districts, and schools participate in a rigorous evaluation that demonstrates student progress.

Require the Federal Government to complete an overall evaluation of the program to determine its impact on the Nation's middle and high schools.

The Striving Readers Act comprises a necessary and urgent investment in adolescent students. We created the Reading First program to strengthen students' reading skills in the elementary grades. While I do have major concerns with the implementation of this program, the intent of the law and the commitment to elementary reading skills is undoubtedly positive. But with reading proficiency stagnating after 4th grade, it is clear that we need a significant investment in the higher grades as well. In crafting the Striving Readers bill, we took steps to correct and guard against implementation concerns, and I believe that this bill will provide the critical resources, training, and evaluation to implement high quality adolescent literacy initiatives around the country.

I introduced the PASS Act, first in 2003, and in subsequent legislation, to take a comprehensive approach to improving student achievement in our Nation's high schools, including use of literacy and math coaches, as well as research-based support for high schools with the most need. The Striving Readers Act will complement this and allow States and schools to effectively address the literacy needs of adolescents in 4th grade and up.

Now is the time to invest in literacy for older students and make their success a reality. This issue cannot wait any longer. I hope that my colleagues in the Senate will join Senator SESSIONS and me in supporting the Striving Readers Act. And I hope we will authorize Striving Readers as part of No Child Left Behind so that children in every State have the reading skills they need to succeed in school, college, and the workplace.

By Mrs. CLINTON (for herself, Mr. REID, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. DODD, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 959. A bill to award grant to enable Teach for America, Inc., to implement and expand its teaching program; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mrs. CLINTON. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce legislation to increase the number of high-need school districts and communities served by Teach For America. My legislation will address the need to build a pipeline of talented teachers to prepare our children to compete in the global economy.

As the teaching population ages, more and more schools will face significant shortages of qualified and motivated teachers. Schools across the country will need to replace at least 1 million teachers over the next ten

years. Our Nation's inner cities and rural communities will be even harder hit as their teachers move to suburban schools or leave the teaching profession altogether. That is why I am sponsoring the Teach For America Act.

Teach For America is the national corps of exceptional recent college graduates of all academic majors who commit two years to teach in public schools. Teach For America's corps members and alumni become lifelong leaders in the effort to ensure that all children in our Nation have an equal chance to succeed in life. Since its inception in 1990, more than 12,000 individuals have joined Teach For America, directly impacting the lives of over 2 million students in under-resourced schools across the country.

This legislation will help Teach For America grow to over 7,500 corps members in 32 communities teaching over 600,000 low-income students every day. It will do so by providing funding for Teach For America to expand its program of recruiting, selecting, training, and supporting new teachers.

Teach For America's alumni lead the way for fundamental long-term change across the country. After their two years of service, 63 percent of Teach For America alumni remain in education as teachers, principals, school founders and policy advisors. Others, equipped with insight gained through their classroom experience, go on to work in a variety of fields—including law, medicine, and social work—and continue to increase opportunities for children living in low-income communities.

The Teach For America Act addresses the need to effectively build a corps of dedicated, talented college graduates to teach and make a lasting impact in our underserved communities. I am hopeful that my Senate colleagues from both sides of the aisle will join me in moving this legislation to the floor without delay.

By Mrs. CLINTON (for herself, Mr. SPECTER, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BIDEN, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mrs. HUTCHISON):

S. 960. A bill to establish the United States Public Service Academy; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Mrs. CLINTON. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce legislation that will create an undergraduate institution designed to cultivate a generation of young leaders dedicated to public service. The United States Public Service Academy Act, (The PSA Act), will form a national academy to serve as an extraordinary example of effective, national public education.

The tragic events of September 11 and the devastation of natural disasters such as Hurricanes Katrina and Rita underscore how much our Nation depends on strong public institutions and competent civilian leadership at all levels of society.

We must take a step forward in the 110th Congress with a positive agenda to ensure competent civilian leadership and improve our Nation's ability to respond to future emergencies and to confront daily challenges. That is why Senator SPECTER and I have come together to sponsor the PSA Act.

This legislation will create the U.S. Public Service Academy to groom future public servants and build a corps of capable civilian leaders. Modeled after the military service academies, this academy will provide a four-year, federally-subsidized college education for more than 5,000 students a year in exchange for a five year commitment to public service.

The PSA Act will meet critical national needs as the baby-boomer generation approaches retirement. Already, studies show looming shortages in the Federal civil service, public education, law enforcement, the non-profit sector and other essential areas. Academy graduates will help to fill the void in public service our Nation will soon face by serving for five years in areas such as public education, public health, and law enforcement.

Unfortunately our young people are priced out of public service careers all too often with the average college graduate owing more than $20,000 in student loans. A recent study conducted by the Higher Education Research Institute found that more than two-thirds of the 2005 freshman class expressed a desire to serve others, the highest rate in a generation. By providing a service-oriented education at no cost to the student, the PSA Act will tap into the strong desire to serve that already exists among college students while erasing the burden of enormous college debt.

The establishment of a United States Public Service Academy is an innovative way to strengthen and protect America by creating a corps of well-trained, highly-qualified civilian leaders. I am hopeful that my Senate colleagues from both sides of the aisle will join me today to move this legislation to the floor without delay.

By Mr. BINGAMAN (for himself, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. TESTER, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. OBAMA, and Mr. WEBB):

S. 962. A bill to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to reauthorize and improve the carbon capture and storage research, development, and demonstration program of the Department of Energy and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I am pleased to be able to introduce the Department of Energy Carbon Capture and Storage Research, Development, and Demonstration Act of 2007, along with my co-sponsors, Senators DOMENICI, TESTER, BUNNING, SALAZAR, OBAMA, and WEBB. This bipartisan bill reauthorizes and improves the carbon capture and storage program at the Department of Energy that was first explicitly authorized in the Energy Policy Act of 2005. With the attention that the topic of global warming has been getting, it is becoming ever clearer that we need answers to the practical questions of what needs to occur so that we can decide on the role that carbon capture and storage will play in our future energy system. This bill, as well as a bill that has previously been referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, S. 731, begins to lay the foundation for a bipartisan and effective approach to these issues.

I ask unanimous consent that the full text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 962

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Department of Energy Carbon Capture and Storage Research, Development, and Demonstration Act of 2007''.

SEC. 2. CARBON CAPTURE AND STORAGE RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, AND DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM.

Section 963 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16293) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by striking ''**RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT**'' and inserting ''**AND STORAGE RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, AND DEMONSTRATION**'';

(2) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking ''research and development'' and inserting ''and storage research, development, and demonstration''; and

(B) by striking ''capture technologies on combustion-based systems'' and inserting ''capture and storage technologies related to energy systems'';

(3) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (3), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(B) in paragraph (4), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(5) to expedite and carry out large-scale testing of carbon sequestration systems in a range of geological formations that will provide information on the cost and feasibility of deployment of sequestration technologies.''; and

(4) by striking subsection (c) and inserting the following:

''(c) PROGRAMMATIC ACTIVITIES.—

''(1) ENERGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT UNDERLYING CARBON CAPTURE AND STORAGE TECHNOLOGIES.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall carry out fundamental science and engineering research (including laboratory-scale experiments, numeric modeling, and simulations) to develop and document the performance of new approaches to capture and store carbon dioxide.

''(B) PROGRAM INTEGRATION.—The Secretary shall ensure that fundamental research carried out under this paragraph is appropriately applied to energy technology development activities and the field testing of carbon sequestration activities, including—

''(i) development of new or improved technologies for the capture of carbon dioxide;

''(ii) modeling and simulation of geological sequestration field demonstrations; and

''(iii) quantitative assessment of risks relating to specific field sites for testing of sequestration technologies.

''(2) FIELD VALIDATION TESTING ACTIVITIES.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall promote, to the maximum extent practicable, regional carbon sequestration partnerships to conduct geologic sequestration tests involving carbon dioxide injection and monitoring, mitigation, and verification operations in a variety of candidate geological settings, including—

''(i) operating oil and gas fields;

''(ii) depleted oil and gas fields;

''(iii) unmineable coal seams;

''(iv) saline formations; and

''(v) deep geologic systems that may be used as engineered reservoirs to extract economical quantities of heat from geothermal resources of low permeability or porosity.

''(B) OBJECTIVES.—The objectives of tests conducted under this paragraph shall be—

''(i) to develop and validate geophysical tools, analysis, and modeling to monitor, predict, and verify carbon dioxide containment;

''(ii) to validate modeling of geological formations;

''(iii) to refine storage capacity estimated for particular geological formations;

''(iv) to determine the fate of carbon dioxide concurrent with and following injection into geological formations;

''(v) to develop and implement best practices for operations relating to, and monitoring of, injection and storage of carbon dioxide in geologic formations;

''(vi) to assess and ensure the safety of operations related to geological storage of carbon dioxide; and

''(vii) to allow the Secretary to promulgate policies, procedures, requirements, and guidance to ensure that the objectives of this subparagraph are met in large-scale testing and deployment activities for carbon capture and storage that are funded by the Department of Energy.

''(3) LARGE-SCALE TESTING AND DEPLOYMENT.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall conduct not less than 7 initial large-volume sequestration tests for geological containment of carbon dioxide (at least 1 of which shall be international in scope) to validate information on the cost and feasibility of commercial deployment of technologies for geological containment of carbon dioxide.

''(B) DIVERSITY OF FORMATIONS TO BE STUDIED.—In selecting formations for study under this paragraph, the Secretary shall consider a variety of geological formations across the United States, and require characterization and modeling of candidate formations, as determined by the Secretary.

''(4) PREFERENCE IN PROJECT SELECTION FROM MERITORIOUS PROPOSALS.—In making competitive awards under this subsection, subject to the requirements of section 989, the Secretary shall give preference to proposals from partnerships among industrial, academic, and government entities.

''(5) COST SHARING.—Activities under this subsection shall be considered research and development activities that are subject to the cost-sharing requirements of section 988(b).

''(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section—

''(1) $90,000,000 for fiscal year 2007;

''(2) $105,000,000 for fiscal year 2008; and

''(3) $120,000,000 for fiscal year 2009.''.

By Mr. MENENDEZ:

S. 963. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Education to make grants to educational organizations to carry out educational programs about the Holocaust; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Simon Wiesenthal Holocaust Education Assistance Act. This important legislation would provide competitive grants for educational organizations to make Holocaust education more accessible and available throughout this Nation.

I would like to thank Senators LAUTENBERG and SPECTER for co-sponsoring this bill, and I commend my former colleague in the House, Congresswoman MALONEY, for her leadership on this issue.

In January, the United Nations held a ceremony to commemorate the 62nd anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz and the second annual International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust. This event served as a reminder that people of all faiths strongly condemn the systematic, state sponsored genocide conducted by the Nazi regime.

We will forever remember the approximately six million Jewish men, women and children, as well as millions of others who faced persecution and death. And we extend our gratitude to all who risked their lives trying to save others. We also honor Simon Wiesenthal, who dedicated his life to making sure that those who perpetrated the horrors of the Holocaust were brought to justice.

After six decades, many of our youth may view the Holocaust as an event that occurred in the distant past. But the truth is this issue is part of our present day society.

Just 3 months ago, Iran held a conference in Tehran to debate whether or not the Holocaust actually happened, and the Iranian government has established a fact finding commission to examine the issue further. Such despicable acts are an insult to the millions of people who were brutalized and murdered by the Nazis and to all who stand against genocide around the world. Clearly, false and destructive messages regarding the Holocaust are still being perpetuated, and such events highlight the importance of Holocaust education abroad and within our own Nation.

Unfortunately, we have also seen that anti-Semitism continues to threaten the safety and well-being of Jewish men and women throughout the world. In February, a Polish member of the European Parliament published a booklet espousing anti-Jewish sentiments, and in Croatia, an investigation has begun after small sugar packets bearing Hitler's image and containing Holocaust jokes were found in some cafés. These tragic events underscore the need to be proactive in combating such bigotry and educating our youth.

Although some States now require the Holocaust to be taught in public schools, the Simon Wiesenthal Holocaust Education Assistance Act goes further and makes grants available to organizations that instruct students, teachers, and communities about the dangers of hate and the importance of tolerance in our society. This legislation would give educators the appropriate resources and training to teach accurate historical information about the Holocaust and convey the lessons that the Holocaust can teach us today.

We must recognize that by remembering the millions who were murdered in the Holocaust, we create a sense of responsibility to stop genocide wherever it takes place.

It is in our common interest to raise our voices against anti-Semitism and against all hatred and discrimination. Funding accurate educational programs on the Holocaust is a step toward winning this battle.

So as America stands with Israel and all followers of the Jewish faith in condemning anti-Semitism, let us do everything in our power to end discrimination and educate future generations about the danger of hatred and bigotry.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

By Mr. AKAKA:

S. 967. A bill to amend chapter 41 of title 5, United States Code, to provide for the establishment and authorization of funding for certain training programs for supervisors of Federal employees; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I rise today to reintroduce the Federal Supervisor Training Act to enhance Federal employee and manager performance, and, in turn, agency performance.

Our Nation's public servants administer a vast array of programs designed to meet the needs of the citizens of this country, and indeed the world. These employees deserve the support and guidance of trained managers who empower them to perform effectively. Furthermore, employees must have a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities. Training programs help managers and supervisors improve their communication skills and promote stronger manager-employee relationships.

While the Federal Government encourages management and supervisory training, the development and implementation of training programs is left to the discretion of individual agencies. This leads to inconsistent guidance on training and sometimes inadequate training due to an agency's other priorities and limited resources. Meaningful training matters. Training should not be discretionary for agencies.

Given the growing number of Federal managers who are eligible to retire, and the need to attract a robust, well-skilled workforce, it is important that employees, who are expected to manage and supervise, have the tools to do so effectively.

In January 2007, the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) released the 2006 Federal Human Capital Survey,

which showed that the federal government's employees and senior managers and leaders still face communication problems. For example, according to the survey: only 49 percent of Federal employees have a high level of respect for senior leaders in their agencies, only 41 percent say they are satisfied with their leaders' policies and practices, and only 47 percent of Federal employees said they were satisfied with the information they get from management.

Upon the release of the survey, OPM Director Linda Springer wrote, ''As many senior leaders retire, the Federal Government also faces a challenge—and opportunity—to improve the effectiveness of the leadership corps across Government. We must develop the kinds of leaders who can ensure a talented and committed Federal workforce now and in the future. Our leaders will need to adapt the workplaces and opportunities they offer to attract the best and the brightest from diverse talent pools.''

Good leadership begins with strong management training. It is time to ensure that Federal managers receive appropriate training to supervise federal employees. I believe the Federal Supervisor Training Act will help us reach that goal. My bill will bridge the training gap that exists now and help ensure that Federal managers have the necessary skills to communicate with and manage Federal employees.

The Federal Supervisor Training Act has three major training components. First, the bill will require that new supervisors receive training in the initial 12 months on the job, with mandatory retraining every three years on how to work with employees to develop performance expectations and evaluate employees. Current managers will have three years to obtain their initial training. Second, the bill requires mentoring for new supervisors and training on how to mentor employees. Third, the measure requires training on the laws governing and the procedures for enforcing whistleblower and anti-discrimination rights.

In addition, my bill will: set standards that supervisors should meet in order to manage employees effectively, assess a manager's ability to meet these standards, and provide training to improve areas identified in personnel assessments.

I am delighted by the support my bill has received from the Government Managers Coalition, which represents members of the Senior Executives Association, the Federal Managers Association, the Professional Managers Association, the Federal Aviation Administration Managers Association, and the National Council of Social Security Management Associations; the American Federation of Government Employees; the National Treasury Employees Union; the International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers; the AFL–CIO, Metal Trades Department, as well as the Partnership for Public Service. I believe this broad support, from employee unions to management associations to outside good government groups demonstrates the need of mandatory training programs and passage of this bill. I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

I ask unanimous consent that the text of this bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 967

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Federal Supervisor Training Act of 2007''.

SEC. 2. MANDATORY TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR SUPERVISORS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 4121 of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by inserting before ''In consultation with'' the following:

''(a) In this section, the term 'supervisor' means—

''(1) a supervisor as defined under section 7103(a)(10);

''(2) a management official as defined under section 7103(a)(11); and

''(3) any other employee as the Office of Personnel Management may by regulation prescribe.'';

(2) by striking ''In consultation with'' and inserting ''(b) Under operating standards promulgated by, and in consultation with,''; and

(3) by striking paragraph (2) (of the matter redesignated as subsection (b) as a result of the amendment under paragraph (2) of this subsection) and inserting the following:

''(2)(A) a program to provide interactive instructor-based training to supervisors on actions, options, and strategies a supervisor may use in—

''(i) developing and discussing relevant goals and objectives together with the employee, communicating and discussing progress relative to performance goals and objectives and conducting performance appraisals;

''(ii) mentoring and motivating employees and improving employee performance and productivity;

''(iii) effectively managing employees with unacceptable performance;

''(iv) addressing reports of a hostile work environment, reprisal, or harassment of, or by, another supervisor or employee; and

''(v) otherwise carrying out the duties or responsibilities of a supervisor;

''(B) a program to provide interactive instructor-based training to supervisors on the prohibited personnel practices under section 2302 (particularly with respect to such practices described under subsection (b)(1) and (8) of that section) and the procedures and processes used to enforce employee rights; and

''(C) a program under which experienced supervisors mentor new supervisors by—

''(i) transferring knowledge and advice in areas such as communication, critical thinking, responsibility, flexibility, motivating employees, teamwork, and professional development; and

''(ii) pointing out strengths and areas for development.

''(c)(1) Not later than 1 year after the date on which an individual is appointed to the position of supervisor, that individual shall be required to have completed each program established under subsection (b)(2).

''(2) After completion of a program under subsection (b)(2) (A) and (B), each supervisor shall be required to complete a program under subsection (b)(2) (A) and (B) at least once during each 3-year period.

''(3) Each program established under subsection (b)(2) shall include provisions under which credit shall be given for periods of similar training previously completed.

''(d) Notwithstanding section 4118(c), the Office of Personnel Management shall prescribe regulations to carry out this section, including the monitoring of agency compliance with this section.''.

(b) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Office of Personnel Management shall prescribe regulations in accordance with subsection (d) of section 4121 of title 5, United States Code, as added by subsection (a) of this section.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE AND APPLICATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act and apply to—

(A) each individual appointed to the position of a supervisor, as defined under section 4121(a) of title 5, United States Code, (as added by subsection (a) of this section) on or after that effective date; and

(B) each individual who is employed in the position of a supervisor on that effective date as provided under paragraph (2).

(2) SUPERVISORS ON EFFECTIVE DATE.—Each individual who is employed in the position of a supervisor on the effective date of this section shall be required to—

(A) complete each program established under section 4121(b)(2) of title 5, United States Code (as added by subsection (a) of this section), not later than 3 years after the effective date of this section; and

(B) complete programs every 3 years thereafter in accordance with section 4121(c) (2) and (3) of such title.

SEC. 3. MANAGEMENT COMPETENCY STANDARDS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 43 of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating section 4305 as section 4306; and

(2) inserting after section 4304 the following:

''§ 4305. Management competency standards

''(a) In this section, the term 'supervisor' means—

''(1) a supervisor as defined under section 7103(a)(10);

''(2) a management official as defined under section 7103(a)(11); and

''(3) any other employee as the Office of Personnel Management may by regulation prescribe.

''(b) The Office of Personnel Management shall issue guidance to agencies on standards supervisors are expected to meet in order to effectively manage, and be accountable for managing, the performance of employees.

''(c) Each agency shall—

''(1) develop standards to assess the performance of each supervisor and in developing such standards shall consider the guidance developed by the Office of Personnel Management under subsection (b) and any other qualifications or factors determined by the agency;

''(2) assess the overall capacity of the supervisors in the agency to meet the guidance developed by the Office of Personnel Management issued under subsection (b); and

''(3) develop and implement a supervisor training program to strengthen issues identified during such assessment.

''(d) Every year, or on any basis requested by the Director of the Office of Personnel Management, each agency shall submit a report to the Office on the progress of the agency in implementing this section.''.

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) TABLE OF SECTIONS.—The table of sections for chapter 43 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 4305 and inserting the following:

''4305. Management competency standards.
''4306. Regulations.''.

(2) REFERENCE.—Section 4304(b)(3) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking ''section 4305'' and inserting ''section 4306''.

By Mrs. BOXER (for herself, Mr. SMITH, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. BROWN):

S. 968. A bill to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to provide increased assistance for the prevention, treatment, and control of tuberculosis, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, today, I rise to introduce the bipartisan Stop TB Now Act of 2007. I am joined in this effort by Senators GORDON SMITH, DICK DURBIN, and SHERROD BROWN.

For 8 years, I have worked with Senator SMITH to fight the spread of international tuberculosis. I appreciate his help on this bill. I am also grateful for the support of Senate Majority Whip DICK DURBIN, as well as Senator BROWN, who was the leader on international TB issues when he was a member of the House of Representatives.

The need for this legislation is clear. Tuberculosis kills 1.6 million people per year—1 person every 15 seconds. One-third of the world is infected with the bacteria that causes TB and an estimated 8.8 million individuals develop active TB each year. And tuberculosis is a leading cause of death among women of reproductive age and of people who are HIV-positive.

While developing nations are most heavily impacted by TB, there is also a concern here at home. My State of California has more TB cases than any other State in the country and 10 of the top 20 U.S. metro areas with the highest TB rates are in California.

The best way to treat TB is through DOTS, which stands for directly observed treatment, short course. This treatment ensures a steady and uninterrupted supply of drugs to prevent the spread of multi-drug resistant TB. It costs just $20–100 per person to treat regular TB with DOTS. But it costs 1,400 times that amount to treat a person with multi-drug resistant TB.

Today, we face an even more dangerous problem—the outbreak of extremely drug resistant TB. In some cases, this form of TB is untreatable. In one South African town, 53 TB patients were found to have XDR–TB. All but one died. We must fully fund international TB control efforts because drug-resistant TB happens when people fail to complete treatment.

To stop the spread of tuberculosis, the international community came together last year to develop the Global Plan to Stop TB, a comprehensive assessment of the resources and actions needed to cut the number of TB deaths in half by 2015.

My bill will bring U.S. policy in line with this plan by authorizing $330 million for fiscal year 2008 and $450 million for fiscal year 2009. for foreign assistance programs that combat international TB. The bill also authorizes $70 million for fiscal year 2008 and $100 million for fiscal year 2009 for the Centers for Disease Control programs to combat international TB.

TB kills more people than any other curable disease in the world. We have a moral obligation to take the steps necessary to meet this challenge.

By Mr. DODD (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. KENNEDY):

S. 969. A bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act to modify the definition of supervisor; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Re-empowerment of Skilled and Professional Employees and Construction Tradeworkers Act, or RESPECT Act, a bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act to modify the definition of supervisor. I am pleased to be joined by Senators DURBIN and KENNEDY as original cosponsors and would like to acknowledge Congressman ANDREWS for championing this legislation in the House of Representatives.

The RESPECT Act would make vital changes to the definition of supervisor to ensure that no employee is unjustly denied his or her right to join a labor union. This is a very simple bill just four lines of text making a few definitional changes to the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA). Yet the livelihoods of thousands, possibly millions, of workers are at stake in those few lines. Workers designated as supervisors may not join a union or engage in collective bargaining. As a result, some employers have sought to deny many workers their right to organize by unfairly classifying them as supervisors. And unfortunately, President Bush's appointees on the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) have upheld these unfair classifications.

The NLRB has struggled for years with the definition of supervisor. Twice in the last ten years, its attempts to define supervisory status have been reviewed and rejected by the Supreme Court. But despite this, the NLRB refused to hear oral arguments for the three decisions it handed down last October—Oakwood Healthcare, Inc., Golden Crest Healthcare Center, and Croft Metals, Inc. These decisions are known collectively as the Kentucky River decisions, after the 2001 Supreme Court case of NLRB v. Kentucky River.

The NLRB ruled that many charge nurses are supervisors, even though they have no authority to hire, fire, or discipline other employees. In the course of their responsibilities to provide the best care possible to their patients, many rank-and-file nurses occasionally rotate through a limited oversight role, such as assigning other nurses to patients based on workload or a nurse's particular specialty. But on a pretext as slim as that, employers would keep their workers from unionizing altogether.

In the Oakwood decision, the hospital argued that 127 of its 181 nurses were supervisors. Though the NLRB found that only 12 were in fact supervisors, its decision left the door open for widespread abuse. Under its ruling, only 10 percent of a worker's time in a supervisory capacity is enough to lock him or her out of a union.

Following that precedent, another hospital declared a ludicrous number of its registered nurses to be supervisors—and an NLRB Regional Director agreed. 17 of 20 registered nurses in the Intensive Care Unit were declared supervisors; 6 of 7 in the Medical Unit; 9 of 11 in Neonatal Intensive Care; and in the Inpatient Rehabilitation Unit—all 7. Fictitious classifications like these show just how far some will go to keep workers from bargaining fairly. And, sadly, they demonstrate just how far the NLRB will go to facilitate these false and unfair classifications.

Though recent NLRB decisions have targeted nurses, the dangerous precedent they set threatens the rights of workers in countless industries. The NLRB has opened a Pandora's box: Laborers who sometimes work with assistants, or skilled craftsmen who take apprentices, can be barred from unions by the same false logic that prevents nurses from organizing.

These decisions are written on more than paper. They're written on real lives, on workers in the thousands and millions, on the dignity of their labor, the health of their children, and the security of their old age. For them, legal fiction becomes painful fact: Without their fair seat at the table, workers will possibly see lower wages, longer hours, more dangerous working conditions, and threats to their healthcare and retirement.

The services they provide will suffer as well. Take the case of nurses: Many fear retribution if they speak out on their own about unsafe practices that could endanger patients' lives. Instead, many rely on their unions to provide a strong, unified voice for improved patient care. It's in our interest to keep that voice strong—just one example of how healthy unions benefit us all.

The bill introduced today, the RESPECT Act, offers a commonsense step to protect workers' rights. It deletes the terms ''assign'' and ''responsibly to direct'' from the definition of supervisor—terms that the NLRB drastically expanded to justify its rulings. The bill also would require that, to be classified as a supervisor, an employee must actually be one by specifying that an employee must spend the majority of his or her worktime in a supervisory capacity.

That's hardly a radical innovation—in fact, it returns us to Congress's original intent. In 1947, the Senate Committee Report on amendments to

the National Labor Relations Act stated that:

the committee has not been unmindful of the fact that certain employees with minor supervisory duties have problems which may justify their inclusion in that act. It has therefore distinguished between straw bosses, leadmen, set-up men, and other minor supervisory employees, on the one hand, and the supervisor vested with. . .genuine management prerogatives.

Clearly, Congress did not intend to deny the right to organize to those workers whose jobs require only occasional and minor supervisory duties. The RESPECT Act restores that sensible precedent.

It's not by chance that the rise of the labor movement coincided with the rise of the largest and strongest middle class the world has ever seen. The achievements of the labor unions have made it possible for many working men and women to send their children to college, to store up savings for sickness, injury, and old age—to move from deprivation to dignity. The labor movement greatly contributed to the strengthening of the American middle class.

Organized labor was opposed at every step—sometimes by intimidation, sometimes by violence, sometimes by propaganda. Today it is opposed by specious reasoning and twisted definitions of a kind I've rarely seen in public life. I hope my colleagues will be moved to support this bill out of their respect for honesty alone. But add the fact that the security and dignity of so many of their constituents depend on the right to organize and bargain, and the case becomes as clear as day. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 969

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Re-empowerment of Skilled and Professional Employees and Construction Tradesworkers Act'' or the ''RESPECT Act''.

SEC. 2. AMENDMENT OF THE NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS ACT.

Section 2(11) of the National Labor Relations Act (29 U.S.C. 152(11)) is amended—

(1) by inserting ''and for a majority of the individual's worktime'' after ''interest of the employer'';

(2) by striking ''assign,''; and

(3) by striking ''or responsibly to direct them,''.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I come to the floor to join Senator DODD and Senator KENNEDY in introducing the Re-empowerment of Skilled Professional Employees and Construction Tradesworkers Act, also known as the RESPECT Act.

This legislation will amend the National Labor Relations Act to modify the definition of ''supervisor.'' It is necessary because of recent rulings by the National Labor Relations Board, which has determined that millions of workers do not fall within the definition of ''supervisor.'' An employee who is deemed a ''supervisor'' under the National Labor Relations Act does not have collective bargaining rights or other labor protections.

The NLRB rulings in these so-called Kentucky River cases have an enormous impact on nurses. According to the amicus brief filed by the American Nurses Association and United American Nurses, AFL–CIO, in these cases, ''[o]f the more than 2.1 million people working as registered nurses in the United States in the year 2002, 15.6 per cent were union members. Registered nurses covered by a collective bargaining agreement can earn approximately 11 per cent more per week than non-unionized nurses. . . .''

There are 800,000 nurses in this country—40,000 nurses in my home State of Illinois alone. We owe it to these nurses to find a workable definition of the term ''supervisor'' so that they and other professional employees and construction tradesworkers receive the labor protections that Congress intended.

The supervisor exclusion was created in 1947 when Congress adopted the Taft-Hartley amendments to the National Labor Relations Act. The Act defines ''supervisor'' as:

[A]ny individual having authority, in the interest of the employer, to hire, transfer, suspend, lay off, recall, promote, discharge, assign, reward, or discipline other employees, or responsibly to direct them, or to adjust their grievances, or effectively to recommend such action, if in connection with the foregoing the exercise of such authority is not of a merely routine or clerical nature, but requires the use of independent judgment.

The interpretation and application of this definition has resulted in years of litigation before the NLRB and courts of appeals. The United States Supreme Court last spoke on the issue in 2001. In NLRB v. Kentucky River Community Care, Inc., 532 U.S. 706 (2001), it reviewed the Board's test for determining supervisory status and rejected the Board's interpretation. The Supreme Court's decision left open the interpretation of the term ''supervisor'' and three cases were filed before the National Labor Relations Board to address this issue: Oakwood Healthcare, Inc., Case 7–CA–22141, Golden Crest Healthcare Center, Cases 18–RC–16415 and 18–RC–16416, and Croft Metals, Inc., Case 15–RC–8393.

The NLRB refused to hear oral argument in these cases despite the fact that its attempt to define supervisory status had been reviewed and rejected by the Supreme Court and it has been more than 5 years since the Court's decision in Kentucky River. In July, I joined Senator KENNEDY and other Democrats in a letter to the Chairman of the NLRB to urge that the Board reconsider its decision not to allow oral arguments in these cases. The NLRB refused.

In October 2006, the Board issued its rulings and expanded the meaning of the definition of ''supervisor'' by expanding the meaning of the terms ''assign'' and ''responsibly to direct.'' The NLRB rulings override the intent of Congress not to exclude minor supervisory officials, professionals, skilled craftpersons, and nurses from labor protections.

Last December, I noted that several States are suffering from nursing shortages. This legislation is necessary to alleviate the nursing crisis. More than 72 percent of hospitals experience nursing shortages, and 1.2 million nursing positions need to be filled within the next decade. By denying nurses the right to collectively bargain, pay will surely decrease and the working environment of these nurses will deteriorate, thereby driving even more nurses out of the profession and discouraging individuals from entering the field.

I urge my colleagues to join Senators DODD, KENNEDY, and I in supporting the RESPECT Act—an important effort to help American nurses, other skilled professional employees, and construction tradesworkers.

By Mr. SMITH (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. COLEMAN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. BAYH, Mr. KYL, Mr. THUNE, Ms. MIKULSKI, and Mr. MENENDEZ):

S. 970. A bill to impose sanctions on Iran and on other countries for assisting Iran in developing a nuclear program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to address a serious concern more than 20 years in the making. In large part because of the secrecy over its nuclear program, America's National Security Strategy for 2006 identifies Iran as one of the greatest challenges to the United States. The Senate recognized this threat in January 2006 by unanimously condemning Iran's refusal to comply with its nuclear nonproliferation obligations. Last September, this body unanimously passed mandatory sanctions on persons who knowingly helped Iran acquire or develop weapons of mass destruction. And all the while, Tehran continued its pursuit of a nuclear program that, unchecked, will lead to a nuclear-armed Iran.

I cannot overestimate the threat that this poses to the security of the United States and our allies. Since the revolution that brought it to power, the theocracy that rules over Iran has demonstrated its contempt for the democratic ideals on which our country is based. It has held its own people hostage in an effort to maintain absolute control over their destiny. And it has spewed forth hate-filled rhetoric at regular intervals about the very existence of the state of Israel—a valued American ally in the Middle East.

After years of vigorous diplomacy by Britain, France, and Germany failed to

persuade the Iranians to give up their nuclear program, the United Nations Security Council passed a resolution in December 2006 calling for the suspension of all enrichment-related activities. Iran ignored that demand, and instead, responded by stepping up their nuclear program. Inaction in the face of such an egregious challenge is a mockery of the international institutions where diplomatic solutions are tried and tested. Now is the time to use every tool in our arsenal short of military force to stop the Iranian regime from developing nuclear weapons, and to send the message that the international community will not tolerate flagrant violations of our combined will.

I have heard the calls of my colleagues that all efforts should be made to avoid military intervention in Iran. I agree with them entirely. But Mr. President, I will not stand idle while up to 3,000 centrifuges in Natanz enrich uranium that one day soon could tip a warhead aimed at the U.S. or our allies around the world.

Today I am introducing legislation designed to persuade Tehran to give up its nuclear ambitions. The Iran Counter-Proliferation Act of 2007 will significantly strengthen our economic sanctions against Iran and any entities that choose to support the regime. I am pleased that Senator DURBIN has joined me in this effort, as well as Senators COLEMAN, LAUTENBERG, BROWNBACK, LIEBERMAN, KYL, BAYH, and THUNE.

This legislation urges the Administration to pursue measures in the international financial sector to restrict financing in Iran and encourages foreign state-owned entities to cease investment in Iran's energy sector. It prohibits all imports from and exports to Iran. It forbids any action that would extend preferential trade treatment to Iran or that would lead to Iranian accession to the WTO. And it freezes assets of senior Iranian officials and their families. By cutting off Iran's access to the hard currency it needs, we can increase the cost of their decision to pursue its nuclear program.

The legislation also singles out Russia—a country that has contributed significantly to the development of Iran's nuclear program and has significant financial ties with Tehran. Among other restrictions, the bill prevents the United States from moving forward with a multi-billion dollar nuclear cooperation agreement with Moscow until the President certifies that Russia has suspended its nuclear assistance and the transfers of any conventional weapons and missiles to Iran. The Russians may feel this is unfair, particularly in light of their recent announcement they would suspend the delivery of nuclear fuel to Iran's Bushehr reactor. I am pleased with this decision and hope that it is the beginning of a new view in Moscow of Iran's nuclear program. But we must remember that over the past decade, Russia has periodically suspended its nuclear assistance to Iran only to resume this assistance at a later date.

The Iran Counter-Proliferation Act also seeks to bring to light the names of companies that continue to feel it is appropriate to do business with the mullahs in Tehran. It requires the Administration to submit an annual report to Congress listing any foreign investments in Iran's energy sector since January 1 of this year and a determination on whether such investment is sanctionable under the Iran Sanctions Act. And it requires a report listing companies with American operations, whether or not they are incorporated in the United States, which invest in Iran.

In a further effort to highlight the cost to Iran of ignoring the demands of the international community, this legislation will reduce our contributions to the World Bank by the percentage of total money the World Bank loans to entities in Iran. The United States does not support these loans, and I urge those countries contributing the most to the World Bank to oppose such loans in the future.

Finally, Mr. President, the Iran Counter-Proliferation Act calls on the Administration to designate the Iranian Revolutionary Guard as a Foreign Terrorist Organization and to add it to the Treasury's list of Specially Designated Global Terrorists. Funding is increased for the Office of Terrorism and Financial Intelligence to strengthen the Treasury's efforts to combat unlawful or terrorist financing.

It is critical for us to realize that our problems with Iran are not with the Iranian people, whose legitimate aspirations to live freely in a normal, prosperous country should be recognized. As such, this legislation designates $10 million in funding to enhance our friendship with the people of Iran by identifying young Iranians to visit the United States under U.S. exchange programs.

The time for action is now. I hope my colleagues agree with me that we must use every available tool short of military force to compel the Iranian regime to abandon completely, verifiably, and irreversibly their pursuit of a nuclear weapons capability. I recognize that sanctions are not always popular, but we need to give them a chance to work. By doing nothing, we limit our future options in addressing this significant threat to the United States.

I ask unanimous consent that the full text of the legislation be printed in the RECORD.

I urge my colleagues to support the Iran Counter-Proliferation Act of 2007.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 970

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Iran Counter-Proliferation Act of 2007''.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) For more than 20 years, Iran has pursued a secret nuclear program that is intended to produce a nuclear weapons capability for Iran.

(2) The Government of Iran has consistently misled the United Nations, the International Atomic Energy Agency, and the United States as to the objectives and scope of its nuclear activities.

(3) Iran has refused to comply with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1737, adopted on December 23, 2006, which called for the suspension of all enrichment-related and reprocessing activities and is advancing work at its largest nuclear facility.

(4) The International Atomic Energy Agency is unable to verify the absence of undeclared nuclear material and activities in Iran and its Director-General has stated that Iran could be 6 months to a year away from acquiring the material necessary to make a nuclear weapon.

(5) An Iranian nuclear weapons capability poses a grave threat to the security of the United States and its allies around the world.

(6) It is in the national security interests of the United States to prevent Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapons capability.

(7) The United States should use all political, economic, and diplomatic tools at its disposal to prevent Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapons capability.

(8) Nothing in this Act should be construed as giving the President the authority to use military force against Iran.

SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

The following is the sense of Congress:

(1) The United States should pursue vigorously all measures in the international financial sector to restrict Iran's ability to conduct international financial transactions, including prohibiting banks in the United States from handling indirect transactions with Iran's state-owned banks and prohibiting financial institutions that operate in United States currency from engaging in dollar transactions with Iranian institutions.

(2) The United States Trade Representative or any other Federal official should not take any action that would extend preferential trade treatment to, or lead to the accession to the World Trade Organization of, any country that is determined by the Secretary of State to offer government-backed export credit guarantees to companies that invest in Iran or any country in which the government owns or partially owns an entity that invests in Iran.

(3) Iran should comply fully with its obligations under United Nations Security Council Resolution 1737, and any subsequent United Nations resolutions related to Iran's nuclear program, and in particular the requirement to suspend without delay all enrichment-related and reprocessing activities, including research and development, and all work on all heavy water-related nuclear activities, including research and development.

(4) The United Nations Security Council should take further measures beyond Resolution 1737 to tighten sanctions on Iran, including preventing new investment in Iran's energy sector, as long as Iran fails to comply with the international community's demand to halt its nuclear enrichment campaign.

(5) The United States should encourage foreign governments to direct state-owned entities to cease all investment in Iran's energy sector and all imports to and exports from Iran of refined petroleum products and to persuade, and, where possible, require private entities based in their territories to cease all investment in Iran's energy sector and all imports to and exports from Iran of refined petroleum products.

(6) Administrators of Federal and State pension plans should divest all assets or holdings from foreign companies and entities that have invested or invest in the future in Iran's energy sector.

(7) Iranian state-owned banks should not be permitted to use the banking system of the United States.

(8) The Secretary of State should designate the Iranian Revolutionary Guards as a Foreign Terrorist Organization under section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1189) and the Secretary of the Treasury should place the Iranian Revolutionary Guards on the list of Specially Designated Global Terrorists under Executive Order 13224 (66 Fed. Reg. 186; relating to blocking property and prohibiting transactions with persons who commit, threaten to commit, or support terrorism).

SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term ''appropriate congressional committees'' has the meaning given that term in section 14(2) of the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996 (Public Law 104–172; 50 U.S.C. 1701 note).

(2) INVESTMENT.—The term ''investment'' has the meaning given that term in section 14(9) of the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996 (Public Law 104–172; 50 U.S.C. 1701 note).

(3) IRANIAN DIPLOMATS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER GOVERNMENT AND MILITARY OR QUASI-GOVERNMENTAL INSTITUTIONS OF IRAN.—The term ''Iranian diplomats and representatives of other government and military or quasi-governmental institutions of Iran'' has the meaning given that term in section 14(11) of the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996 (Public Law 104–172; 50 U.S.C. 1701 note).

(4) FAMILY MEMBER.—The term ''family member'' means, with respect to an individual, the spouse, children, grandchildren, or parents of the individual.

SEC. 5. CLARIFICATION AND EXPANSION OF DEFINITIONS.

(a) PERSON.—Section 14(13)(B) of the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996 (Public Law 104–172; 50 U.S.C. 1701 note) is amended—

(1) by inserting ''financial institution, insurer, underwriter, guarantor, and other business organization, including any foreign subsidiary, parent, or affiliate of the foregoing,'' after ''trust,''; and

(2) by inserting '', such as an export credit agency'' before the semicolon.

(b) PETROLEUM RESOURCES.—Section 14(14) of the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996 (Public Law 104–172; 50 U.S.C. 1701 note) is amended by striking ''petroleum and natural gas resources'' and inserting ''petroleum, petroleum by-products, liquefied natural gas, oil or liquefied natural gas, oil or liquefied natural gas tankers, and products used to construct or maintain pipelines used to transport oil or liquefied natural gas''.

SEC. 6. RUSSIA NUCLEAR COOPERATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, and in addition to any other sanction in effect, beginning on the date that is 15 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the policies described in subsection (b) shall apply with respect to Russia, unless the President makes a certification to Congress described in subsection (c).

(b) POLICIES.—The policies described in this subsection are the following:

(1) AGREEMENTS.—The United States may not enter into an agreement for cooperation with Russia pursuant to section 123 of the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 2153).

(2) LICENSES TO EXPORT NUCLEAR MATERIAL, FACILITIES, OR COMPONENTS.—The United States may not issue a license to export directly or indirectly to Russia any nuclear material, facilities, components, or other goods, services, or technology that would be subject to an agreement under section 123 of the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 2153).

(3) TRANSFERS OF NUCLEAR MATERIAL, FACILITIES, OR COMPONENTS.—The United States may not approve the transfer or retransfer directly or indirectly to Russia of any nuclear material, facilities, components, or other goods, services, or technology that would be subject to an agreement under section 123 of the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 2153).

(c) CERTIFICATION.—The certification described in this subsection means a certification made by the President to Congress on or after the date that is 15 days after the date of the enactment of this Act that the President has determined that—

(1) Russia has suspended all nuclear assistance to Iran and all transfers of advanced conventional weapons and missiles to Iran; or

(2) Iran has completely, verifiably, and irreversibly dismantled all nuclear enrichment-related and reprocessing-related programs.

(d) TERMINATION OF POLICIES.—The policies described in subsection (b) shall remain in effect until such time as the President makes the certification to Congress described in subsection (c).

SEC. 7. ECONOMIC SANCTIONS RELATING TO IRAN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, and in addition to any other sanction in effect, beginning on the date that is 15 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the economic sanctions described in subsection (b) shall apply with respect to Iran, unless the President makes a certification to Congress described in subsection (c).

(b) SANCTIONS.—The sanctions described in this subsection are the following:

(1) PROHIBITION ON IMPORTS.—No article that is grown, produced, or manufactured in Iran may be imported directly or indirectly into the United States.

(2) PROHIBITION ON EXPORTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), no article that is the growth, product, or manufacture of the United States may be exported directly or indirectly to Iran.

(B) EXCEPTION FOR FOOD AND MEDICINE.—The prohibition in subparagraph (A) does not apply to exports to Iran of food and medicine grown, produced, or manufactured in the United States.

(3) ACCESSION TO WTO.—The United States Trade Representative or any other Federal official may not take any action that would extend preferential trade treatment to, or lead to the accession to the World Trade Organization of—

(A) Iran; or

(B) any other country that is determined by the Secretary of State to be—

(i) engaged in nuclear cooperation with Iran, including the transfer or sale of any item, material, goods, or technology that can contribute to uranium enrichment or nuclear reprocessing activities of Iran; or

(ii) contributing to the ballistic missile programs of Iran.

(4) FREEZING ASSETS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—At such time as the United States has access to the names of Iranian diplomats and representatives of other government and military or quasi-governmental institutions of Iran, the President shall take such action as may be necessary to freeze immediately the funds and other assets belonging to anyone so named, the family members of those so named, and any associates of those so named to whom assets or property of those so named were transferred on or after January 1, 2007. The action described in the preceding sentence includes requiring any United States financial institution that holds funds and assets of a person so named to report promptly to the Office of Foreign Assets Control information regarding such funds and assets.

(B) ASSET REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 14 days after a decision is made to freeze the property or assets of any person under this paragraph, the President shall report the name of such person to the appropriate congressional committees.

(5) UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS.—The United States Government may not procure, or enter into a contract for the procurement of, any goods or services from a person that meets the criteria for the imposition of sanctions under section 5(a) of the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996 (Public Law 104–172; 50 U.S.C. 1701 note).

(c) CERTIFICATION DESCRIBED.—The certification described in this subsection means a certification made by the President to Congress beginning on the date that is 15 days after the date of the enactment of this Act that the President has determined that Iran has completely, verifiably, and irreversibly dismantled all nuclear enrichment-related and reprocessing-related programs.

(d) TERMINATION OF SANCTIONS.—The sanctions described in subsection (b) shall remain in effect until such time as the President makes the certification to Congress described in subsection (c).

SEC. 8. LIABILITY OF PARENT COMPANIES FOR VIOLATIONS OF SANCTIONS BY FOREIGN ENTITIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In any case in which an entity engages in an act outside the United States that, if committed in the United States or by a United States person, would violate the provisions of Executive Order 12959 (60 Fed. Reg. 89) or Executive Order 13059 (62 Fed. Reg. 162), or any other prohibition on transactions with respect to Iran imposed under the authority of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), the parent company of the entity shall be subject to the penalties for the act to the same extent as if the parent company had engaged in the act.

(b) APPLICABILITY.—Subsection (a) shall not apply to a parent company of an entity on which the President imposed a penalty for a violation described in subsection (a) that was in effect on the date of the enactment of this Act if the parent company divests or terminates its business with such entity not later than 90 days after such date of enactment.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ENTITY.—The term ''entity'' means a partnership, association, trust, joint venture, corporation, or other organization.

(2) PARENT COMPANY.—The term ''parent company'' means an entity that is a United States person and—

(A) the entity owns, directly or indirectly, more than 50 percent of the equity interest by vote or value in another entity;

(B) board members or employees of the entity hold a majority of board seats of another entity; or

(C) the entity otherwise controls or is able to control the actions, policies, or personnel decisions of another entity.

(3) UNITED STATES PERSON.—The term ''United States person'' means—

(A) a natural person who is a citizen of the United States or who owes permanent allegiance to the United States; and

(B) an entity that is organized under the laws of the United States, any State or territory thereof, or the District of Columbia, if natural persons described in subparagraph (A) own, directly or indirectly, more than 50 percent of the outstanding capital stock or other beneficial interest in such entity.

SEC. 9. ELIMINATION OF CERTAIN TAX INCENTIVES FOR OIL COMPANIES INVESTING IN IRAN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (h) of section 167 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to amortization of geological and geophysical expenditures) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(6) DENIAL WHEN IRAN SANCTIONS IN EFFECT.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—If sanctions are imposed under section 5(a) of the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996 or section 7 of the Iran Counter-Proliferation Act of 2007 (relating to sanctions with respect to the development of petroleum resources of Iran) on any member of an expanded affiliated group the common parent of which is a foreign corporation, paragraph (1) shall not apply to any expense paid or incurred by any such member in any period during which the sanctions are in effect.

''(B) EXPANDED AFFILIATED GROUP.—For purposes of subparagraph (A), the term 'expanded affiliated group' means an affiliated group as defined in section 1504(a), determined—

''(i) by substituting 'more than 50 percent' for 'at least 80 percent' each place it appears, and

''(ii) without regard to paragraphs (2), (3), and (4) of section 1504(b).''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply to expenses paid or incurred on or after January 1, 2007.

SEC. 10. WORLD BANK LOANS TO IRAN.

(a) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 180 days thereafter, the Secretary of the Treasury shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on—

(1) the number of loans provided by the World Bank to Iran;

(2) the dollar amount of such loans; and

(3) the voting record of each member of the World Bank on such loans.

(b) REDUCTION OF CONTRIBUTION OF THE UNITED STATES.—The President shall reduce the total amount otherwise payable on behalf of the United States to the World Bank for fiscal year 2008 and each fiscal year thereafter by an amount that bears the same ratio to the total amount otherwise payable as—

(1) the total of the amounts provided by the Bank to entities in Iran, and for projects and activities in Iran, in the preceding fiscal year, bears to

(2) the total of the amounts provided by the Bank to all entities, and for all projects and activities, in the preceding fiscal year.

(c) ALLOCATION OF AMOUNTS NOT CONTRIBUTED TO THE WORLD BANK.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the United States Agency for International Development for fiscal year 2008 and each fiscal year thereafter an amount equal to the revenues made available as a result of the application of subsection (b). Funds appropriated pursuant to this subsection shall be made available for the Child Survival and Health Programs Fund to carry out programs relating to maternal and child health, vulnerable children, and infectious diseases other than HIV/AIDS.

SEC. 11. INCREASED CAPACITY FOR EFFORTS TO COMBAT UNLAWFUL OR TERRORIST FINANCING.

(a) FINDINGS.—The work of the Office of Terrorism and Financial Intelligence of the Department of Treasury, which includes the Office of Foreign Assets Control and the Financial Crimes Enforcement Center, is critical to ensuring that the international financial system is not used for purposes of supporting terrorism and developing weapons of mass destruction.

(b) AUTHORIZATION.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of the Treasury for the Office of Terrorism and Financial Intelligence—

(1) $59,466,000 for fiscal year 2008; and

(2) such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 2009 and 2010.

(c) AUTHORIZATION AMENDMENT.—Section 310(d)(1) of title 31, United States Code, is amended by striking ''such sums as may be necessary for fiscal years 2002, 2003, 2004, and 2005'' and inserting ''$85,844,000 for fiscal year 2008 and such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 2009 and 2010''.

SEC. 12. NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE ESTIMATE ON IRAN.

As required under section 1213 of the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 (Public Law 109–364; 120 Stat. 2422), the Director of National Intelligence shall submit to Congress an updated, comprehensive National Intelligence Estimate on Iran.

SEC. 13. EXCHANGE PROGRAMS WITH THE PEOPLE OF IRAN.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the United States should seek to enhance its friendship with the people of Iran, particularly by identifying young people of Iran to come to the United States under United States exchange programs.

(b) EXCHANGE PROGRAMS AUTHORIZED.—The President is authorized to carry out exchange programs with the people of Iran, particularly the young people of Iran. Such programs shall be carried out to the extent practicable in a manner consistent with the eligibility for assistance requirements specified in section 302(b) of the Iran Freedom Support Act (Public Law 109–293; 120 Stat. 1348).

(c) AUTHORIZATION.—Of the amounts available under the heading ''Educational and Cultural Exchange Programs'', under the heading ''Administration of Foreign Affairs'', under title IV of the Science, State, Justice, Commerce, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2006 (Public Law 109–108; 119 Stat. 2321), there is authorized to be appropriated to the President to carry out this section $10,000,000 for fiscal year 2008.

SEC. 14. RADIO BROADCASTING TO IRAN.

The Broadcasting Board of Governors shall devote a greater proportion of the programming of the Radio Farda service to programs offering news and analysis to further the open communication of information and ideas to Iran.

SEC. 15. INTERNATIONAL REGIME FOR THE ASSURED SUPPLY OF NUCLEAR FUEL FOR PEACEFUL MEANS.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the Concept for a Multilateral Mechanism for Reliable Access to Nuclear Fuel, proposed by the United States, France, the Russian Federation, the Federal Republic of Germany, the United Kingdom, and the Netherlands on May 31, 2006, is welcome and should be expanded upon at the earliest possible opportunity;

(2) the proposal by the Government of the Russian Federation to bring one of its uranium enrichment facilities under international management and oversight is also a welcome development and should be encouraged by the United States;

(3) the offer by the Nuclear Threat Initiative (NTI) of $50,000,000 in funds to support the creation of an international nuclear fuel bank by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is also welcome, and the United States and other member states of the IAEA should pledge collectively at least an additional $100,000,000 in matching funds to fulfill the NTI proposal; and

(4) the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership, initiated by President Bush in January 2006, is intended to provide a reliable fuel supply throughout the fuel cycle and promote the nonproliferation goals of the United States.

(b) POLICY.—It is the policy of the United States to support the establishment of an international regime for the assured supply of nuclear fuel for peaceful means under a multilateral authority, such as the International Atomic Energy Agency.

(c) CONTRIBUTIONS TO IAEA.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the requirements of paragraph (2), the President is authorized to make voluntary contributions on a grant basis to the International Atomic Energy Agency (referred to in this subsection as the ''IAEA'') for the purpose of supporting the establishment of an international nuclear fuel bank to maintain a reserve of low-enriched uranium for the production of reactor fuel to provide to eligible countries in the case of a disruption in the supply of reactor fuel by normal market mechanisms.

(2) REQUIREMENTS FOR CONTRIBUTIONS.—Before making a contribution under paragraph (1), the President shall certify to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate that—

(A) the IAEA has received pledges in a total amount of not less than $100,000,000 from other governments or entities for the purpose of supporting the establishment of the international nuclear fuel bank referred to in paragraph (1);

(B) the international nuclear fuel bank referred to in paragraph (1) will be under the oversight of the IAEA or another multilateral authority; and

(C) the international nuclear fuel bank will provide nuclear reactor fuel to a country only if—

(i) at the time of the request for nuclear reactor fuel, the country is in full compliance with its IAEA safeguards agreement and has an additional protocol for safeguards in force;

(ii) in the case of a country that at any time prior to the request for nuclear reactor fuel has been determined to be in noncompliance with its IAEA safeguards agreement, the IAEA Board of Governors determines that the country has taken all necessary actions to satisfy any concerns of the IAEA Director General regarding the activities that led to the prior determination of noncompliance;

(iii) the country agrees to use the nuclear reactor fuel in accordance with its IAEA safeguards agreement; and

(iv) the country does not operate uranium enrichment or spent-fuel reprocessing facilities of any scale.

(3) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated $50,000,000 to carry out this section for fiscal year 2008. Amounts appropriated for this section are authorized to remain available until September 30, 2010.

SEC. 16. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.

(a) FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN IRAN.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 180 days thereafter, the Secretary of the Treasury shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on—

(1) any foreign investments made in Iran's energy sector since January 1, 2007; and

(2) the determination of the President on whether each such investment qualifies as a sanctionable offense under section 5(a) of the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996 (Public Law 104–172; 50 U.S.C. 1701 note).

(b) INVESTMENT BY UNITED STATES COMPANIES IN IRAN.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary of the Treasury shall report to the appropriate congressional committees the names of persons

that have operations or conduct business in the United States that have invested in Iran and the dollar amount of each such investment.

(c) INVESTMENT BY FEDERAL THRIFT SAVINGS PLAN IN IRAN.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Executive Director of the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board shall report to the appropriate congressional committees on any investment in entities that invest in Iran from the Thrift Savings Fund established under section 8437 of title 5, United States Code.

(d) LIST OF DESIGNATED FOREIGN TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State and the Secretary of the Treasury shall report to the appropriate congressional committees on the efforts of the Secretary of State and the Secretary of the Treasury to place the Iranian Revolutionary Guards on the list of designated Foreign Terrorist Organizations under section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1189) and the list of Specially Designated Global Terrorists under Executive Order 13224 (66 Fed. Reg. 186; relating to blocking property and prohibiting transactions with persons who commit, threaten to commit, or support terrorism).

(e) ESTABLISHMENT OF INTERNATIONAL REGIME.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate a report on the activities of the United States to support the establishment of an international regime for the assured supply of nuclear fuel for peaceful means under a multilateral authority, such as the International Atomic Energy Agency.

(f) EXPORT CREDITS.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 90 days thereafter, the Secretary of the Treasury shall report to the appropriate congressional committees on the export credits issued by foreign banks to persons investing in the energy sector of Iran, and any fines, restrictions, or other actions taken by the President to discourage or prevent the issuance of such export credits.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today, my colleagues, Senator GORDON SMITH, Senator FRANK LAUTENBERG, and I join together to introduce bipartisan legislation to use economic and diplomatic measures to help convince the Iranian Government to turn away from its path toward the development of nuclear weapons.

The Iran Counter-Proliferation Act of 2007 would strengthen our economic sanctions regime against Iran until Iran completely, verifiably, and irreversibly dismantles all nuclear enrichment and reprocessing programs.

The bill, for example, would penalize foreign oil companies with U.S. subsidiaries doing business in Iran and would forbid the awarding of U.S. Government contracts to those who have violated our existing sanctions against Iran.

The bill reiterates the requirement to produce a National Intelligence Estimate on Iran mandated in last year's Defense Authorization bill.

In addition to these measures, the bill addresses Russia's role in exporting nuclear and military technology to Iran.

Nuclear cooperation agreements with Russia would be prohibited if that country continues to assist Iran in developing nuclear weapons. The United States could not enter into such an agreement with Moscow, absent a Presidential certification that Russia's assistance to Iran has ceased.

This week has brought some promising news. Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs Nicholas Burns testified before the Senate Banking Committee that Russia has begun applying pressure on Iran to abandon its nuclear ambitions. That is most welcome, and if the President provides the verification that Russia's nuclear assistance to Iran has ceased—and that this is a sea change and not merely a contract dispute—then our other negotiations with Russia can proceed unimpeded.

I firmly believe that we should offer positive incentives if Iran does change course and abandon its programs to develop nuclear weapons. Iran has energy needs, and we hope that they will join us and the community of nations in the peaceful acquisition of those resources.

This legislation authorizes $50 million to the International Atomic Energy Agency to support the establishment of an international nuclear fuel bank, a concept originally proposed by Congressman TOM LANTOS. This bank would maintain a reserve of low-enriched uranium for reactor fuel and make it available to countries in full compliance with IAEA safeguards which do not operate uranium enrichment or spent-fuel reprocessing facilities. It is our hope that Iran will become one of these nations.

Because members of the American public are our best ambassadors and America itself is the strongest evidence of the benefits of freedom and prosperity, this bill increases the authorization for funding for young Iranians to come to the United States as part of exchange programs.

I support efforts to engage with Tehran's leaders regarding Iraq. They should recognize that they, too, have a vested interest in regional peace and security. This bill is aimed at an issue which we cannot compromise: the Iranian acquisition of nuclear weapons.

Iran's leaders face a choice of whether to pursue a legitimate goal of peaceful nuclear power for their citizens or a dangerous strategy to develop nuclear weapons. We must provide the economic and political pressure as well as incentives to help Iran choose the path to legitimacy and nuclear nonproliferation. This legislation will help achieve that goal.

By Mr. BOND (for himself and Mr. HARKIN):

S. 971. A bill to establish the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, to provide funding for the support of fundamental agricultural research of the highest quality, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce legislation with Sen. HARKIN to establish the National Institute of Food and Agriculture to support fundamental agricultural research of the highest quality. I present this to begin a critical discussion about how we are going to ensure the United States capitalizes on new technology to maximize the benefits and minimize the costs of our agricultural production.

We remain the world leader in food and fiber production. We do it safely and through technology and the hard work of the American farmer. In the past half century, the number of people fed by a single U.S. farm has grown from 19 to 129. Our farmers and farm leaders are on the cutting edge of developing new technology. And we have seen the innovations continue to come down the pike. This has made it possible for one farmer to feed 129 people.

In addition, we export $60 billion worth of agricultural products, and we do so at less cost and at less harm to the environment than any of our competitors around the world, again, because of new practices, diligence on the part of farmers, and new technology.

In a world that has a decreasing amount of soil available for cultivation, we have a growing population and we still have 800 million children who are hungry or malnourished throughout the world. Unless we maximize technology and new practices, production will continue to overtax the world's natural resources.

Many people legitimately have raised concerns regarding new diseases and pests and related food safety issues. And they are growing. The ability of U.S. agriculture producers to maintain our world leadership in this environment is only as solid as our willingness to commit to forward-looking investments.

Now, we also know from past experience that with new technology the doors are being opened to novel new uses of renewable agricultural products in the fields of energy, medicine, and industrial products. In the future, we can make our farm fields and farm animals factories for everyday products, fuels, and medicines in a way that is efficient and better preserves our natural resources. Advances in the life sciences have come about, such as genetics, proteomics, and cell and molecular biology. They are providing the base for new and continuing agricultural innovations.

It was only about a dozen years ago that farmers in Missouri came to me to tell me about the potential that genetic engineering and plant biotechnology had for improving the production of food, and doing so with less impact on the environment, providing more nutritious food. Since that time, I have had a wonderful, continuing education, not in how it works but what it can do.

We know now, for example, that in hungry areas of the world as many as half a million children go blind from Vitamin A deficiency, and maybe a

million die from this deficiency. Through plant biotechnology, the International Rice Research Institute in the Philippines and others have developed Golden Rice, taking a gene from the sunflower, a beta-carotene gene, and they enrich the rice. The Golden Rice now has that Vitamin A, and that is going to make a significant difference in dealing with malnutrition.

We also know that in many areas of the world, where agricultural production has overtaxed the land, where drought has cut the production, where virus has plagued production, the way we can make farmers self-sufficient and restore the farm economy in many of these countries, is through plant biotechnology. But this is just the beginning. This legislation I am introducing today seeks to lay the foundation for tremendous advances in the future.

This legislation stems from findings and recommendations produced by a distinguished group of scientists working on the Agricultural Research, Economics and Education Task Force, which I was honored to be able to include in the 2002 farm bill. The distinguished task force was led by Dr. William H. Danforth, of St. Louis, the brother of our former distinguished colleague, Senator Jack Danforth. Dr. Bill Danforth has a tremendous reputation in science and in education, with a commitment to human welfare and is known worldwide. He was joined by Dr. Nancy Betts, the University of Nebraska; Mr. Michael Bryan, president of BBI International; Dr. Richard Coombe, the Watershed Agricultural Council; Dr. Victor Lechtenbert, Purdue University; Dr. Luis Sequeira, the University of Wisconsin; Dr. Robert Wideman, the University of Arkansas; and Dr. H. Alan Wood, Mississippi State University.

I extend my congratulations and my sincere gratitude to Dr. Danforth and his team for providing the basis and the roadmap to ensure we have the mechanisms in place to solve the problems and capitalize on the opportunities in agricultural research. The full report of the task force can be found at www.ars.usda.gov/research.htm.

In summary, that study concludes that it is absolutely necessary we reinvigorate and forward focus our technology to meet the responsibilities of our time. New investment is critical for the world's consumers, the protection of our natural resources, the standard of living for Americans who labor in rural America, and for the well-being of the hungry people and the needy people throughout the world.

This legislation is supported by the some 22 Member and Associate Member Societies of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology, as well as the Institute of Food Technologists, American Society of Agronomy, Crop Science Society of America, Soil Science Society of America, the Council for Agricultural Research, the National Coalition for Food and Agricultural Research, the American Soybean Association, National Cattlemen's Beef Association, National Chicken Council, National Corn Growers Association, National Farmers Union, National Milk Producers Federation, National Pork Producers Council, National Turkey Federation, Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges and the United Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Association.

I look forward to pursuing this vision in the 110th Congress. I invite my colleagues who are interested in science and research to review this report, to look at this measure, to join with me and Senator HARKIN to talk about moving forward on what I think will be a tremendous opportunity to improve agriculture and its benefits to all our populations.

I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 971

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''National Institute of Food and Agriculture Act of 2007''.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) the task force established under section 7404 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 3101 note; 116 Stat. 457)—

(A) conducted an exhaustive review of agricultural research in the United States; and

(B) evaluated the merits of establishing 1 or more national institutes focused on disciplines important to the progress of food and agricultural science;

(2) according to findings and recommendations provided to Congress by the task force—

(A) agriculture in the United States faces critical challenges, including impending crises in the food, agricultural, and natural resource systems of the United States;

(B) exotic diseases and pests threaten crops and livestock;

(C) the United States faces a public health epidemic due to the increasing number of overweight and obese Americans;

(D) agriculturally-related environmental degradation is a serious problem for the United States and other parts of the world;

(E) certain animal diseases threaten human health; and

(F) agricultural producers in the United States of several primary crops are no longer the world's lowest-cost producers;

(3) to meet those critical challenges, it is essential that the United States ensure that the agricultural innovation that has been so successful in the past continues in the future;

(4) agricultural innovation has resulted in hybrid and higher-yielding varieties of basic crops and enhanced the global food supply by increasing yields on existing acres;

(5) since 1960, the global population has tripled, but there has been no net increase in the quantity of land in the United States under cultivation;

(6) as of the date of enactment of this Act, only 1.5 percent of the population of the United States provides food and fiber to partially supply the needs of the United States;

(7)(A) agriculture, fundamental agricultural research, and fundamental sciences play a major role in maintaining the health and welfare of all people of the United States and maintaining the land and water of the United States; and

(B) that role must be expanded;

(8) research that leads to understandings of the ways in which cells and organisms function is critical to continued innovation in agriculture in the United States;

(9) future innovations developed as a result of those understandings are dependent on fundamental scientific research and would be enhanced by ideas and technologies from other fields of science and research;

(10) opportunities to advance fundamental knowledge of benefit to agriculture in the United States have never been greater;

(11) many of those new opportunities are the result of amazing progress in the life sciences during recent decades, attributable in large part to the provision made by the Federal Government through the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation;

(12) new technologies and new concepts have expedited advances in the fields of genetics, cell and molecular biology, and proteomics;

(13) much of that scientific knowledge is ready to be used in agriculture and food sciences through a sustained, disciplined research effort at an institute dedicated to conducting that research;

(14) publicly-sponsored research is essential to continued agricultural innovation—

(A) to mitigate or harmonize the long-term effects of agriculture on the environment;

(B) to enhance the long-term sustainability of agriculture; and

(C) to improve the public health and welfare;

(15) competitive, peer-reviewed fundamental agricultural research is best suited to promoting the research from which breakthrough innovations that agriculture and society require will come;

(16) it is in the national interest to dedicate additional funds on a long-term, ongoing basis to an institute dedicated to funding competitive, peer-reviewed grant programs that support and promote the highest caliber of fundamental agricultural research;

(17) the capability of the United States to be internationally competitive in agriculture is threatened by inadequate investment in research;

(18) to be successful over the long term, grant-receiving institutions must be adequately reimbursed for costs of conducting agricultural research if the institutions are to pursue that kind of research; and

(19) to meet those challenges, address those needs, and to provide for vitally needed agricultural innovation, it is in the national interest to provide sufficient Federal funds over the long term to fund a significant program of fundamental agricultural research through an independent national institute.

(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to establish a national institute—

(1) to ensure that the technological superiority of agriculture in the United States effectively serves the people of the United States in the coming decades; and

(2) to support and promote fundamental agricultural research of the highest caliber to achieve the goals of—

(A) increasing the international competitiveness of agriculture in the United States;

(B) developing foods and expanding knowledge to improve diet, nutrition, and health, and to combat obesity;

(C) decreasing the dependence of the United States on foreign sources of petroleum by—

(i) developing biobased fuels and products;

(ii) enhancing methods of production at biobased fuels refineries;

(iii) reducing energy consumption at biobased fuel refineries; and

(iv) increasing the use of coproducts of biobased fuels production;

(D) creating new and more useful products from plants and animals;

(E) improving food safety to reduce the incidence of foodborne illness in the United States;

(F) improving food security by protecting plants and animals in the United States from insects, diseases, and the threat of bioterrorism;

(G) enhancing agricultural sustainability;

(H) improving the environment;

(I) strengthening the economies of rural communities in the United States;

(J) improving farm profitability and the viability and competitiveness of small and moderate-sized farms;

(K) strengthening national security by improving the agricultural productivity of subsistence farmers in developing countries to combat hunger and the political instability that hunger produces;

(L) assisting in modernizing and revitalizing the agricultural research facilities of the United States at institutions of higher education, independent, nonprofit research institutions, and consortia of those institutions, through capital investment; and

(M) achieving such other goals, and meeting such other needs, as the Secretary or the Institute determines to be appropriate.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) COUNCIL.—The term ''Council'' means the Standing Council of Advisors established by section 4(d)(1).

(2) DEPARTMENT.—The term ''Department'' means the Department of Agriculture.

(3) DIRECTOR.—The term ''Director'' means the Director of the Institute.

(4) FUNDAMENTAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH; FUNDAMENTAL SCIENCE.—The terms ''fundamental agricultural research'' and ''fundamental science'' mean research or science that, as determined by the Secretary—

(A) advances the frontiers of knowledge so as to lead to practical results or to further scientific discovery; and

(B) has an effect on agriculture, food, human health, or another purpose of this Act as described in section 2(b).

(5) INSTITUTE.—The term ''Institute'' means the National Institute of Food and Agriculture established by section 4(a).

(6) MULTIDISCIPLINARY GRANT.—The term ''multidisciplinary grant'' means a grant provided to 2 or more collaborating investigators to carry out coordinated, multidisciplinary research programs involving multiple disciplines that has been approved by the Institute.

(7) PROJECT GRANT.—The term ''project grant'' means a grant provided to 1 or more principal investigators to conduct research that has been approved by the Institute.

(8) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Agriculture.

(9) STATE.—The term ''State'' means—

(A) each of the several States of the United States;

(B) the District of Columbia;

(C) the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico;

(D) Guam;

(E) American Samoa;

(F) the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands;

(G) the Federated States of Micronesia;

(H) the Republic of the Marshall Islands;

(I) the Republic of Palau; and

(J) the United States Virgin Islands.

(10) UNITED STATES.—The term ''United States'', when used in a geographical sense, means all of the States.

SEC. 4. ESTABLISHMENT; COMPOSITION.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established within the Department an agency to be known as the ''National Institute of Food and Agriculture''.

(b) LOCATION.—The location of the Institute shall be determined by the Secretary.

(c) COMPOSITION.—The Institute shall be composed of the Council (including committees and offices established under section 5) and the Director.

(d) STANDING COUNCIL OF ADVISORS.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a Standing Council of Advisors.

(2) COMPOSITION.—The Council shall be composed of 25 members, including—

(A) the Director; and

(B) 24 members appointed by the Secretary, with the concurrence of the Director, of whom—

(i) 12 members shall be highly-qualified scientists who, as determined by the Secretary—

(I) are not employees of the Federal Government;

(II)(aa) have expertise in the fields of agricultural research, science, food and nutrition, or related appropriate fields; and

(bb) represent a diversity of those fields;

(III) are appropriate for membership on the Council solely on the basis of established records of distinguished service; and

(IV) collectively represent the views of agricultural research and scientific leaders in all regions of the United States; and

(ii) 12 stakeholders shall be distinguished members of the public, as determined by the Secretary, including—

(I) representatives of agricultural organizations and industry; and

(II) individuals with expertise in the environment, subsistence agriculture, energy, food and nutrition, and human health and disease.

(3) TERM.—The members of the Council shall serve staggered, 4-year terms, as determined by the Secretary.

(4) MEETINGS.—The Council shall meet at the call of the Director and the Secretary, but not less often than annually.

(5) CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON.—The Council shall elect a Chairperson and Vice Chairperson from among the members of the Council.

(6) DUTIES.—The Council shall—

(A) assist the Director in—

(i) establishing research priorities of the Institute; and

(ii) reviewing, judging, and maintaining the relevance of the programs of the Institute;

(B) review all proposals approved by the scientific committees established under section 5(a)(1) to ensure, to the maximum extent practicable, that the purposes of this Act are being met; and

(C) through the meetings described in paragraph (4), provide an interface between scientists and stakeholders to ensure, to the maximum extent practicable, that the Institute is coordinating national goals with realistic scientific opportunities.

(e) DIRECTOR.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Institute shall be headed by a Director, who shall be an individual who is—

(A) a distinguished scientist; and

(B) appointed by the President (after taking into consideration recommendations provided by the Council), by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

(2) TERM.—The Director shall serve for a single, 6-year term.

(3) COMPENSATION.—The Director shall receive basic pay at the rate provided for level II of the Executive Schedule under section 5513 of title 5, United States Code.

(4) SUPERVISION.—The Director shall report directly to the Secretary.

(5) AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF DIRECTOR.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise specifically provided in this Act, the Director shall—

(i) exercise all of the authority provided to the Institute by this Act (including any powers and functions delegated to the Director by the Council);

(ii) in consultation with the Council, formulate programs in accordance with policies adopted by the Institute;

(iii) establish committees and offices within the Institute in accordance with section 5;

(iv) establish procedures for the peer review of research funded by the Institute;

(v) establish procedures for the provision and administration of grants by the Institute in accordance with this Act;

(vi) assess the personnel needs of agricultural research in the areas supported by the Institute, and, if determined to be appropriate by the Director or the Secretary, for other areas of food and agricultural research; and

(vii) cooperate with the Council to plan programs that will help meet agricultural personnel needs in the future, including portable fellowship and training programs in fundamental agricultural research and fundamental science.

(B) FINALITY OF ACTIONS.—An action taken by the Director in accordance with this Act (or in accordance with the terms of a delegation of authority from the Council) shall be final and binding upon the Institute.

(C) DELEGATION AND REDELEGATION OF FUNCTIONS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clauses (ii) and (iii), the Director may, from time to time and as the Director considers to be appropriate, authorize the performance by any other officer, agency, or employee of the Institute of any of the functions of the Director under this Act, including functions delegated to the Director by the Council.

(ii) POLICYMAKING FUNCTIONS.—The Director may not redelegate policymaking functions delegated to the Director by the Council.

(iii) CONTRACTS, GRANTS, AND OTHER ARRANGEMENTS.—The Director may enter into contracts and other arrangements, and provide grants, in accordance with this Act—

(I) only with the prior approval of the Council or under authority delegated by the Council; and

(II) subject to such conditions as the Council may specify.

(iv) REPORTING.—The Director shall promptly report each contract or other arrangement entered into, each grant awarded, and each other action of the Director taken, under clause (iii) to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate and the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives.

(6) STATUS ON COUNCIL.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall be an ex officio member of the Council.

(B) COMPENSATION AND TENURE.—Except with respect to compensation and tenure, the service of the Director on the Council shall be coordinated with the service of other members of the Council.

(C) VOTING; ELECTION.—The Director shall be—

(i) a voting member of the Council; and

(ii) eligible for election by the Council as Chairperson or Vice Chairperson of the Council.

(7) STAFF.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to this paragraph, the Director shall recruit and hire such senior staff and other personnel as are

necessary to assist the Director in carrying out this Act.

(B) SENIOR STAFF.—Each individual hired as senior staff of the Director shall—

(i) be a highly accomplished scientist, as determined by the Director;

(ii) be recruited from the active scientific community; and

(iii) be appointed and serve on the basis of 4-year, rotating appointments.

(C) TEMPORARY STAFF.—Staff hired by the Director under this paragraph may include scientists and other technical and professional personnel hired for limited terms, or on temporary bases, including individuals on leave of absence from academic, industrial, or research institutions to work for the Institute.

(D) COMPENSATION.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clause (ii), subject to such policies as the Council shall periodically prescribe, the Director may fix the compensation of staff hired under this paragraph without regard to the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of title 5, United States Code, relating to classification of positions and General Schedule pay rates.

(ii) MAXIMUM RATE OF PAY.—The rate of pay for an individual hired under this paragraph shall not exceed the rate payable for level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of title 5, United States Code.

(8) REPORTING AND CONSULTATION.—The Director shall—

(A) periodically report to the Secretary with respect to activities carried out by the Institute; and

(B) consult regularly with the Secretary to ensure, to the maximum extent practicable, that—

(i) research of the Institute is relevant to agriculture in the United States and otherwise serves the national interest; and

(ii) the research of the Institute supplements and enhances, and does not replace, research conducted or funded by—

(I) other agencies of the Department;

(II) the National Science Foundation; or

(III) the National Institutes of Health.

SEC. 5. COMMITTEES AND OFFICES OF INSTITUTE.

(a) STANDING SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director may establish such number of standing scientific committees within the Institute as the Director determines to be appropriate.

(2) COMPOSITION.—A standing scientific committee established under paragraph (1) shall consist of such members of the Council appointed under section 4(d)(2)(B)(i) as the Director may select.

(3) TERM.—Members of a standing scientific committee established under paragraph (1) shall serve for staggered, 4-year terms, as determined by the Director.

(4) REVIEW OF PROPOSALS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—A standing scientific committee shall apply rigorous merit review to research proposals received by the Institute to ensure, to the maximum extent practicable, that research funded by the Institute is scientifically of high quality.

(B) DETERMINATION OF SCIENTIFIC MERIT.—A research proposal received by the Institute and reviewed by a standing scientific committee under subparagraph (A) shall be—

(i) assigned a score based on the scientific merit of the proposal, as determined by the standing scientific committee; and

(ii) if approved by the standing scientific committee, forwarded, along with the score, to the Council for final review.

(C) DECLINATION OF PROPOSALS.—If the Council determines that a research proposal forwarded under this paragraph does not meet standards of scientific review established by a standing scientific committee or any similar standard established by the Director, the Council shall decline to recommend the research proposal for funding by the Institute.

(5) AD HOC REVIEW MEMBERS.—The Director may supplement a standing scientific committee under this subsection with 1 or more ad hoc reviewers in a case in which a research proposal received by the Institute requires specialized knowledge not represented on that or any other standing scientific committee.

(b) OFFICES.—

(1) OFFICE OF ADVANCED SCIENCE AND APPLICATION.—

(A) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Director shall establish within the Institute an Office of Advanced Science and Application (referred to in this paragraph as the ''Office'').

(B) DUTIES.—The Office shall—

(i) closely monitor national needs and advances in research with the goal of identifying pressing problems for which solutions are realistically achievable through research;

(ii) coordinate creative talent from diverse disciplines to bridge potential gaps between fundamental agricultural research and high-priority, practical needs; and

(iii) recommend to the Director ways in which existing fundamental agricultural research may be applied to the most urgent problems addressed by the Institute.

(C) STAFF.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The Office shall employ a small, focused staff of rotating experts in science and agriculture.

(ii) TALENT POOL; TERM.—Primary staff of the Office—

(I) shall be appointed from the ranks of active scientists; and

(II) shall serve terms of not to exceed 3 years.

(D) INTENSIVE STUDY GROUPS.—The Office shall—

(i) focus primarily on the most urgent problems addressed by the Institute; and

(ii) assemble such intensive study groups as are necessary to address those problems.

(E) REPORTS.—The Office shall submit to the Director and the Council periodic reports that—

(i) describe the activities being carried out by the Office; and

(ii) recommended new research priorities for the Office, as appropriate.

(2) OFFICE OF SCIENTIFIC ASSESSMENT AND LIAISON.—

(A) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Director shall establish within the Institute an Office of Scientific Assessment and Liaison (referred to in this paragraph as the ''Office'').

(B) DUTIES.—The Office shall—

(i) monitor the effectiveness of the scientific expenditures by the Institute;

(ii) oversee the coordination of research efforts of the Institute with those of other programs;

(iii) assess the effectiveness of programs of the Institute by evaluating—

(I) the quality of the science funded by the Institute, using such tools as are readily available; and

(II) the contributions of the Institute to the national research effort, including ways in which the Institute collaborates and cooperates with the Department and with other Federal agencies; and

(iv) encourage cooperative approaches among various research agencies within the Federal Government.

(3) OFFICE OF SCIENTIFIC PERSONNEL.—

(A) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Director shall establish within the Institute an Office of Scientific Personnel (referred to in this paragraph as the ''Office'').

(B) DUTIES.—The Office shall—

(i) cooperate with scientific and agricultural experts to assess—

(I) the number of scientists in agriculture and related fields in the United States; and

(II) how many additional scientists in agriculture and related fields are needed to meet the purposes of this Act; and

(ii) generate and maintain data that may assist the Director and the Council in planning appropriate Institute fellowship and training programs.

(4) ADDITIONAL OFFICES.—The Director may establish such additional offices within the Institute as the Director or the Council determines to be necessary to carry out the duties of the Institute under this Act.

SEC. 6. DUTIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Institute shall provide competitive, peer-reviewed grants in accordance with section 8(b) to support and promote the highest quality of fundamental agricultural research, including grants to fund research proposals submitted by—

(1) individual scientists;

(2) research centers composed of a single institution or multiple institutions; and

(3) other individuals and entities from the private and public sectors, including researchers of the Department and other Federal agencies.

(b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than December 31, 2008, and biennially thereafter, the Institute shall submit to the Secretary, the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate, and the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives a comprehensive report that describes the research funded and other activities carried out by the Institute during the period covered by the report.

SEC. 7. POWERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Institute shall have such authority as is necessary to carry out this Act, including the authority—

(1) to promulgate such regulations as the Institute considers to be necessary for governance of operations, organization, and personnel;

(2) to make such expenditures as are necessary to carry out this Act;

(3) to enter into contracts or other arrangements, or modifications of contracts or other arrangements—

(A) to provide for the conduct, by organizations or individuals in the United States (including other agencies of the Department, Federal agencies, and agencies of foreign countries), of such fundamental agricultural research, research relating to fundamental science, or related activities as the Institute considers to be necessary to carry out this Act; and

(B) at the request of the Secretary, for the conduct of such specific fundamental agricultural research as is in the national interest or is otherwise of critical importance, as determined by the Secretary, with the concurrence of the Institute;

(4) to make advance, progress, and other payments relating to research and scientific activities without regard to subsections (a) and (b) of section 3324 of title 31, United States Code;

(5) to acquire by purchase, lease, loan, gift, or condemnation, and to hold and dispose of by grant, sale, lease, or loan, real and personal property of all kinds necessary for, or resulting from, the exercise of authority under this Act;

(6) to receive and use donated funds, if the funds are donated without restriction other than that the funds be used in furtherance of 1 or more of the purposes of the Institute;

(7) to publish or arrange for the publication of research and scientific information to further the full dissemination of information

of scientific value consistent with the national interest, without regard to section 501 of title 44, United States Code;

(8)(A) to accept and use the services of voluntary and uncompensated personnel; and

(B) to provide such transportation and subsistence as are authorized by section 5703 of title 5, United States Code, for individuals serving without compensation;

(9) to prescribe, with the approval of the Comptroller General of the United States, the extent to which vouchers for funds expended under contracts for scientific or engineering research shall be subject to itemization or substantiation prior to payment, without regard to the limitations of other laws relating to the expenditure and accounting of public funds;

(10) to arrange with and reimburse the Secretary, and the heads of other Federal agencies, for the performance of any activity that the Institute is authorized to conduct; and

(11) to enter into contracts, at the request of the Secretary, for the carrying out of such specific agricultural research as is in the national interest or otherwise of critical importance, as determined by the Secretary, with the consent of the Institute.

(b) TRANSFER OF RESEARCH FUNDS OF OTHER DEPARTMENTS OR AGENCIES.—Funds available to the Secretary, or any other department or agency of the Federal Government, for agricultural or scientific research shall be—

(1) available for transfer, with the approval of the Secretary or the head of the other appropriate department or agency involved, in whole or in part, to the Institute for use in providing grants in accordance with the purposes for which the funds were made available; and

(2) if so transferred, expendable by the Institute for those purposes.

(c) RESTRICTION ON ACTIVITIES.—The Institute—

(1) shall be a grant-making entity only; and

(2) shall not—

(A) conduct fundamental agricultural research or research relating to fundamental science; or

(B) operate any laboratory or pilot facility.

SEC. 8. BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS.

(a) BUDGETARY MANAGEMENT GOALS.—The Director, in coordination with the Secretary, shall manage the budget of the Institute to achieve the goals of—

(1) providing sufficient funds over a period of time to achieve the purposes of this Act;

(2) fostering outstanding scientific talent, and directing that talent toward work on issues relating to agriculture; and

(3) adequately reimbursing grant-receiving institutions for costs to encourage the pursuit of agriculturally-related research.

(b) BUDGETARY GUIDELINES FOR GRANTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—To achieve the goals described in subsection (a), the Institute shall, to the maximum extent practicable, ensure that grants awarded for each fiscal year comply with the guidelines described in paragraphs (2) and (3).

(2) PROJECT GRANTS.—With respect to project grants, to the maximum extent practicable—

(A) the Institute shall award approximately 1,000 new project grants annually;

(B) the average project grant amount, including overhead, shall be approximately $225,000 for each fiscal year, as adjusted in accordance with the Consumer Price Index for all-urban consumers, United States city average, as published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics;

(C) a project grant shall be provided for a maximum period of 5 years, with an average award duration of 3.5 years;

(D) the Institute shall require the recipients of a project grant to submit appropriate reports on research carried out using funds from the project grant; and

(E) the Institute shall provide such number of training project grants as the Director or the Institute determines to be appropriate.

(3) MULTIDISCIPLINARY GRANTS.—With respect to multidisciplinary grants, to the maximum extent practicable—

(A) for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2011, the Institute shall provide 10 multidisciplinary grants;

(B) for fiscal year 2012 and subsequent fiscal years, the Institute shall provide multidisciplinary grants to fund not fewer than 40 research centers, on the conditions that—

(i) sufficient funds are available; and

(ii) a sufficient number of qualified research proposals are received;

(C) the research centers provided multidisciplinary grants may be composed of a single institution or multiple institutions;

(D) the average multidisciplinary grant amount, including overhead, shall be approximately $3,000,000 for each fiscal year, as adjusted in accordance with the Consumer Price Index for all-urban consumers, United States city average, as published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics;

(E) a multidisciplinary grant shall be provided for a maximum period of 5 years;

(F) in the aggregate, multidisciplinary grants provided under this paragraph for a fiscal year shall represent approximately 15 percent of the total grants provided by the Institute for the fiscal year, on the condition that a sufficient number of qualified research proposals are received for the fiscal year; and

(G) merit review of the research proposal relating to the multidisciplinary grant is conducted to ensure, to the maximum extent practicable, that only quality research proposals are funded.

(c) INDIRECT COSTS.—As part of a project grant or multidisciplinary grant provided under this Act, the Institute shall pay indirect costs of conducting research, including the costs of overhead, to the recipient of the grant at a rate that is not less than any standard negotiated rate applicable to similar grants made by the National Institutes of Health or the National Science Foundation, as of the date of enactment of this Act, as determined by the Secretary.

SEC. 9. FUNDING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Of the funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation, the Secretary shall use to carry out this Act—

(1) for fiscal year 2008, $245,000,000 for project grants, of which not more than $20,000,000 shall be made available for administrative expenses incurred by the Institute;

(2) for fiscal year 2009, $515,000,000, of which—

(A) not less than $450,000,000 shall be made available for project grants;

(B) not less than $30,000,000 shall be made available for multidisciplinary grants; and

(C) not more than $35,000,000 shall be available for administrative expenses incurred by the Institute;

(3) for fiscal year 2010, $780,000,000, of which—

(A) not less than $675,000,000 shall be made available for project grants;

(B) not less than $60,000,000 shall be made available for multidisciplinary grants; and

(C) not more than $45,000,000 shall be made available for administrative expenses incurred by the Institute;

(4) for fiscal year 2011, $935,000,000, of which—

(A) not less than $800,000,000 shall be made available for project grants;

(B) not less than $90,000,000 shall be made available for multidisciplinary grants; and

(C) not more than $45,000,000 shall be made available for administrative expenses incurred by the Institute; and

(5) for fiscal year 2012 and each fiscal year thereafter, $966,000,000, of which—

(A) not less than $800,000,000 shall be made available for project grants;

(B) not less than $120,000,000 shall be made available for multidisciplinary grants; and

(C) not more than $46,000,000 shall be made available for administrative expenses incurred by the Institute.

(b) LIMITATION.—For fiscal year 2012 and each subsequent fiscal year, administrative expenses paid by the Institute shall not exceed 5 percent of the total expenditures of the Institute for the fiscal year.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, today, Senator BOND and I are introducing the National Institute of Food and Agriculture Act of 2007. The 2002 farm bill created a Research, Education and Economics Task Force within the Department of Agriculture (USDA)to evaluate agricultural research. A key recommendation of this task force was to create a National Institute for Food and Agriculture (NIFA) within USDA in order to support fundamental food and agricultural research to ensure that American agriculture remains competitive now and in the future. This bill does exactly that. The NIFA would be a grant-making agency that funds food and agricultural research through a competitive, peer-reviewed process. These funds would be in addition to, not as a substitute for, current research programs at USDA's Agricultural Research Service (ARS) and Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES).

American agriculture must ensure that our Nation continues to produce safe and nutritious food for an increasing population.

Other challenges include renewable energy production, rural development, food safety, nutrition and quality, and conserving the environment. The Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry held a hearing on agricultural research on March 7 of this year, and it became clear to me that what we need in agricultural research is not only more resources, but also more competitive funding while at the same time, preserving the capacity funding necessary for intramural research, extension and education at USDA and at our land-grant institutions. The NIFA Act of 2007 contains $3.4 billion of mandatory funding for the next 5 years to provide the food and agriculture sector with the innovation needed to confront these and other challenges facing American farmers and consumers of food and agriculture products now and in the future. Over a 10-year period, this legislation would provide for research a little over 1 percent of total mandatory funding at the Department of Agriculture. One percent is certainly a relatively modest investment given the public benefits of agricultural research, the results of which we reap every day as we consume a safe and affordable food supply, and as we look to increase farm-based renewable energy and biobased products. If we do not invest in research

now, increased globalization and competition from foreign markets will become real threats to U.S. agriculture. I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting the National Institute of Food and Agriculture Act of 2007.

By Mr. LAUTENBERG (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. HARKIN, and Mr. BROWN):

S. 972. A bill to provide for the reduction of adolescent pregnancy, HIV rates, and other sexually transmitted diseases, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I rise to introduce the Responsible Education About Life or ''REAL'' Act along with my cosponsors Senators KENNEDY, MURRAY, SCHUMER, BOXER, and HARKIN.

The REAL Act aims to reduce adolescent pregnancy, HIV rates, and other sexually transmitted diseases, by providing Federal funds for comprehensive sex education in schools.

Comprehensive sex education is medically accurate, age appropriate education that includes information about both contraception and abstinence. It is an approach that tells our kids the truth.

The REAL act will help young people make smart choices and give them all the information—not just the ''abstinence only'' side of the story.

For years, taxpayer dollars have been flooded into unproven ''abstinence-only'' programs—while no federal program is dedicated to comprehensive sex education.

Under the Bush administration, Federal support for ''abstinence-only'' education has expanded rapidly.

The proof is in the numbers. In the last 4 years, the Federal government has spent over $680 million dollars on ''abstinence only'' programs. This year President Bush is asking for another $204 million dollars for ''abstinence only'' education despite little evidence that these programs actually work.

Would you like to know how much money the government has devoted to comprehensive sex education programs over this same time? Zero dollars.

Much of the taxpayer funds going to ''abstinence-only'' programs are essentially being wasted.

After years of ''abstinence only'' programs, the United States still has the highest rates of teen pregnancy in the industrialized world and approximately 50 young Americans a day, an average of two an hour, are infected with HIV.

We have tried denying young people information about contraception and STD prevention and now it is time to provide them with medically accurate comprehensive sex education.

Comprehensive sex education simply works better.

It is a fact that teenagers who receive sex education that includes discussion of contraception are more likely to delay sexual activity than those who receive abstinence-only education.

The American public knows what works. Parents do not want sexual education programs limited to abstinence in schools. More than eight in 10 Americans favor comprehensive sexuality education programs that include information about contraception over those that only promote abstinence.

The stakes are high: of the 19 million cases of sexually transmitted diseases every year in the United States, almost half of them strike young people between the ages of 15 and 24.

These aren't just numbers. These are our sons and daughters whose health and well-being are jeopardized when ideology comes before sound public policy.

That is why we are introducing this legislation today. It's time for a more balanced approach; it's time to protect out kids, and it's time to get REAL.

The REAL Act is step in a more effective direction. It brings sex education up-to-date in a way that will reflect the serious issues and real life situations millions of young people find themselves in every year.

Young people have a right to accurate and complete information that could protect their health and even save their lives. I urge my colleagues to support the REAL Act and make it possible to give young people the tools to make safe and responsible decisions.

I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 972

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Responsible Education About Life Act''.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds as follows:

(1) The American Medical Association (''AMA''), the American Nurses Association (''ANA''), the American Academy of Pediatrics (''AAP''), the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (''ACOG''), the American Public Health Association (''APHA''), and the Society of Adolescent Medicine (''SAM'') support responsible sexuality education that includes information about both abstinence and contraception.

(2) Recent scientific reports by the Institute of Medicine, the American Medical Association, and the Office on National AIDS Policy stress the need for sexuality education that includes messages about abstinence and provides young people with information about contraception for the prevention of teen pregnancy, HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases (''STDs'').

(3) Government-funded abstinence-only-until-marriage programs are precluded from discussing contraception except to talk about failure rates. An October 2006 report from the Government Accountability Office concluded that the current administration of abstinence-only-until-marriage programs by the Department of Health and Human Services (''HHS'') fails to require medical accuracy of the vast majority of funded programs and that no regular monitoring of medical accuracy is being carried out by HHS. The Government Accountability Office also reported on the Department's total lack of appropriate and customary measurements to determine if funded programs are effective. In addition, a separate letter from the Government Accountability Office in October 2006 to the Secretary of Health and Human Services Michael Leavitt contained a legal finding that the Department was in violation of Federal law, in particular section 317P(c)(2) of the Public Health Services Act (42 U.S.C. 247b–17(c)(2)), for not requiring abstinence-only-until-marriage programs to provide full and medically accurate information about the effectiveness of condoms. The Department has argued that the abstinence-only-until-marriage programs are exempt from the law; however, the Government Accountability Office disagrees.

(4) A 2006 statement from the American Public Health Association (''APHA'') ''recognizes the importance of abstinence education, but only as part of a comprehensive sexuality education program . . . APHA calls for repealing current federal funding for abstinence-only programs and replacing it with funding for a new Federal program to promote comprehensive sexuality education, combining information about abstinence with age-appropriate sexuality education.''.

(5) The Society for Adolescent Medicine (''SAM'') in a 2006 position paper found the following: ''Efforts to promote abstinence should be provided within health education programs that provide adolescents with complete and accurate information about sexual health, including information about concepts of healthy sexuality, sexual orientation and tolerance, personal responsibility, risks of HIV and other STIs and unwanted pregnancy, access to reproductive health care, and benefits and risks of condoms and other contraceptive methods... Current funding for abstinence-only programs should be replaced with funding for programs that offer comprehensive, medically accurate sexuality education''.

(6) Research shows that teenagers who receive sexuality education that includes discussion of contraception are more likely than those who receive abstinence-only messages to delay sexual activity and to use contraceptives when they do become sexually active.

(7) Comprehensive sexuality education programs respect the diversity of values and beliefs represented in the community and will complement and augment the sexuality education children receive from their families.

(8) The median age of puberty is 13 years and the average age of marriage is over 26 years old. American teens need access to full, complete, and medically and factually accurate information regarding sexuality, including contraception, STD/HIV prevention, and abstinence.

(9) Although teen pregnancy rates are decreasing, the United States has the highest teen pregnancy rate in the industrialized world with between 750,000 and 850,000 teen pregnancies each year. Between 75 and 90 percent of teen pregnancies among 15- to 19-year olds are unintended.

(10) A November 2006 study of declining pregnancy rates among teens concluded that the reduction in teen pregnancy between 1995 and 2002 is primarily the result of increased use of contraceptives. As such, it is critically important that teens receive accurate, unbiased information about contraception.

(11) More than eight out of ten Americans believe that young people should have information about abstinence and protecting themselves from unplanned pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases.

(12) The United States has the highest rate of infection with sexually transmitted diseases of any industrialized country. In 2005, there were approximately 19,000,000 new

cases of sexually transmitted diseases, almost half of them occurring in young people ages 15 to 24. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, these sexually transmitted diseases impose a tremendous economic burden with direct medical costs as high as $14,100,000,000 per year.

(13) Each year, teens in the United States contract an estimated 9.1 million sexually transmitted infections. Each year, one in four sexually active teens contracts a sexually transmitted disease.

(14) Nearly half of the 40,000 annual new cases of HIV infections in the United States occur in youth ages 13 through 24. Approximately 50 young people a day, an average of two young people every hour of every day, are infected with HIV in the United States.

(15) African-American and Latino youth have been disproportionately affected by the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Although African-American adolescents ages 13 through 19 represent only 15 percent of the adolescent population in the United States, they accounted for 73 percent of new AIDS cases reported among teens in 2004. Although Latinos ages 20 through 24 represent only 18 percent of the young adults in the United States, they accounted for 23 percent of the new AIDS cases in 2004.

SEC. 3. ASSISTANCE TO REDUCE TEEN PREGNANCY, HIV/AIDS, AND OTHER SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES AND TO SUPPORT HEALTHY ADOLESCENT DEVELOPMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Each eligible State shall be entitled to receive from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, for each of the fiscal years 2008 through 2012, a grant to conduct programs of family life education, including education on both abstinence and contraception for the prevention of teenage pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS.

(b) REQUIREMENTS FOR FAMILY LIFE PROGRAMS.—For purposes of this Act, a program of family life education is a program that—

(1) is age-appropriate and medically accurate;

(2) does not teach or promote religion;

(3) teaches that abstinence is the only sure way to avoid pregnancy or sexually transmitted diseases;

(4) stresses the value of abstinence while not ignoring those young people who have had or are having sexual intercourse;

(5) provides information about the health benefits and side effects of all contraceptives and barrier methods as a means to prevent pregnancy;

(6) provides information about the health benefits and side effects of all contraceptives and barrier methods as a means to reduce the risk of contracting sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS;

(7) encourages family communication about sexuality between parent and child;

(8) teaches young people the skills to make responsible decisions about sexuality, including how to avoid unwanted verbal, physical, and sexual advances and how not to make unwanted verbal, physical, and sexual advances; and

(9) teaches young people how alcohol and drug use can effect responsible decisionmaking.

(c) ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES.—In carrying out a program of family life education, a State may expend a grant under subsection (a) to carry out educational and motivational activities that help young people—

(1) gain knowledge about the physical, emotional, biological, and hormonal changes of adolescence and subsequent stages of human maturation;

(2) develop the knowledge and skills necessary to ensure and protect their sexual and reproductive health from unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted disease, including HIV/AIDS throughout their lifespan;

(3) gain knowledge about the specific involvement of and male responsibility in sexual decisionmaking;

(4) develop healthy attitudes and values about adolescent growth and development, body image, gender roles, racial and ethnic diversity, sexual orientation, and other subjects;

(5) develop and practice healthy life skills including goal-setting, decisionmaking, negotiation, communication, and stress management;

(6) promote self-esteem and positive interpersonal skills focusing on relationship dynamics, including, but not limited to, friendships, dating, romantic involvement, marriage and family interactions; and

(7) prepare for the adult world by focusing on educational and career success, including developing skills for employment preparation, job seeking, independent living, financial self-sufficiency, and workplace productivity.

SEC. 4. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that while States are not required to provide matching funds, they are encouraged to do so.

SEC. 5. EVALUATION OF PROGRAMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—For the purpose of evaluating the effectiveness of programs of family life education carried out with a grant under section 3, evaluations of such program shall be carried out in accordance with subsections (b) and (c).

(b) NATIONAL EVALUATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide for a national evaluation of a representative sample of programs of family life education carried out with grants under section 3. A condition for the receipt of such a grant is that the State involved agree to cooperate with the evaluation. The purposes of the national evaluation shall be the determination of—

(A) the effectiveness of such programs in helping to delay the initiation of sexual intercourse and other high-risk behaviors;

(B) the effectiveness of such programs in preventing adolescent pregnancy;

(C) the effectiveness of such programs in preventing sexually transmitted disease, including HIV/AIDS;

(D) the effectiveness of such programs in increasing contraceptive knowledge and contraceptive behaviors when sexual intercourse occurs; and

(E) a list of best practices based upon essential programmatic components of evaluated programs that have led to success in subparagraphs (A) through (D).

(2) REPORT.—A report providing the results of the national evaluation under paragraph (1) shall be submitted to the Congress not later than March 31, 2011, with an interim report provided on a yearly basis at the end of each fiscal year.

(c) INDIVIDUAL STATE EVALUATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A condition for the receipt of a grant under section 3 is that the State involved agree to provide for the evaluation of the programs of family education carried out with the grant in accordance with the following:

(A) The evaluation will be conducted by an external, independent entity.

(B) The purposes of the evaluation will be the determination of—

(i) the effectiveness of such programs in helping to delay the initiation of sexual intercourse and other high-risk behaviors;

(ii) the effectiveness of such programs in preventing adolescent pregnancy;

(iii) the effectiveness of such programs in preventing sexually transmitted disease, including HIV/AIDS; and

(iv) the effectiveness of such programs in increasing contraceptive knowledge and contraceptive behaviors when sexual intercourse occurs.

(2) USE OF GRANT.—A condition for the receipt of a grant under section 3 is that the State involved agree that not more than 10 percent of the grant will be expended for the evaluation under paragraph (1).

SEC. 6. DEFINITIONS.

For purposes of this Act:

(1) The term ''eligible State'' means a State that submits to the Secretary an application for a grant under section 3 that is in such form, is made in such manner, and contains such agreements, assurances, and information as the Secretary determines to be necessary to carry out this Act.

(2) The term ''HIV/AIDS'' means the human immunodeficiency virus, and includes acquired immune deficiency syndrome.

(3) The term ''medically accurate'', with respect to information, means information that is supported by research, recognized as accurate and objective by leading medical, psychological, psychiatric, and public health organizations and agencies, and where relevant, published in peer review journals.

(4) The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

SEC. 7. APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—For the purpose of carrying out this Act, there are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 2008 through 2012.

(b) ALLOCATIONS.—Of the amounts appropriated under subsection (a) for a fiscal year—

(1) not more than 7 percent may be used for the administrative expenses of the Secretary in carrying out this Act for that fiscal year; and

(2) not more than 10 percent may be used for the national evaluation under section 5(b).

By Mr. DORGAN (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. DURBIN, and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 973. A bill to amend the Mandatory Victims' Restitution Act to improve restitution for victims of crime, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I am pleased today to be joined by Senators GRASSLEY, DURBIN and COLLINS in reintroducing the Restitution for Victims of Crime Act. This legislation will give Justice Department officials the tools they say are needed to help them do a better job of collecting court-ordered Federal restitution and fines. It is virtually identical to the bill we introduced in June of last year.

Recent information from the Justice Department suggests the many victims of crime and their families continue to face a significant challenge in trying to recover a sense of emotional and financial security after a crime has been perpetrated against them.

By law, victims of Federal crimes are generally entitled to ''full and timely restitution'' for losses from a convicted offender. Unfortunately new Justice Department data show that the amount of uncollected Federal criminal debt is still spiraling upward—jumping from some $41 billion in fiscal year 2005 to nearly $46 billion at the end of fiscal year 2006. This is a hike of some $5 billion in uncollected Federal

criminal debt int he past fiscal year alone. Criminal debt ordered by Federal courts in North Dakota that remained uncollected at the end of fiscal year 2006 totaled $18.7 million, up almost $4 million from the preceding year.

Crime victims should not have to worry if those in charge of collecting court-ordered restitution on their behalf are making every possible effort to do so. We believe that passing the Restitution for Victimis of Crime Act would greatly help Federal criminal justice officials in this task.

Our bill includes provisions that will remove many existing impediments to increased collections. It will also provide new tools to help Federal criminal justice officials prevent criminal defendants from spending or hiding their ill-gotten gains and other financial assets by setting up pre-conviction procedures for preserving assets for victims' restitution.

I hope that my Senate colleagues will help us get the legislation enacted at the first available opportunity. This will send a clear and much-needed message to white collar and other criminals: if you commit a crime you will be held accountable and will not be allowed to benefit in any way from your criminal activity and ill-gotten gains. I also believe this bill will reassure many innocent victims of Federal crime that the justice system is working hard to recover court-ordered restitution that is owed to such victims.

I understand that criminal debt collection can be a tough job. It may be impossible to collect the full amount of restitution owed to victims in some cases. Clearly criminal debt collections may be more difficult in cases where convicted criminals are in prison, ill-gotten gains are already gone or these criminals are without any other financial means to pay their full restitution.

However, victims of crime in this country should expect Federal law enforcement officials tasked with collecting outstanding restitution to do a better job. At the very least, crime victims should not be concerned that their prospects for financial restitution are being diminished because criminal offenders are frittering away their ill-gotten gains on lavish lifestyles and the like. But, as I have mentioned before, past Government Accountability Office (GAO) investigations rightly give many crime victims real reason to worry. GAO's work made clear that more financial assets could be recovered but for a failure of some criminal justice officials to make criminal debt collection a top priority.

At my request, the GAO reviewed five white-collar financial fraud cases and concluded that the Justice Department's prospects were ''not good for collecting additional restitution from offenders'' owed to the victims—even though one or more of the criminal offenders involved had reported earning millions of dollars in income, having millions in net worth and/or were spending thousands of dollars monthly on entertainment and clothing prior to the judgments entered against them. In addition, the GAO found that certain offenders had taken expensive trips overseas, had fraudulently obtained millions of dollars in assets and converted those assets for personal use, had established businesses for their children, or held homes worth millions of dollars that were located in upscale neighborhoods. Despite all of this reported wealth, GAO found that only a small fraction of court-ordered restitution owed to victims had been collected.

The legislation that Senator GRASSLEY and I are re-introducing today is based on a comprehensive package of recommendations by the Justice Department that stem in large part from the work of the Task Force on Improving the Collection of Criminal Debt. Justice Department officials believe these changes will remove many of the current impediments to better debt collection.

For example, Justice Department officials described a circumstance where they were prevented by a court from accessing $400,000 held in a criminal offender's 401(k) plan to pay a $4 million restitution debt to a victim because that court said the defendant was complying with a $250 minimum monthly payment plan and that payment schedule precluded any other enforcement actions. Our bill would remove impediments like this in the future.

This legislation will address another major problem identified by the GAO for officials in charge of criminal debt collection; that is, many years can pass between the date a crime occurs and the date a court orders restitution. This gives criminal defendants ample opportunity to spend or hide their ill-gotten gains. Our bill sets up pre-conviction procedures for preserving assets for victims' restitution. These tools will help ensure that financial assets traceable to a crime are available when a court imposes a final restitution order on behalf of a victim. These tools are similar to those already used successfully in some States and by Federal officials in certain asset forfeiture cases.

Key provisions of the bill would do the following:

Clarify that court-ordered Federal criminal restitution is due immediately in full upon imposition, just like in civil cases and that any payment schedule ordered by a court is only a minimum obligation of a convicted offender.

Allow Federal prosecutors to access financial information about a defendant in the possession of the U.S. Probation Office—without the need for a court order.

Clarify that final restitution orders can be enforced by criminal justice officials through the Bureau of Prisons' Inmate Financial Responsibility Program.

Ensure that if a court restricts the ability of criminal justice officials to enforce a financial judgment, the court must do so expressly for good cause on the record. Absent exceptional circumstances, the court must require a deposit, the posting of a bond or impose additional restraints upon the defendant from transferring or dissipating assets.

Help ensure better recovery of restitution by requiring a court to enter a pre-conviction restraining order or injunction, require a satisfactory performance bond, or take other action necessary to preserve property that is traceable to the commission of a charged offense or to preserve other nonexempt assets if the court determines that it is in the interest of justice to do so.

Under the bill, a criminal defendant is allowed to challenge a court's prejudgment asset preservation order. For example, a defendant may challenge a post-indictment restraining order if he or she can show that there is no probable cause to justify the restraint or the order does not provide the accused with adequate resources for attorney fees or reasonable living expenses.

Permit the Attorney General to commence a civil action under the Anti-Fraud Injunction Statute to enjoin a person who is committing or about to commit a Federal offense that may result in a restitution order; and permit a court to restrain the dissipation of assets in any case where it has power to enjoin the commission of a crime, not just banking or health care fraud as permitted under current law.

Allow the United States under the Federal Debt Collections Procedure Act to use prejudgment remedies to preserve assets in criminal cases that are similar to those used in civil cases when it is needed to preserve a defendant's assets for restitution. Such remedies, including attachment, garnishment, and receivership, are not currently available in criminal cases because there is no enforceable debt prior to an offender's conviction and judgment.

Clarify that a victim's attorney fees may be included in restitution orders, including cases where such fees are a foreseeable result from the commission of the crime, are incurred to help recover lost property or expended by a victim to defend against third-party lawsuits resulting from the defendant's crime.

Allow courts at their discretion to order immediate restitution to those that have suffered economic losses or serious bodily injury or death as the result of environmental felonies. Under current law, courts can impose restitution in such cases as a condition of probation or supervised release but this means that many victims of environment crimes must wait for years to be compensated for their losses, if at all.

The Restitution for Victims of Crime Act has previously been endorsed by a number of organizations concerned about the well-being of crime victims, including: The National Center for Victims of Crime, Mothers Against Drunk

Driving, the National Organization for Victims Assistance (NOVA), the National Alliance to End Sexual Violence, Parents of Murdered Children, Inc., Justice Solutions, the National Network to End Domestic Violence, the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, and the National Association of VOCA Assistance Administrators (NAVAA). Most recently, the National Crime Victim Law Institute shared its support for our bill.

Last year, United States Attorney Drew Wrigley in Fargo, North Dakota said this legislation ''represents important progress toward ensuring that victims of crime are one step closer to being made whole.''

Senator GRASSLEY and I look forward to working with these groups and others to move this bill forward in the legislative process. With the Justice Department's help, we can make criminal debt collection a top priority for all Federal criminal justice officials once again.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. BAYH, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. COCHRAN, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. HARKIN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 974. A bill to amend title VII of the Tariff Act of 1930 to provide that the provisions relating to countervailing duties apply to nonmarket economy countries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 974

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Stopping Overseas Subsidies Act''.

SEC. 2. APPLICATION OF COUNTERVAILING DUTIES TO NONMARKET ECONOMIES AND STRENGTHENING APPLICATION OF THE LAW.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 701(a)(1) of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1671(a)(1)) is amended by inserting ''(including a nonmarket economy country)'' after ''country'' each place it appears.

(b) USE OF ALTERNATE METHODOLOGIES INVOLVING CHINA.—Section 771(5)(E) of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1677(5)(E)) is amended by adding at the end the following: ''If the administering authority encounters special difficulties in identifying and calculating the amount of a benefit under clauses (i) through (iv) with respect to an investigation or review involving the People's Republic of China, without regard to whether the administering authority determines that China is a nonmarket economy country under paragraph (18) of this section, the administering authority shall use methodologies to identify and calculate the amount of the benefit that take into account the possibility that terms and conditions prevailing in China may not always be available as appropriate benchmarks. In applying such methodologies, where practicable, the administering authority should take into account and adjust terms and conditions prevailing in China before using terms and conditions prevailing outside of China. If the administering authority determines that China is a nonmarket economy country under paragraph (18) of this section, the administering authority shall presume, absent a demonstration of compelling evidence to the contrary, that special difficulties exist in calculating the amount of a benefit under clauses (i) through (iv) with respect to an investigation or review involving China and that it is not practicable to take into account and adjust terms and conditions prevailing in China, and the administering authority shall use terms and conditions prevailing outside of China.''.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsections (a) and (b) apply to petitions filed under section 702 of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1671a) on or after October 1, 2006.

(d) ANTIDUMPING PROVISIONS NOT AFFECTED.—The amendments made by subsections (a) and (b) shall not affect the status of a country as a nonmarket economy country for the purposes of any matter relating to antidumping duties under subtitle B of title VII of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1673 et seq.).

(e) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—The amendments made by subsections (a) and (b) shall not be construed to affect the interpretation of any provision of law as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act with respect to the application of countervailing duties to nonmarket economy countries.

SEC. 3. REVOCATION OF NONMARKET ECONOMY COUNTRY STATUS.

(a) AMENDMENT OF DEFINITION OF ''NONMARKET ECONOMY COUNTRY''.—Section 771(18)(C)(i) of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1677(18)(C)(i)) is amended to read as follows:

''(i) Any determination that a foreign country is a nonmarket economy country shall remain in effect until—

''(I) the administering authority makes a final determination to revoke the determination under subparagraph (A); and

''(II) a joint resolution is enacted into law pursuant to section 3 of the Stopping Overseas Subsidies Act.''.

(b) NOTIFICATION BY PRESIDENT; JOINT RESOLUTION.—Whenever the administering authority makes a final determination under section 771(18)(C)(i)(I) of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1677(18)(C)(i)(I)) to revoke the determination that a foreign country is a nonmarket economy country—

(1) the President shall notify the Committee on Finance of the Senate and the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives of that determination not later than 10 days after the publication of the administering authority's final determination in the Federal Register;

(2) the President shall transmit to the Congress a request that a joint resolution be introduced pursuant to this section; and

(3) a joint resolution shall be introduced in the Congress pursuant to this section.

(c) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this section, the term ''joint resolution'' means only a joint resolution of the 2 Houses of the Congress, the matter after the resolving clause of which is as follows: ''That the Congress approves the change of nonmarket economy status with respect to the products of _____ transmitted by the President to the Congress on _____.'', the first blank space being filled in with the name of the country with respect to which a determination has been made under section 771(18)(C)(i) of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1677(18)(C)(i)), and the second blank space being filled with the date on which the President notified the Committee on Finance of the Senate and the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives under subsection (b)(1).

(d) INTRODUCTION.—A joint resolution shall be introduced (by request) in the House of Representatives by the majority leader of the House, for himself, or by Members of the House designated by the majority leader of the House, and shall be introduced (by request) in the Senate by the majority leader of the Senate, for himself, or by Members of the Senate designated by the majority leader of the Senate.

(e) AMENDMENTS PROHIBITED.—No amendment to a joint resolution shall be in order in either the House of Representatives or the Senate, and no motion to suspend the application of this subsection shall be in order in either House, nor shall it be in order in either House for the presiding officer to entertain a request to suspend the application of this subsection by unanimous consent.

(f) PERIOD FOR COMMITTEE AND FLOOR CONSIDERATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—If the committee or committees of either House to which a joint resolution has been referred have not reported the joint resolution at the close of the 45th day after its introduction, such committee or committees shall be automatically discharged from further consideration of the joint resolution and it shall be placed on the appropriate calendar. A vote on final passage of the joint resolution shall be taken in each House on or before the close of the 15th day after the joint resolution is reported by the committee or committees of that House to which it was referred, or after such committee or committees have been discharged from further consideration of the joint resolution. If, prior to the passage by one House of a joint resolution of that House, that House receives the same joint resolution from the other House, then—

(A) the procedure in that House shall be the same as if no joint resolution had been received from the other House, but

(B) the vote on final passage shall be on the joint resolution of the other House.

(2) COMPUTATION OF DAYS.—For purposes of paragraph (1), in computing a number of days in either House, there shall be excluded any day on which that House is not in session.

(g) FLOOR CONSIDERATION IN THE HOUSE.—

(1) MOTION PRIVILEGED.—A motion in the House of Representatives to proceed to the consideration of a joint resolution shall be highly privileged and not debatable. An amendment to the motion shall not be in order, nor shall it be in order to move to reconsider the vote by which the motion is agreed to or disagreed to.

(2) DEBATE LIMITED.—Debate in the House of Representatives on a joint resolution shall be limited to not more than 20 hours, which shall be divided equally between those favoring and those opposing the joint resolution. A motion further to limit debate shall not be debatable. It shall not be in order to move to recommit a joint resolution or to move to reconsider the vote by which a joint resolution is agreed to or disagreed to.

(3) MOTIONS TO POSTPONE.—Motions to postpone, made in the House of Representatives with respect to the consideration of a joint resolution, and motions to proceed to the consideration of other business, shall be decided without debate.

(4) APPEALS.—All appeals from the decisions of the Chair relating to the application of the Rules of the House of Representatives to the procedure relating to a joint resolution shall be decided without debate.

(5) OTHER RULES.—Except to the extent specifically provided in the preceding provisions of this subsection, consideration of a joint resolution shall be governed by the

Rules of the House of Representatives applicable to other bills and resolutions in similar circumstances.

(h) FLOOR CONSIDERATION IN THE SENATE.—

(1) MOTION PRIVILEGED.—A motion in the Senate to proceed to the consideration of a joint resolution shall be privileged and not debatable. An amendment to the motion shall not be in order, nor shall it be in order to move to reconsider the vote by which the motion is agreed to or disagreed to.

(2) DEBATE LIMITED.—Debate in the Senate on a joint resolution, and all debatable motions and appeals in connection therewith, shall be limited to not more than 20 hours. The time shall be equally divided between, and controlled by, the majority leader and the minority leader or their designees.

(3) CONTROL OF DEBATE.—Debate in the Senate on any debatable motion or appeal in connection with a joint resolution shall be limited to not more than 1 hour, to be equally divided between, and controlled by, the mover and the manager of the joint resolution, except that in the event the manager of the joint resolution is in favor of any such motion or appeal, the time in opposition thereto shall be controlled by the minority leader or his designee. Such leaders, or either of them, may, from time under their control on the passage of a joint resolution, allot additional time to any Senator during the consideration of any debatable motion or appeal.

(4) OTHER MOTIONS.—A motion in the Senate to further limit debate is not debatable. A motion to recommit a joint resolution is not in order.

(i) RULES OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND SENATE.—Subsections (c) through (h) are enacted by the Congress—

(1) as an exercise of the rulemaking power of the House of Representatives and the Senate, respectively, and as such subsections (c) through (h) are deemed a part of the rules of each House, respectively, but applicable only with respect to the procedure to be followed in that House in the case of joint resolutions described in subsection (c), and subsections (c) through (h) supersede other rules only to the extent that they are inconsistent therewith; and

(2) with full recognition of the constitutional right of either House to change the rules (so far as relating to the procedure of that House) at any time, in the same manner and to the same extent as in the case of any other rule of that House.

SEC. 4. STUDY AND REPORT ON SUBSIDIES BY PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.

(a) STUDY.—The United States International Trade Commission shall conduct a study, under section 332 of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1332), regarding how the People's Republic of China uses government intervention to promote investment, employment, and exports. The study shall comprehensively catalog, and when possible quantify, the practices and policies that central, provincial, and local government bodies in the People's Republic of China use to support and to attempt to influence decision-making in China's manufacturing enterprises and industries. Chapters of this study shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

(1) Privatization and private ownership.

(2) Nonperforming loans.

(3) Price coordination.

(4) Selection of industries for targeted assistance.

(5) Banking and finance.

(6) Utility rates.

(7) Infrastructure development.

(8) Taxation.

(9) Restraints on imports and exports.

(10) Research and development.

(11) Worker training and retraining.

(12) Rationalization and closure of uneconomic enterprises.

(b) REPORT.—The Congress requests that—

(1) not later than 9 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the International Trade Commission complete its study under subsection (a), submit a report on the study to the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Finance of the Senate, and make the report available to the public; and

(2) not later than 1 year after the report under paragraph (1) is submitted, and annually thereafter through 2017, the International Trade Commission prepare and submit to the committees referred to in paragraph (1) an update of the report and make the update of the report available to the public.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 117—COMMEMORATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CONSTRUCTION AND DEDICATION OF THE VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL

Mr. HAGEL (for himself, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. KERRY, Mr. WARNER, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. INHOFE, Mrs. CLINTON, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. DODD, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. REED, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. VITTER, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. BURR, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. BROWN, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. SPECTER, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. OBAMA, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. SUNUNU, Mr. TESTER, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. BYRD, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. INOUYE, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. BAUCUS, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. COLEMAN, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. CORKER, Mr. ENSIGN, Mr. MCCONNELL, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. LOTT, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. ENZI, and Mr. ALEXANDER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs:

S. RES. 117

Whereas 2007 marks the 25th anniversary of the construction and dedication of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C.;

Whereas the memorial displays the names of more than 58,000 men and women who lost their lives between 1956 and 1975 in the Vietnam combat area or are still missing in action;

Whereas every year millions of people in the United States visit the monument to pay their respects to those who served in the Armed Forces;

Whereas the Vietnam Veterans Memorial has been a source of comfort and healing for Vietnam veterans and the families of the men and women who died while serving their country; and

Whereas the memorial has come to represent a legacy of healing and demonstrates the appreciation of the people of the United States for those who made the ultimate sacrifice: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses its support and gratitude for all of the men and women who served honorably in the Armed Forces of the United States in defense of freedom and democracy during the Vietnam War;

(2) extends its sympathies to all people in the United States who suffered the loss of friends and family in Vietnam;

(3) encourages the people of the United States to remember the sacrifices of our veterans; and

(4) commemorates the 25th anniversary of the construction and dedication of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

SENATE RESOLUTION 118—URGING THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA TO END THE COMMERCIAL SEAL HUNT

Mr. LEVIN (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. BIDEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 118

Whereas on November 15, 2006, the Government of Canada opened a commercial hunt for seals in the waters off the east coast of Canada;

Whereas an international outcry regarding the plight of the seals hunted in Canada resulted in the 1983 ban by the European Union of whitecoat and blueback seal skins and the subsequent collapse of the commercial seal hunt in Canada;

Whereas the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1361 et seq.) bars the import into the United States of any seal products;

Whereas in February 2003, the Ministry of Fisheries and Oceans in Canada authorized the highest quota for harp seals in Canadian history, allowing nearly 1,000,000 seals to be killed over a 3-year period;

Whereas more than 1,000,000 seals have been killed over the past 3 years;

Whereas harp seal pups can legally be hunted in Canada as soon as they have begun to molt their white coats at approximately 12 days of age;

Whereas 95 percent of the seals killed over the past 5 years were pups between just 12 days and 12 weeks of age, many of which had not yet eaten their first solid meal or taken their first swim;

Whereas a report by an independent team of veterinarians invited to observe the hunt by the International Fund for Animal Welfare concluded that the seal hunt failed to comply with basic animal welfare regulations in Canada and that governmental regulations regarding humane killing were not being respected or enforced;

Whereas the veterinary report concluded that as many as 42 percent of the seals studied were likely skinned while alive and conscious;

Whereas the commercial slaughter of seals in the Northwest Atlantic is inherently cruel, whether the killing is conducted by clubbing or by shooting;

Whereas many seals are shot in the course of the hunt, but escape beneath the ice where they die slowly and are never recovered, and these seals are not counted in official kill statistics, making the actual kill level far higher than the level that is reported;

Whereas the commercial hunt for harp and hooded seals is a commercial slaughter carried out almost entirely by non-Native people from the East Coast of Canada for seal fur, oil, and penises (used as aphrodisiacs in some Asian markets);

Whereas the fishing and sealing industries in Canada continue to justify the expanded seal hunt on the grounds that the seals in