

desk, and I ask for their first reading en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the titles of the bills for the first time en bloc.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 997) to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for human embryonic stem cell research.

A bill (S. 1001) to restore Second Amendment rights in the District of Columbia.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask for a second reading en bloc, and I object to my own request en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The bills will be read a second time on the next legislative day.

FINANCIAL LITERACY MONTH

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 126.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 126) designating April 2007 as "Financial Literacy Month."

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

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I am pleased I have submitted a resolution designating April of this year as Financial Literacy Month. I thank my co-sponsors, Senators DODD, CLINTON, COCHRAN, DURBIN, KOHL, KENNEDY, MENENDEZ, SCHUMER, INOUE, STABENOW, CARDIN, LEVIN, CRAPO, DEMINT, FEINSTEIN, BAUCUS, THOMAS, LINCOLN, ALLARD, and ENZI. I am glad to work once again with my colleagues in a bipartisan manner to advance financial and economic literacy for all Americans.

As we enter into the month of April, I wish to recognize those organizations that released information last April shedding light on financial literacy in our country. This includes Junior Achievement's annual poll of teenagers on issues of personal finance, the Jumpstart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy's survey of the financial literacy of high school seniors, and the Employee Benefit Research Institute's Retirement Confidence Survey. These surveys present deeply troubling figures that underscore the need for increased financial literacy. For instance, while 84 percent of teens with credit cards reported paying off their balance in full each month, 16 percent admitted that they were just making the minimum payments according to the Junior Achievement poll. Further, the Jumpstart survey found that most high school seniors failed a test about credit cards, retirement funds, insurance, and other personal finance basics, and the Employee Benefit Research Institute found that despite modest savings, over two-thirds of Americans are confident in their retirement. In addition to these valuable surveys, I would like to acknowledge the biennial Survey of the States published by the Na-

tional Council on Economic Education. It was last released in 2005 and provided a useful update on the status of financial and economic education nationwide.

The resolution I have submitted today designates April 2007 as Financial Literacy Month, and highlights the need to promote financial literacy. To this extent, I would like to mention a few efforts that give a sense of the variety of approaches being taken to highlight financial and economic education. Here in Washington, the National Foundation for Credit Counseling will award a winner for its national poster contest later in the month. With a theme of "Plant the Seed of Saving to Grow Your Future," the contest encourages first through twelfth grade students to start thinking about how to best manage their finances. On public television, a new show, called "What's up in Finance?," created by station WNET in New York City, will premiere this April. It will help to make financial and economic education more accessible to young adults and introduce them to the range of job opportunities in finance and economics. In Santa Barbara, California, the Money Camp, in coordination with Junior Achievement and BizWorld, will host a Financial Literacy Training Intensive program. The event is intended to be the first of an annual event to provide advanced training to professionals in the area of financial education. In New Jersey, the state departments of Education and of Banking and Insurance are coordinating with banks and credit unions to bring staff from government and financial institutions who will make presentations on budgeting, saving, and credit at high schools in the State. I applaud these and other efforts taking place in April to address the need for greater financial literacy among Americans.

Increased financial and economic literacy can help people navigate around the countless pitfalls found in the marketplace. Consumers with a variety of credit histories can easily find credit in many different forms. Lenders' aggressive marketing campaigns encourage families to take on substantial debt for indulgences and luxuries, which may be harmful if families are already saddled with debt and not saving toward an education or retirement nest egg. Taking on substantial or additional debt that they cannot effectively pay back is irrational, but abusive marketing efforts have resulted in unprecedented levels of borrowing.

Although the availability of credit has grown dramatically, the understanding of financial matters has not. Consequently, we are presented with a number of worrisome statistics. During the last 2 years, Americans have on average spent more money than they make. The last year this occurred was in 1933 at the end of the Great Depression. Moreover, the household debt service ratio, which gives a sense of the proportion of disposable income people

are using to pay off their debt, increased to record levels again in 2006. These findings suggest a serious problem exacerbated by the fact that most workers have not calculated how much they need to save for retirement, even if they believe they are behind schedule in their retirement.

As policymakers, we need to focus on these issues year round. However, focusing on Financial Literacy Month in April means that we have a designated part of the year when we can reassess our efforts to highlight those that worked and improve on those that have not. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

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

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

The resolution (S. Res. 126) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 126

Whereas the personal savings rate of people in the United States declined from minus 0.5 percent in 2005 to minus 1.0 percent in 2006, making 2005 and 2006 the only years since the Great Depression years of 1932 and 1933 when the savings rate has been negative;

Whereas the 2006 Retirement Confidence Survey conducted by the Employee Benefit Research Institute found that only 42 percent of workers or their spouses calculated how much they need to save for retirement, down from 53 percent in 2000;

Whereas consumer debt exceeded \$2,400,000,000,000 in 2006;

Whereas household debt reached a record \$12,800,000,000,000 in 2006;

Whereas, during the second quarter of 2006, a record high of 14.5 percent of disposable personal income went to paying the interest on personal debt;

Whereas over 1,000,000 individuals in the United States filed for bankruptcy in 2006;

Whereas nearly half of adults in the United States are not aware that they can access their credit reports for free;

Whereas, in a 2006 survey, the Jumpstart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy found that high school seniors scored an average of only 52.4 percent on an exam testing knowledge of basic personal finance;

Whereas approximately 10,000,000 households in the United States do not have accounts at mainstream financial institutions such as banks or credit unions;

Whereas expanding access to the mainstream financial system will provide individuals with less expensive and more secure options for managing their finances and building wealth;

Whereas the 2004 Survey of the States compiled by the National Council on Economic Education found that only 17 States require an economics course to be offered to high school students;

Whereas quality personal financial education is essential to ensure that individuals are prepared to manage money, credit, and debt, and to become responsible workers, heads of households, investors, entrepreneurs, business leaders, and citizens;

Whereas increased financial literacy empowers individuals to make wise financial

decisions and reduces the confusion caused by the increasingly complex economy of the United States;

Whereas a greater understanding of, and familiarity with, financial markets and institutions will lead to increased economic activity and growth;

Whereas, in 2003, Congress found it important to coordinate Federal financial literacy efforts and formulate a national strategy; and

Whereas, in light of that finding, Congress established the Financial Literacy and Education Commission and designated the Office of Financial Education of the Department of the Treasury to provide support for the Commission: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates April 2007 as “Financial Literacy Month” to raise public awareness about—

(A) the importance of financial education in the United States; and

(B) the serious consequences that may result from a lack of understanding about personal finances; and

(2) calls on the Federal Government, States, localities, schools, nonprofit organizations, businesses, and the people of the United States to observe the month with appropriate programs and activities.

NATIONAL CUSHING’S SYNDROME AWARENESS DAY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 127.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 127) designating April 8, 2007 as “National Cushing’s Syndrome Awareness Day.”

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

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I rise today to have proudly introduced a resolution designating April 8, 2007, as “National Cushing’s Syndrome Awareness Day.” I have long been dedicated to quality health care and therefore seek to raise awareness of this debilitating disorder that affects an estimated 10 to 15 people per million.

I seek your help in raising awareness of Cushing’s Syndrome, which is an endocrine or hormonal disorder caused by prolonged exposure of the body’s tissue to high levels of the hormone cortisol. Though it can lead to death, Cushing’s Syndrome often goes undiagnosed or misdiagnosed because the initial symptoms are shared with a number of milder ailments. These symptoms include, but are not limited to, abnormal weight gain, skin changes, fatigue, diabetes, high blood pressure, depression, and osteoporosis.

Cushing’s Syndrome can take a variety of forms. Normally, the hypothalamus, a part of the brain which is about the size of a small sugar cube, stimulates the pituitary gland, the adrenal glands, and then the kidneys, which release cortisol into the bloodstream. High levels of cortisol can result from overproducing cortisol or from taking glucocorticoid hormones, which are routinely prescribed

for asthma, rheumatoid arthritis, lupus, and other inflammatory diseases.

Doctors can detect Cushing’s Syndrome through a series of tests, often using x-rays to examine adrenal or pituitary glands to locate tumors. However, since awareness of the syndrome is low, doctors do not always run these tests, and patients do not know to ask for them. Therefore, treatment often comes later than it should for victims of Cushing’s Syndrome. Potential treatments for Cushing’s Syndrome include surgery, radiation, chemotherapy, cortisol-inhibiting drugs, or reducing the dosage of glucocorticoid hormones.

The need for heightened awareness of Cushing’s Syndrome was brought to my attention by constituents who suffer from this dangerous disease. For the sake of these individuals and for the benefit of sufferers in your own State and around the Nation, I ask you to join me in this effort to raise awareness of Cushing’s Syndrome.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 127) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 127

Whereas Cushing’s Syndrome annually affects an estimated 10 to 15 people per million, most of whom are currently between the ages of 20 and 50;

Whereas Cushing’s Syndrome is an endocrine or hormonal disorder caused by prolonged exposure of the body’s tissue to high levels of the hormone cortisol;

Whereas exposure to cortisol can occur by overproduction in the body or by taking glucocorticoid hormones, which are routinely prescribed for asthma, rheumatoid arthritis, lupus, or as an immunosuppressant following transplantation;

Whereas the syndrome may also result from pituitary adenomas, ectopic ACTH syndrome, adrenal tumors, and Familial Cushing’s Syndrome;

Whereas Cushing’s Syndrome can cause abnormal weight gain, skin changes, and fatigue and ultimately lead to diabetes, high blood pressure, depression, osteoporosis, and death;

Whereas Cushing’s Syndrome is diagnosed through a series of tests, often requiring x-ray examinations of adrenal or pituitary glands to locate tumors;

Whereas many people who suffer from Cushing’s Syndrome are misdiagnosed or go undiagnosed for years because many of the symptoms are mirrored in milder diseases, thereby delaying important treatment options;

Whereas treatments for Cushing’s Syndrome include surgery, radiation, chemotherapy, cortisol-inhibiting drugs, and reducing the dosage of glucocorticoid hormones;

Whereas Cushing’s Syndrome was discovered by Dr. Harvey Williams Cushing, who was born on April 8th, 1869;

Whereas the Dr. Harvey Cushing stamp was part of the United States Postal Service’s

“Great American” series, initiated in 1980 to recognize individuals for making significant contributions to the heritage and culture of the United States;

Whereas President Ronald Reagan spoke on April 8, 1987, in the Rose Garden at a White House ceremony to unveil the commemorative stamp honoring Dr. Harvey Cushing;

Whereas following the ceremony, President Reagan hosted a reception in the State Dining Room for Mrs. John Hay Whitney, Dr. Cushing’s daughter, and representatives of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons; and

Whereas the Senate is an institution that can raise awareness in the general public and the medical community of Cushing’s Syndrome; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates April 8, 2007, as “National Cushing’s Syndrome Awareness Day”;

(2) recognizes that all Americans should become more informed and aware of Cushing’s Syndrome;

(3) Calls upon the people of the United States to observe the date with appropriate ceremonies and activities; and

(4) directs the Secretary of the Senate to transmit a copy of this resolution to the Cushing’s Understanding, Support & Help Organization.

AUTHORIZING LEGAL COUNSEL REPRESENTATION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 128.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 128) to authorize testimony, document production, and legal representation in United States v. Philip G. Balcombe, Sansi G. Coonan, John S. Dear, Jan Lustig, Michella A. Marusa, Martin J. Ryan, Eleanore M. Vouselas, and Bruno Keller.

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, this resolution concerns a request for testimony, documents, and representation in an action pending in Federal district court in Albuquerque, NM. In this action, antiwar protesters have been charged with failure to comply with official signs and directions for refusing repeated requests by law enforcement officials and building management to leave the office building housing Senator PETE DOMENICI’s Sante Fe, NM, office on September 26, 2006. A trial of these defendants is scheduled to commence on April 12, 2007. The prosecution has requested that a member of the Senator’s staff who had conversations with the defendants during the events in question testify and produce any relevant documents. Senator DOMENICI would like to cooperate by providing testimony and any relevant documents from his staff. This resolution would authorize that staff member, and any other employee of Senator DOMENICI’s office from whom evidence may be required, to testify and produce documents in connection with this action, with representation by the Senate legal counsel.