

S. RES. 225

Whereas over-the-counter and prescription medicines are extremely safe, effective, and potentially lifesaving when used properly, but the abuse and recreational use of these medicines can be extremely dangerous and produce serious side effects;

Whereas 6,400,000 individuals who are age 12 or older reported using prescription medicines non-medically in a recently sampled month, and abuse of prescription medications such as pain relievers, tranquilizers, stimulants, and sedatives is second only to marijuana, the number 1 illegal drug of abuse in the United States;

Whereas, recent studies indicate that 1 in 10 youth ages 12 through 17, or 2,400,000 children, has intentionally abused cough medicine to get high from its dextromethorphan ingredient, and 1 in 5 young adults (4,500,000) has used prescription medicines non-medically;

Whereas, according to research from the Partnership for a Drug-Free America, more than 1/3 of teens mistakenly believe that taking prescription drugs, even if not prescribed by a doctor, is much safer than using street drugs;

Whereas teens' and parents' lack of understanding of the potential harms of these powerful medicines makes it more critical than ever to raise public awareness about the dangers of their misuse;

Whereas, when prescription drugs are misused, they are most often obtained through friends and relatives, but are also obtained through rogue Internet pharmacies;

Whereas parents should be aware that the Internet gives teens access to websites that promote medicine misuse;

Whereas National Medicine Abuse Awareness Month promotes the message that over-the-counter and prescription medicines are to be taken only as labeled or prescribed, and when used recreationally or in large doses can have serious and life-threatening consequences;

Whereas National Medicine Abuse Awareness Month will encourage parents to educate themselves about this problem and talk to their teens about all types of substance abuse;

Whereas observance of National Medicine Abuse Awareness Month should be encouraged at the national, State, and local levels to increase awareness of the rising misuse of medicines;

Whereas some groups, such as the Consumer Healthcare Products Association and the Community Anti-Drug Coalition of America, have taken important proactive steps like creating educational toolkits, such as "A Dose of Prevention: Stopping Cough Medicine Abuse Before it Starts", which includes guides to educate parents, teachers, law enforcement officials, doctors and healthcare professionals, and retailers about the potential harms of cough and cold medicines and over-the-counter drug abuse;

Whereas the nonprofit Partnership for a Drug-Free America and its community alliance and affiliate partners have undertaken a nationwide prevention campaign utilizing research-based educational advertisements, public relations and news media, and the Internet to inform parents about the negative teen behavior of intentional abuse of medicines so that parents are empowered to effectively communicate the facts of this dangerous trend with their teens and to take necessary steps to safeguard prescription and over-the-counter medicines in their homes; and

Whereas educating the public on the dangers of medicine abuse and promoting prevention is a critical component of what must be a multi-pronged effort to curb this dis-

turbing rise in over-the-counter and cough medicine misuse: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—
(1) designates the month of August 2007 as "National Medicine Abuse Awareness Month"; and

(2) urges communities to carry out appropriate programs and activities to educate parents and youth of the potential dangers associated with medicine abuse.

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce a resolution marking August 2007 as National Medicine Abuse Awareness Month. The intentional misuse of prescription and over-the-counter drugs has reached troubling levels. This resolution takes an important step in raising teens' and parents' awareness of the problem.

While recent studies indicate that the use of illegal drugs has declined somewhat over the past 5 years, the excessive use of legally available drugs has skyrocketed during the same period. The figures speak for themselves: 1 in 5 teens has misused prescription drugs, and more people age 12 or older have recently started misusing prescription pain relievers than smoking marijuana.

The numbers are also troubling for abuse of over-the-counter cough and cold medicines. While over-the-counter and prescription medicines are safe, effective, and potentially lifesaving when used properly, the abuse and recreational use of these medicines can be lethal. Recent studies indicate that 1 in 10 young people aged 12 through 17, or 2.4 million kids, have intentionally abused cough medicine to get high off of its active ingredient, Dextromethorphan. This trend is dangerous, and it must stop.

The problem is multifaceted, but one critical element of the solution is clear: educating teens and parents about the grave dangers of medicine abuse.

The way I see it, the problem of non-medical use of prescription and over-the-counter drugs can be chalked up to two key factors. First, too many teens are under the impression that "legal" drugs are safe anytime, in any dose, and even without a prescription or doctor supervision. They are gravely mistaken. Excessive prescription drug use can lead to dependency, overdose, and even death, if not prescribed and monitored by a physician.

Second, these drugs are cheap and easy to obtain. A bottle of cough syrup costs a few dollars and a prescription drug can be taken from a medicine cabinet for free. A February 2007 report released by the Office of National Drug Control Policy reveals that a shocking 47 percent of youth interviewed said they got their prescription drugs for free from a relative or friend. The last thing a parent wants is to become his or her child's "dealer." But that is precisely what happens when they leave medications lying around at home. Hence, these two factors, a false perception of the dangers and a cheap, readily accessible high, have put our teens in danger, and we must act to protect them.

National Medicine Abuse Awareness Month takes an important step to raise public awareness about the dangers that misuse of these drugs pose by promoting the message that over-the-counter and prescription medicines must be taken only as labeled or prescribed, and that when used recreationally or in large doses they can have serious and life-threatening consequences. It reminds parents to educate themselves about this problem and talk to their children about all types of substance abuse, and it encourages national, State, and local officials to increase awareness of this disturbing trend.

I have worked and continue to work in consultation with the Consumer Health Care Products Association and the Community Anti-Drug Coalition of America, to reverse this trend, and I applaud the important steps that these groups have taken. Among other initiatives, they have created educational toolkits, such as A Dose of Prevention: Stopping Cough Medicine Abuse Before It Starts, which include guides to educate parents, teachers, law enforcement officials, doctors and healthcare professionals, and retailers about the potential harms of cough and cold medicines and over-the-counter drug abuse.

I also commend the nonprofit Partnership for Drug-Free America and its community alliance and affiliate partners for undertaking a nationwide prevention campaign. Their campaign utilizes research-based educational advertisements, public relations, news media and the Internet to inform parents about the prevalence of intentional abuse of medicines among teens, empowering parents to effectively communicate the facts of this dangerous trend to their children and to take necessary steps to keep prescription and over-the-counter medicines safely in their homes.

Prevention is a key component of the solution, and education is a key component of prevention. We've got to do our best to raise awareness on this matter, and reverse the worrisome trend of increasing over-the-counter and prescription drug misuse. This resolution takes an important step towards achieving that goal.

SENATE RESOLUTION 226—RECOGNIZING THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER AS "NATIONAL HOMELESS YOUTH AWARENESS MONTH"

Mr. LAUTENBERG (for himself, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. BROWN, Mr. INOUE, Mr. OBAMA, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. BAYH, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. CASEY, Mr. NELSON of Florida, and Mr. KENNEDY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 226

Whereas between 1,300,000 and 2,800,000 children and teens are homeless in the

United States each year, with many staying on the streets or in emergency shelters;

Whereas families with children are the fastest growing segment of the homeless population and now make up approximately 1/3 of that population;

Whereas homeless youth are typically too poor to secure basic needs and are unable to access adequate medical or mental health care;

Whereas each day 13 homeless youth die due to physical assault, illness, or suicide;

Whereas many youth become homeless due to a lack of financial and housing resources as they exit juvenile corrections and foster care;

Whereas 25 percent of foster youth experienced homelessness within 2 to 4 years after exiting foster care;

Whereas homeless youth are most often expelled from their homes by their guardians after physical, sexual, or emotional abuse or separated from their parents through death or divorce without adequate resources; and

Whereas awareness of the tragedy of youth homelessness and its causes must be heightened so that greater support for effective programs involving businesses, families, law enforcement agencies, schools, and community and faith-based organizations, aimed at helping youth remain off the streets becomes a national priority: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the values and efforts of businesses, organizations, and volunteers dedicated to meeting the needs of homeless children and teens;

(2) applauds the initiatives of businesses, organizations, and volunteers that employ time and resources to build awareness of the homeless youth problem, its causes, and potential solutions, and work to prevent homelessness among children and teens; and

(3) should recognize the month of November as ‘National Homeless Youth Awareness Month’ and encourages these businesses, organizations, and volunteers to continue to intensify their efforts during the month of November.

SENATE RESOLUTION 227—CONGRATULATING THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY BLUE JAYS FOR WINNING THE 2007 NCAA DIVISION I MEN’S LACROSSE CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Ms. MIKULSKI) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 227

Whereas, on May 28, 2007, before a crowd of nearly 50,000, the Johns Hopkins University Blue Jays of Baltimore, Maryland, won the 2007 National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division I Men’s Lacrosse Championship, defeating the Duke University Blue Devils by a score of 12-11 at M&T Bank Stadium in Baltimore, Maryland;

Whereas the Johns Hopkins University Blue Jays, in the 2007 season, had an overall record of 13 wins and 4 losses, and won their last 9 consecutive games to end the season;

Whereas the Johns Hopkins University Blue Jays have won their 9th NCAA Division I Men’s Lacrosse Championship;

Whereas the Johns Hopkins University Blue Jays reached the championship game for the 2nd time in 3 years and for the 17th time in school history;

Whereas Jesse Schwartzman was awarded the Tournament Most Outstanding Player award for the 2nd time;

Whereas Jake Byrne, Paul Rabil, Stephen Peyser, and Eric Zerlout joined Schwartzman on the All-Tournament Team;

Whereas the 2007 NCAA Championship lacrosse team members are Jamison Koesterer, Jesse Schwartzman, Andrew Miller, Garrett Stanwick, Michael Gvozden, Matt Bocklet, Ben O’Neill, Paul Rabil, Steven Boyle, George Castle, Stephen Peyser, Josh Peck, Michael Doneger, Michael Kimmel, Eric Zerlout, Drew Dabrowski, Austin Walker, Brian Christopher, Conor Cassidy, Brendan Skakandi, Nolan Matthews, Kevin Huntley, Jake Byrne, Mark Bryan, Tom Duerr, Chris Boland, Nick Donoghue, Dave Spaulding, Will Jawish, Val Washington, Michael Evans, Zach Tedeschi, Erik Stillel, Andrew Jaffe, Andrew Posil, John Franklin, Lorenzo Heholt, Kyle Miller, Max Chautin, Michael Powers, Matt Drenan, Sam DeVore, Nathan Matthews, Greg Harrington, Eric Dang, Max Levine, and Michael Murray; and

Whereas the 2007 NCAA Championship lacrosse team coaches are Dave Pietramala, Bill Dwan, Bobby Benson, and Dave Allan: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate congratulates the Johns Hopkins University men’s lacrosse team for winning the 2007 NCAA Division I Men’s Lacrosse Championship.

SENATE RESOLUTION 228—CONGRATULATING THE BROWN UNIVERSITY WOMEN’S CREW TEAM FOR WINNING THE 2007 NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION DIVISION I WOMEN’S ROWING CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. WHITEHOUSE) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 228

Whereas, on Sunday, May 27, 2007, the Brown University women’s crew team won the 2007 National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division I Women’s Rowing Championship in Oak Ridge, Tennessee;

Whereas the Brown University women’s crew team was 1 of only 2 teams that qualified for the grand final in varsity eights, junior varsity eights, and varsity fours;

Whereas the Brown University women’s crew team has won 5 NCAA championships in the last 9 years, in 1999, 2000, 2002, 2004, and 2007, as well as finishing 2nd twice and 3rd twice during that period;

Whereas the Brown University women’s crew team is the winningest crew program in NCAA history; and

Whereas the Brown University varsity women’s crew team had a record of 5-1 during the regular season, and both the 2nd varsity and novice teams were undefeated for the season: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the Brown University women’s crew team for being champions on and off the water and for their victory in the 2007 National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division I Women’s Rowing Championship;

(2) recognizes the achievements of the rowers, coaches John and Phoebe Murphy, and the students and alumni whose dedication and hard work helped the Brown University women’s crew team win the NCAA championship; and

(3) respectfully requests the Secretary of the Senate to transmit a copy of this resolution for appropriate display to Artemis Joukowsky, Chancellor Emeritus of Brown University.

SENATE RESOLUTION 229—HONORING WILLIAM CLIFTON FRANCE

Mr. NELSON of Florida (for himself and Mr. MARTINEZ) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 229

Whereas William Clifton France, NASCAR patriarch and visionary, was born on April 4, 1933, in Washington, D.C.;

Whereas Mr. France grew up in the formative years of stock car racing, living and learning every detail of the sport from his own experiences and those of his father, William Henry Getty France, known as ‘Big Bill’ because of his 6-foot-5 stature, who was the founder and first president of NASCAR;

Whereas, in 1972, William Clifton France replaced his father and became the second president of the world’s largest auto-racing sanctioning body;

Whereas, during the 28-year tenure of Mr. France as president, and later chairman and chief executive officer, of NASCAR, NASCAR grew from a sport with regional appeal to draw more than 75,000,000 fans yearly and become the second-most popular sport on television in the United States;

Whereas Mr. France worked in every role in stock car racing, from flagging events to scoring, promoting, serving as a steward, and even racing a few times in the 1950s;

Whereas, before being named president of NASCAR, Mr. France served for 6 years as vice president of the organization;

Whereas, in addition to his NASCAR duties, Mr. France served as chairman of the board of International Speedway Corporation, which oversees Daytona International Speedway, Darlington Raceway, Talladega Superspeedway, and other racing facilities around the country, and served as a director of the National Motorsports Council of ACCU-FIA; and

Whereas Mr. France was a visionary and served the motorsports industry with great distinction: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate extends its condolences to Mrs. Betty Jane France, Lesa France Kennedy, Brian France, and the entire France Family.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 37—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS ON FEDERALISM IN IRAQ

Mr. BIDEN (for himself, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. SMITH, Mr. NELSON of Florida, and Mrs. HUTCHISON) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. CON. RES. 37

Whereas Iraq continues to experience a self-sustaining cycle of sectarian violence;

Whereas the ongoing sectarian violence presents a threat to regional and world peace, and the long-term security interests of the United States are best served by an Iraq that is stable, not a haven for terrorists, and not a threat to its neighbors;

Whereas Iraqis must reach a comprehensive and sustainable political settlement in order to achieve stability, and the failure of the Iraqis to reach such a settlement is a primary cause of increasing violence in Iraq;

Whereas the Key Judgments of the January 2007 National Intelligence Estimate entitled ‘Prospects for Iraq’s Stability: A Challenging Road Ahead’ state, ‘A number of