

For further information, please contact Sam Fowler at (202) 224-7571 or Amanda Kelly at (202) 224-6836.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I would like to announce that the Committee on Indian Affairs will meet on Thursday, July 12, 2007, at 9:30 a.m. in room 485 of the Russell Senate Office Building to conduct an oversight hearing on Transportation Issues in Indian Country.

Those wishing additional information may contact the Indian Affairs Committee at 224-2251.

PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs will hold a hearing entitled, "Dirty Bomb Vulnerabilities: Fake Companies, Fake Licenses, Real Consequences." The Subcommittee's hearing will examine certain vulnerabilities in the Government's procedures for licensing radiological materials. This hearing builds upon the findings released at the Subcommittee's hearing on March 28, 2006, which examined certain flaws in U.S. safeguards against radiological and nuclear attacks. Specifically, the hearing will examine the effectiveness of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's materials licensing policies and procedures, including: (1) The process by which parties obtain NRC materials licenses; and (2) the vulnerability of NRC materials licenses to counterfeiting. Witnesses for the upcoming hearing will include representatives of the Government Accountability Office and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. A final witness list will be available Tuesday, July 10, 2007.

The Subcommittee hearing is scheduled for Thursday, July 12, 2007, at 9 a.m., in room 342 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building. For further information, please contact Elise Bean of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet on Monday, July 9, 2007, at 2:30 p.m., in order to conduct a hearing entitled "Excessive Speculation In The Natural Gas Market."

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

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that Jacqueline Beatty-Smith, a fellow in my office, be granted the privileges

of the floor during consideration of H.R. 1585.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. On behalf of Senator CLINTON, I ask unanimous consent that privileges of the floor be granted to the following fellows in her office during consideration of H.R. 1585: Jaime Martinez, Nicole Wilett, and Eleanor Edson.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Mark Carlton, a Marine Corps Fellow in Senator KENNEDY's office, be granted the privilege of the floor during the consideration of H.R. 1585, the Defense Authorization bill for fiscal year 2008.

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

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, on the Defense bill, I ask unanimous consent that Scott Suozzi, a military fellow in my office, be granted floor privileges.

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

Mr. LEARY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that LCDR Christopher Martin, a U.S. Coast Guard fellow in Senator CHRISTOPHER DODD's office, be granted the privilege of the floor for the duration of debate on H.R. 1585, the national Defense authorization bill, and for votes during that time.

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

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Jeffrey Gonzalez and Mathew Pollard, both of the Senate Budget Committee, be granted floor privileges during consideration of H.R. 1585.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to allow Air Force Fellow Daniel Wolf of my staff floor privileges for the duration of the consideration of the National Defense Authorization Act, S. 1547.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CHARLES W. NORWOOD LIVING ORGAN DONATION ACT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 77, H.R. 710.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 710) to amend the National Organ Transplant Act to provide that criminal penalties do not apply to paired donation of human kidneys, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, this bipartisan substitute is nearly identical to S.487, which I introduced along with Senators BOND, DORGAN, GRAHAM, DURBIN, MIKULSKI, PRYOR, CARDIN, ISAKSON, COLEMAN, BROWN, and CHAMBLISS, and which passed the Senate on February 15, 2007. Companion legislation was introduced in the House where it was renamed in honor of our House colleague, the late Representative Charles Norwood, a longtime advocate of organ donation, who sponsored the legislation earlier this year along with Representative JAY INSLEE.

Our legislation, the Living Kidney Organ Donation Clarification Act, will save lives by increasing the number of kidneys available for transplantation through a process called paired organ donation. It addresses this relatively new procedure, which is supported by numerous medical organizations, including the United Network for Organ Sharing, the American Society of Transplant Surgeons, the American Society of Transplantation, the National Kidney Foundation and the American Society of Pediatric Nephrology. Paired organ donation, which did not exist when the National Organ Transplant Act, NOTA, was enacted more than two decades ago, will make it possible for thousands of people who wish to donate a kidney to a spouse, family member or friend, but find that they are medically incompatible, to still become living kidney donors.

The legislation is necessary because the National Organ Transplant Act, NOTA, which contains a prohibition intended by Congress to preclude purchasing organs, is unintentionally impeding the facilitation of matching incompatible pairs. Our legislation would simply add kidney paired donation to the list of other living-related donation exemptions that Congress originally placed in NOTA. It removes an unintended impediment to kidney paired donations by clarifying ambiguous language in section 301 of the National Organ Transplant Act, NOTA. That section has been interpreted by a number of transplant centers to prohibit such donations. In section 301 of NOTA, Congress prohibited the buying and selling of organs. Subsection (a), titled "Prohibition of organ purchases," says: "It shall be unlawful for any person to knowingly acquire, receive, or otherwise transfer any human organ for valuable consideration . . ." This legislation does not remove or alter any current provision of NOTA, but simply adds a line to section 301 which states that paired donations do not violate it.

Congress surely never intended that the living donation arrangements that permit kidney paired donation be impeded by NOTA. Our bill simply makes that clear. Some transplant professionals involved in these and other innovative living kidney donation arrangements have proceeded in the reasonable belief that these arrangements do not violate section of 301 of NOTA, but they contend that they are doing so under a cloud.

In the process of kidney paired donor transplants, a pair consisting of a kidney transplant candidate and a biologically incompatible living donor is matched with another such pair to enable two transplants that otherwise would not occur. In other words, the intended recipient of each donor is incompatible with the intended donor but compatible with the other donor in the arrangement.

No Federal dollars are needed to implement this change. And, for each patient who receives a kidney, Medicare will save roughly \$220,000 in dialysis costs. It is essential that we make the intent of Congress explicit so that transplant centers which have hesitated to implement incompatible living kidney donation programs can feel free to do so.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Levin amendment at the desk be considered and agreed to, the bill, as amended, be read three times, passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD, the above occurring with no intervening action or debate.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 2025) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To provide a complete substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Charlie W. Norwood Living Organ Donation Act”.

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

Section 301 of the National Organ Transplant Act (42 U.S.C. 274e) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by adding at the end the following: “For purposes of this section, human organ paired donation and similar practices, as defined by the Secretary, shall not be considered to involve the transfer of a human organ for valuable consideration.”; and

(2) in subsection (c), by adding at the end the following:

“(4) The term ‘human organ paired donation’ means the donation and receipt of human organs in a circumstance in which each of the following applies:

“(A) An individual (referred to in this paragraph as the ‘first donor’) desires to make a living donation of a human organ specifically to a particular patient (referred to in this paragraph as the ‘first patient’), but such donor is biologically incompatible as a donor for such patient.

“(B) A second individual (referred to in this paragraph as the ‘second donor’) desires to make a living donation of a human organ specifically to a second particular patient (referred to in this paragraph as the ‘second patient’), but such donor is biologically incompatible as a donor for such patient.

“(C) Subject to subparagraph (D), the first donor is biologically compatible as a donor of a human donor for the second patient, and the second donor is biologically compatible as a donor of a human organ for the first patient.

“(D) If there is any additional donor-patient pair as described in subparagraph (A) or (B), each donor in the group of donor-pa-

tient pairs is biologically compatible as a donor of a human organ for a patient in such group.

“(E) All donors and patients in the group of donor-patient pairs (whether 2 pairs or more than 2 pairs) enter into a single agreement to donate and receive such human organs, respectively, according to such biological compatibility in the group.

“(F) Other than as described in subparagraph (E), no valuable consideration is knowingly acquired, received, or otherwise transferred with respect to the human organs referred to in such subparagraph.”.

SEC. 3. REPORT.

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

SEC. 4. NO IMPACT ON SOCIAL SECURITY TRUST FUND.

Nothing in this Act (or an amendment made by this Act) shall be construed to alter or amend the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 301 et seq.) (or any regulation promulgated under that Act).

The amendment was ordered to be engrossed and the bill to be read a third time.

The bill (H.R. 710), as amended, was read the third time and passed.

NATIONAL WATERMELON MONTH

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 262.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 262) designating July 2007 as “National Watermelon Month.”

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 262) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 262

Whereas watermelon production constitutes an important sector of the agricultural industry of the United States;

Whereas, according to the January 2006 statistics compiled by the National Agricultural Statistics Service of the United States Department of Agriculture, the United States produces 4,200,000,000 pounds of watermelon annually;

Whereas watermelon is grown in 49 States, is purchased and consumed in all 50 States, and is exported to Canada;

Whereas evidence indicates that eating 2½ to 5 cups of fruits and vegetables daily as part of a healthy diet will improve health and protect against diseases such as cancer,

high blood pressure, stroke, and heart disease;

Whereas proper diet and nutrition are important factors in preventing diseases such as childhood obesity and diabetes;

Whereas watermelon has no fat or cholesterol and is an excellent source of the vitamins A, B6, and C, fiber, and potassium, which are vital to good health and disease prevention;

Whereas watermelon is also an excellent source of lycopene;

Whereas lycopene, an antioxidant found only in a few red plant foods, has been shown to reduce the risk of certain cancers;

Whereas watermelon is a heart-healthy food that has qualified for the heart-check mark from the American Heart Association;

Whereas watermelon has been a nutritious summer favorite from generation to generation; and

Whereas it is important to educate citizens of the United States regarding the health benefits of watermelon and other fruits and vegetables: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of “National Watermelon Month”;

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

(3) designates July 2007 as “National Watermelon Month”.

CONGRATULATING ST. MARY’S COLLEGE OF MARYLAND

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 265.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 265) congratulating the St. Mary’s College of Maryland sailing team for winning the 2007 Inter-collegiate Sailing Association (ICSA) Women’s National Championship and the 2007 ICSA Team Race National Championship.

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

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 265) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 265

Whereas on May 25, 2007, the St. Mary’s College of Maryland Lady Seahawks won the 2007 Inter-collegiate Sailing Association (ICSA) Women’s National Championship in Norfolk, Virginia;

Whereas the 2007 ICSA Women’s National Champions defeated 17 other teams;

Whereas the 2007 ICSA Women’s National Champions are Jennifer Chamberlin, Mattie Farrar, Adrienne Patterson, Melissa Pumphrey, and Sara Morgan Watters;