

By Mr. KOHL, from the Special Committee on Aging:

Special Report entitled "Recognition of Excellence in Aging Research Committee Report" (Rept. No. 110-527), pursuant to S. Res. 89, Sec. 17(d), February 28, 2007, Resolution Authorizing a Study on the Problems of the Aged and Aging.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Ms. STABENOW (for herself and Mr. BROWN):

S. 3725. A bill to promote economic recovery through green jobs and infrastructure, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. LEAHY:

S. 3726. A bill to reauthorize the Crime-Free Rural States Grants program; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mr. VOINOVICH):

S. 3727. A bill to require the designation of the Federal building located at McKinley Avenue and Third Street, S.W., Canton, Ohio, as the "Ralph Regula Federal Building"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. SANDERS:

S. 3728. A bill to direct the Secretary of Transportation to waive non-Federal share requirements for certain transportation programs and activities through September 30, 2009; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. DORGAN:

S. 3729. A bill to amend the Clean Air Act to prohibit the imposition of a fee or tax for direct gaseous emissions by livestock; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. KOHL:

S. 3730. A bill to expand, train, and support all sectors of the health care workforce to care for the growing population of older individuals in the United States; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. MCCASKILL (for herself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. DODD, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. COLEMAN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. CARPER, and Ms. CANTWELL):

S. 3731. A bill to amend the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 (division A of Public Law 110-343) to provide the Special Inspector General with additional authorities and responsibilities, and for other purposes; considered and passed.

By Mr. REID:

S.J. Res. 46. A joint resolution ensuring that the compensation and other emoluments attached to the office of Secretary of State are those which were in effect on January 1, 2007; considered and passed.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. SPECTER, Mrs. LINCOLN, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. KERRY, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. BAYH, Mrs. CLINTON, Ms. COLLINS, Mr.

LEVIN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. ENSIGN, and Mr. PRYOR):

S. Res. 728. A resolution designating January 2009 as "National Mentoring Month"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself, Mrs. BOXER, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CARPER, Mr. WARNER, Mr. BINGAMAN, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. SALAZAR, Mrs. DOLE, and Mr. TESTER):

S. Res. 729. A resolution expressing the opposition of the Senate to a proposed regulation by the Environmental Protection Agency, now under review in the Office of Management and Budget, that would undercut air quality protections established by Congress in the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1977 for national parks, national wilderness areas, national monuments, and national seashores; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 20

At the request of Mrs. CLINTON, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 20, a bill to prohibit the implementation or enforcement of certain regulations.

S. 2063

At the request of Mr. CONRAD, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BAYH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2063, a bill to establish a Bipartisan Task Force for Responsible Fiscal Action, to assure the economic security of the United States, and to expand future prosperity and growth for all Americans.

S. 2510

At the request of Mr. THUNE, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2510, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide revised standards for quality assurance in screening and evaluation of gynecologic cytology preparations, and for other purposes.

S. 3484

At the request of Mr. SPECTER, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3484, a bill to provide for a delay in the phase out of the hospice budget neutrality adjustment factor under title XVIII of the Social Security Act.

S. 3656

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3656, a bill to preserve access to healthcare under the Medicare and Medicaid programs.

S. RES. 725

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 725, a resolution acknowledging the accomplishments and goals of the Youth Impact Program.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. LEAHY:

S. 3726. A bill to reauthorize the Crime-Free Rural States Grants pro-

gram; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I am pleased today to introduce the Crime-Free Rural States Reauthorization Act, a bill designed to help rural communities deal with a growing drug and crime problems made worse by the devastating recession we now face.

This week the Senate is focused on passing a bill to authorize billions of dollars to bail out the automobile industry. Congress has already passed legislation providing for hundreds of billions of dollars to rescue the financial industry. These are difficult pieces of legislation, but we are trying to protect countless jobs and the economy as a whole. These efforts have done little, though, to help the millions of people in rural America, who have been hit as hard as anyone by the devastating effects of this recession, but will see few benefits from financial and corporate bailouts.

We must help rural communities, and they especially need our help as they try to pull together to combat the worsening drug and crime problems that threaten the safety and well-being of too many in our small cities and towns and, most particularly, our young people. The Crime-Free Rural States Reauthorization Act will provide just this kind of help.

I pushed for the original Crime-Free Rural States grant program. It was first authorized in 2002 and funded in 2003. Like too many valuable programs to help local law enforcement and crime prevention, it was allowed to lapse under the Bush administration. The program provides grants for rural states to come up with a plan to help communities confront drug and crime problems and to offer training and assistance for local prevention programs and law enforcement. This program can help cash-strapped communities with assistance they desperately need.

Last week, the Senate Judiciary Committee traveled to St. Albans, VT, to hear from the people of that resilient community about the persistent problem of drug-related crime in rural America, and about the innovative steps they are taking to combat that problem. The introduction of this bill is a small first step to apply the lessons learned in that hearing and in previous hearings in Vermont and elsewhere.

Drug-related crime is not just a big-city issue. As we heard in St. Albans last week and at a hearing in Rutland earlier this year, drugs and related crime are a growing problem in rural communities in Vermont and across the country. Fortunately, resourceful communities like St. Albans and Rutland are coming together to find innovative, community-based solutions to these complex problems.

Of course, law enforcement continues to be an important component in our efforts to combat the scourge of drugs. There continues to be an urgent need for the Federal Government to support

state and local law enforcement. What more and more cities and towns are finding is that the best solutions involve all segments of the community coming together with law enforcement to find meaningful, community-based approaches. Solving these problems as they arise is essential, but preventing them is even better, and less expensive.

Unfortunately, for the last eight years, throughout the country, state and local law enforcement agencies have been stretched thin as they shoulder both traditional crime-fighting duties and new homeland security demands. They have faced continuous cuts in federal funding during the Bush years, and time and time again, our state and local law enforcement officers have been unable to fill vacancies and get the equipment they need.

This trend is unacceptable. I intend to work with the new administration to reverse it. Eric Holder, whom President-Elect Obama has designated to be our next Attorney General, focused on the importance of state and local law enforcement when he was introduced to the nation last Monday. He was a local U.S. Attorney and understands the critical role of state and local law enforcement, our first responders. We need to restore the COPS and Byrne grant programs to help support local law enforcement, and I hope we will do a better job when it comes to rural communities and rural states. That is why I am introducing this bill today to bring back the Crime-Free Rural States grant program.

As a former prosecutor, I have always advocated vigorous enforcement and punishment of those who commit serious crimes. But I also know that punishment alone will not solve the problems of drugs and violence in our communities. Police chiefs from Vermont and across the country have told me that we cannot arrest our way out of this problem.

Combating drug use and crime requires attention to enforcement, prevention and treatment. The best way to prevent crime is often to provide young people with opportunities and constructive things to do, so they stay away from drugs and crime altogether. And if young people do get involved with drugs, treatment in many cases can work to help them to turn their lives around. Good prevention and treatment programs have been shown again and again to reduce crime, but regrettably, the Bush administration has consistently sought to reduce funding for these important programs. It is time to move in a new direction.

I will work in the next Congress to advance legislation that will give state and local law enforcement the support it needs, that will help our cities and towns to implement the kinds of innovative and proven community-based solutions needed to reduce crime. The legislation I introduce today is a modest beginning, addressing the urgent and unmet need to support our rural communities as they struggle to combat drugs and crime.

By funding planning, training, and technical assistance, Crime-Free Rural States grants provide an anchor for our rural communities as they work to address the devastating problems of crime and drugs. It is a first step for us to help our small cities and towns weather the worsening conditions of these difficult times and begin to move in a better direction.

I hope Senators on both sides of the aisle will join me in supporting this important legislation.

Mr. President, 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. 3726

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 "Crime-Free Rural States Reauthorization Act".

SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION OF CRIME-FREE RURAL STATES GRANTS.

Section 2989 of Part GG of Title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3797y-4) is amended by striking "2003, 2004 and 2005" and inserting "2009, 2010, 2011, and 2012".

By Mr. SANDERS:

S. 3728. A bill to direct the Secretary of Transportation to waive non-Federal share requirements for certain transportation programs and activities through September 30, 2009; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I rise today with my colleague from Vermont, Senator SANDERS, to introduce a bill that will help States struggling with meeting non-Federal match requirements for federal transportation funding under the Safe, Accountable, Flexible and Efficient Transportation Equity Act, SAFETEA. Representative PETER WELCH from Vermont introduced identical legislation in the House today as well.

Our States are struggling with enormous budget deficits due to the current economic crisis. As a result, nearly every one of our States has been forced to make drastic cuts to their transportation budgets. On top of that, state and local governments around the country report they do not have the necessary funding in their budgets to match any new Federal transportation money possibly forthcoming in an economic stimulus package. The inability of our states to improve roads and bridges, support public transit agencies facing record demand, and upgrade rail lines puts a strain on our already sagging economy.

Waiving the non-Federal match requirements for all highway, transit, and rail projects contained in SAFETEA would allow cash-strapped states to implement high priority transportation projects immediately—at no additional cost to the Federal Government. Since State and local

transportation officials have ready-to-go projects that simply cannot move forward without untying the strings of the required match, our legislation would waive the non-Federal matching requirements of SAFETEA through September 30, 2009.

I hope my colleagues will take a good look at our bill and support this important legislation that will stimulate needed transportation infrastructure investments all across the country.

By Mr. KOHL:

S. 3730. A bill to expand, train, and support all sectors of the health care workforce to care for the growing population of older individuals in the United States; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Retooling the Health Care Workforce for an Aging America Act, a bill that will address the impending and severe shortage of health care workers who are adequately trained and prepared to care for older Americans. The unfortunate fact of the matter is that while our country is aging rapidly, the number of health care workers devoted to caring for older Americans is experiencing a shortage—one that will only grow more desperate as the need for these caregivers skyrockets.

We face many challenges. We know that few nursing programs require coursework in geriatrics and that in medical schools, comprehensive geriatric training is a rarity. Currently, only 1 percent of all physicians are certified geriatricians, even as the population of older people is on track to double by 2030, and less than 1 percent of all nurses are certified gerontological nurses. Absent any change, by 2020, the supply of nurses in the United States will fall 29 percent below projected requirements, resulting in a severe shortage of nursing expertise relative to the demand for care of frail older adults.

Ensuring that health care workers are properly trained in the provision of care to our seniors is vital. For the direct care workforce, which includes home health aides and personal care attendants, we know that Federal and State training requirements vary enormously, despite the fact that studies show that more training is correlated with better staff recruitment and retention. We also know that family caregivers want enhanced education and training to develop the necessary skills to provide the best possible care for an ailing family member. There are more than 44 million people providing care for a family member or friend nationwide. These caregivers frequently do the same work as a professional caregiver, but they do so voluntarily and with little or no training. To their loved one, they are the doctor, the nurse, the assistant, the therapist, and oftentimes the sole source of emotional and financial support.

Fortunately, knowing what we need to change is half the battle. The bill I introduce today will expand, train, and support the workforce that is dedicated to providing care for the older members of our population, incorporating the major recommendations for improving the skills and preparedness of the health care workforce put forth in the Institute of Medicine report, "Retooling for an Aging America: Building the Healthcare Workforce."

By the year 2020, it is estimated that the number of older adults in need of care will increase by one-third. The United States will not be able to meet the approaching demand for health care and long-term care without a workforce that is prepared for the job. Bolstering the health care workforce will be an integral part of national health care reform, and I look forward to working with Finance and HELP Committee leaders on incorporating this legislation into their policy proposals.

By Mr. REID:

S.J. Res. 46. A joint resolution ensuring that the compensation and other emoluments attached to the office of Secretary of State are those which were in effect on January 1, 2007; considered and passed.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the joint resolution be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the joint resolution was ordered to be placed in the RECORD, as follows:

S.J. RES. 46

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. COMPENSATION AND OTHER EMOLUMENTS ATTACHED TO THE OFFICE OF SECRETARY OF STATE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The compensation and other emoluments attached to the office of Secretary of State shall be those in effect January 1, 2007, notwithstanding any increase in such compensation or emoluments after that date under any provision of law, or provision which has the force and effect of law, that is enacted or becomes effective during the period beginning at noon of January 3, 2007, and ending at noon of January 3, 2013.

(b) CIVIL ACTION AND APPEAL.—

(1) JURISDICTION.—Any person aggrieved by an action of the Secretary of State may bring a civil action in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia to contest the constitutionality of the appointment and continuance in office of the Secretary of State on the ground that such appointment and continuance in office is in violation of article I, section 6, clause 2, of the Constitution. The United States District Court for the District of Columbia shall have exclusive jurisdiction over such a civil action, without regard to the sum or value of the matter in controversy.

(2) THREE JUDGE PANEL.—Any claim challenging the constitutionality of the appointment and continuance in office of the Secretary of State on the ground that such appointment and continuance in office is in violation of article I, section 6, clause 2, of the Constitution, in an action brought under paragraph (1) shall be heard and determined

by a panel of three judges in accordance with section 2284 of title 28, United States Code. It shall be the duty of the district court to advance on the docket and to expedite the disposition of any matter brought under this subsection.

(3) APPEAL.—

(A) DIRECT APPEAL TO SUPREME COURT.—An appeal may be taken directly to the Supreme Court of the United States from any interlocutory or final judgment, decree, or order upon the validity of the appointment and continuance in office of the Secretary of State under article I, section 6, clause 2, of the Constitution, entered in any action brought under this subsection. Any such appeal shall be taken by a notice of appeal filed within 20 days after such judgment, decree, or order is entered.

(B) JURISDICTION.—The Supreme Court shall, if it has not previously ruled on the question presented by an appeal taken under subparagraph (A), accept jurisdiction over the appeal, advance the appeal on the docket, and expedite the appeal.

(C) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This joint resolution shall take effect at 12:00 p.m. on January 20, 2009.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 728—DESIGNATING JANUARY 2009 AS "NATIONAL MENTORING MONTH"

Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. SPECTER, Mrs. LINCOLN, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. KERRY, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. BAYH, Mrs. CLINTON, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. ENSIGN, and Mr. PRYOR) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 728

Whereas mentoring is a longstanding tradition in which a dependable, caring adult provides guidance, support, and encouragement to facilitate a young person's social, emotional, and cognitive development;

Whereas continued research on mentoring shows that formal, high-quality mentoring focused on developing the competence and character of the mentee promotes positive outcomes, such as improved academic achievement, self-esteem, social skills, and career development;

Whereas further research on mentoring provides strong evidence that mentoring successfully reduces substance use and abuse, academic failure, and delinquency;

Whereas mentoring, in addition to preparing young people for school, work, and life, is extremely rewarding for those serving as mentors;

Whereas more than 4,200 mentoring programs in communities of all sizes across the United States focus on building strong, effective relationships between mentors and mentees;

Whereas approximately 3,000,000 young people in the United States are in solid mentoring relationships due to the remarkable vigor, creativity, and resourcefulness of the thousands of mentoring programs in communities throughout the Nation;

Whereas, in spite of the progress made to increase mentoring, the Nation has a serious "mentoring gap", with nearly 15,000,000 young people in need of mentors;

Whereas mentoring partnerships between the public and private sectors bring State and local leaders together to support men-

toring programs by preventing duplication of efforts, offering training in industry best practices, and making the most of limited resources to benefit young people in the United States;

Whereas the designation of January 2009 as National Mentoring Month will help call attention to the critical role mentors play in helping young people realize their potential;

Whereas a month-long celebration of mentoring will encourage more individuals and organizations, including schools, businesses, nonprofit organizations, faith institutions, and foundations, to become engaged in mentoring across the United States; and

Whereas National Mentoring Month will, most significantly, build awareness of mentoring and encourage more people to become mentors and help close the mentoring gap in the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the month of January 2009 as "National Mentoring Month";

(2) recognizes with gratitude the contributions of the millions of caring adults and students who are already volunteering as mentors and encourages more adults and students to volunteer as mentors; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to observe National Mentoring Month with appropriate ceremonies and activities that promote awareness of, and volunteer involvement with, youth mentoring.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I am honored to join Senator KENNEDY and others to submit S. Res. 728, which designates January 2009 as National Mentoring Month. Mentoring a child is a uniquely rewarding experience for both the mentor and the child. Research continues to support that building these positive relationships helps keep children off of drugs, in school and off the streets, and out of trouble.

This month, I brought the Senate Judiciary Committee to St. Albans, VT, for a field hearing about "Community-Based Solutions to Drug-Related Crime in Rural America." Community leaders and law enforcement officials testified about their efforts to address crime. They are on the front lines fighting crime each and every day. I have always said that solving these problems as they arise is essential, but preventing them is even better. One solution that Vermont's businesses, schools, college students, and retired people have continued to recognize is that mentoring connects our community to our children.

Vermont's mentoring programs stretch the length of our great State, from the Northeast Kingdom to Bennington. Whether it is the Boys and Girls Clubs offering healthy alternatives for young people, or organizations such as DREAM, which connects college students and children living in subsidized housing developments, or any of the several mentoring programs in the State, these organizations and the dedicated people who operate and participate in them deserve our special thanks. I applaud all the work mentoring programs are doing to help our Nation's children become productive, law-abiding teenagers and contributing adults. Recognizing those efforts during National Mentoring Month is just one way we give our thanks.