

Mr. PRYOR. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate, and any statements relating to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

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

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 289) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

NATIONAL ASBESTOS AWARENESS WEEK

Mr. PRYOR. I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 462, and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 462) designating the week of April 2008 as "National Asbestos Awareness Week."

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

Mr. PRYOR. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate, and any statements relating to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 462) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 462

Whereas dangerous asbestos fibers are invisible and cannot be smelled or tasted;

Whereas the inhalation of airborne asbestos fibers can cause significant damage;

Whereas these fibers can cause mesothelioma, asbestososis, and other health problems;

Whereas asbestos-related diseases can take 10 to 50 years to present themselves;

Whereas the expected survival time for those diagnosed with mesothelioma is between 6 and 24 months;

Whereas generally little is known about late stage treatment and there is no cure for asbestos-related diseases;

Whereas early detection of asbestos-related diseases may give some patients increased treatment options and might improve their prognosis;

Whereas the United States has substantially reduced its consumption of asbestos yet continues to consume almost 2,000 metric tons of the fibrous mineral for use in certain products throughout the Nation;

Whereas asbestos-related diseases have killed thousands of people in the United States;

Whereas asbestos exposures continue and safety and prevention will reduce and has reduced significantly asbestos exposure and asbestos-related diseases;

Whereas asbestos has been a cause of occupational cancer;

Whereas thousands of workers in the United States face significant asbestos exposure;

Whereas thousands of people in the United States die from asbestos-related diseases every year;

Whereas a significant percentage of all asbestos-related disease victims were exposed to asbestos on naval ships and in shipyards;

Whereas asbestos was used in the construction of a significant number of office buildings and public facilities built before 1975;

Whereas people in the small community of Libby, Montana have asbestos-related diseases at a significantly higher rate than the national average and suffer from mesothelioma at a significantly higher rate than the national average; and

Whereas the establishment of a "National Asbestos Awareness Week" would raise public awareness about the prevalence of asbestos-related diseases and the dangers of asbestos exposure; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the first week of April 2008 as "National Asbestos Awareness Week";

(2) urges the Surgeon General, as a public health issue, to warn and educate people that asbestos exposure may be hazardous to their health; and

(3) respectfully requests the Secretary of the Senate to transmit a copy of this resolution to the Surgeon General.

NATIONAL SUPPORT THE TROOPS AND THEIR FAMILIES DAY

Mr. PRYOR. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 473, submitted earlier today by Senator STABENOW.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 473) designating March 26, 2008, as "National Support the Troops and Their Families Day," and encouraging the people of the United States to participate in a moment of silence to reflect upon the service and sacrifice of members of the Armed Forces both at home and abroad, as well as the sacrifices of their families.

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

Mr. PRYOR. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate; and any statements related to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 473) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 473

Whereas it was through the brave and noble efforts of the Nation's forefathers that the United States first gained freedom and became a sovereign country;

Whereas there are more than 1,500,000 active and reserve component members of the Armed Forces serving the Nation in support and defense of the values and freedom that all Americans cherish;

Whereas the members of the Armed Forces deserve the utmost respect and admiration of their fellow Americans for putting their lives in danger for the sake of the freedoms enjoyed by all Americans;

Whereas members of the Armed Forces are defending freedom and democracy around the globe and are playing a vital role in protecting the safety and security of Americans;

Whereas the families of our Nation's troops have made great sacrifices and deserve the support of all Americans;

Whereas all Americans should participate in a moment of silence to support the troops and their families; and

Whereas March 26th, 2008, is designated as "National Support Our Troops and Their Families Day": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) the Senate designates March 26, 2008, as "National Support the Troops and Their Families Day"; and

(2) it is the sense of the Senate that all Americans should participate in a moment of silence to reflect upon the service and sacrifice of members of the United States Armed Forces both at home and abroad, as well as their families.

NATIONAL SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM

Mr. PRYOR. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 474, submitted earlier today by Senator FEINGOLD.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 474) expressing the sense of the Senate that providing breakfast in schools through the National School Breakfast Program has a positive impact on the lives and classroom performance of low-income children.

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

Mr. CASEY. Madam President, I rise today in support of a Senate resolution that expresses the Senate's esteem for and commitment to the National School Breakfast Program. I am pleased to be joining Senator FEINGOLD in both recognizing the good that this program accomplishes for low-income children and encouraging more States to participate.

The United States is experiencing a hunger crisis. In 2006 alone, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, USDA, reported that 35.5 million Americans did not have the money or resources needed to provide food for themselves or their families, and this number is sadly on the rise. Between 2005 and 2006, the number of hungry people in the United States increased by over 400,000. As we continue through hard economic times, we can only assume the number of hungry people in America will continue to increase.

Hunger is not just a problem that plagues adults. Of the 35.5 million people who go hungry each year in America, 12.6 million of them are children. This means that 17.2 percent of all children are unsure where their next meal will come from—which poses a real problem. Hunger hinders growth and development and negatively affects

health, leading to increased illness, fatigue, and even hospitalizations. Studies have also shown that hunger impairs cognitive function; hungry children are more likely to perform poorly on tests and repeat grades.

Recognizing the relationship between good nutrition and the ability to learn and be healthy, Congress established a pilot National School Breakfast Program in 1966. Because of its success in raising the nutrition level of needy children, Congress permanently authorized the program in 1975. Since its inception, the School Breakfast Program has experienced tremendous growth. According to the USDA, the number of participating students has increased from 0.5 million children in 1970 to 9.7 million in 2006. This means that each day, more and more children receive a breakfast that provides them with one-fourth of the recommended dietary allowance for protein, calcium, iron, Vitamin A, Vitamin C, and calories. And because of improvements in implementation, including initiatives that provide breakfasts both in classrooms, in hallways, and as students exit buses, the number of students participating in the programs has doubled and in some cases tripled. Yet the number of students participating in the Breakfast Program is still much less than half of the number participating in the National Lunch Program. It is vitally important that we keep up the National Breakfast Program's momentum and provide the States with the tools they need to encourage as many needy children to take part as can.

Appreciating the importance of the program, Pennsylvania has helped increase the number of schools that take advantage of this important program. Each year, Pennsylvania invests nearly \$35.5 million in school breakfast and lunch, paying school districts 10 cents for each breakfast served and 10 cents for each lunch served. To increase the number of students receiving both breakfast and lunch, Pennsylvania pays an additional 2 cents per lunch if breakfast is offered in the school and an additional 4 cents per lunch if the school serves breakfast to at least 20 percent of enrolled students. As with national participation, Pennsylvania's participation is on the rise; over 100 more schools participated in the program between 2005 and 2006 than the previous year. Through this resolution, we hope to encourage States, like Pennsylvania, to continue to work toward our common goal of reducing child hunger.

This Senate resolution recognizes the positive impact the National School Breakfast Program has on needy children. The program not only gives students a balanced breakfast, it provides a solid foundation on which they can start their day. Eating breakfast alone increases student attentiveness and improves overall performance and wellness. The National School Breakfast Program is making great inroads into child hunger. This resolution rec-

ognizes the efforts of the States in implementing the program and encourages them to expand their efforts.

Mr. PRYOR. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and any statements related to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 474) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 474

Whereas participants in the National School Breakfast Program established under section 4 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1773) include public, private, elementary, middle, and high schools, as well as schools in rural, suburban, and urban areas;

Whereas access to nutrition programs such as the National School Lunch Program and the National School Breakfast Program helps to create a stronger learning environment for children and improves children's concentration in the classroom;

Whereas missing breakfast and the resulting hunger has been shown to harm the ability of children to learn and hinders academic performance;

Whereas students who eat a complete breakfast have been shown to make fewer mistakes and to work faster in math exercises than those who eat a partial breakfast;

Whereas implementing or improving classroom breakfast programs has been shown to increase breakfast consumption among eligible students dramatically, doubling and in some cases tripling numbers of participants in school breakfast programs, as evidenced by research in Minnesota, New York, and Wisconsin;

Whereas providing breakfast in the classroom has been shown in several instances to improve attentiveness and academic performance, while reducing absences, tardiness, and disciplinary referrals;

Whereas studies suggest that eating breakfast closer to the time students arrive in the classroom and take tests improves the students' performance on standardized tests;

Whereas studies show that students who skip breakfast are more likely to have difficulty distinguishing among similar images, show increased errors, and have slower memory recall;

Whereas children who live in families that experience hunger are likely to have lower math scores, receive more special education services, and face an increased likelihood of repeating a grade;

Whereas making breakfast widely available in different venues or in a combination of venues, such as by providing breakfast in the classroom, in the hallways outside classrooms, or to students as they exit their school buses, has been shown to lessen the stigma of receiving free or reduced-price school breakfasts, which sometimes prevents eligible students from obtaining traditional breakfast in the cafeteria;

Whereas, in fiscal year 2006, 7,700,000 students in the United States consumed free or reduced-price school breakfasts provided under the National School Breakfast Program;

Whereas less than half of the low-income students who participate in the National School Lunch Program also participate in the National School Breakfast Program;

Whereas almost 17,000 schools that participate in the National School Lunch Program do not participate in the National School Breakfast Program;

Whereas studies suggest that children who eat breakfast take in more nutrients, such as calcium, fiber, protein, and vitamins A, E, D, and B-6;

Whereas studies show that children who participate in school breakfast programs eat more fruits, drink more milk, and consume less saturated fat than those who do not eat breakfast; and

Whereas children who do not eat breakfast, either in school or at home, are more likely to be overweight than children who eat a healthy breakfast on a daily basis: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the importance of the National School Breakfast Program established under section 4 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1773) and the positive impact of the Program on the lives of low-income children and families and on children's overall classroom performance;

(2) expresses strong support for States that have successfully implemented school breakfast programs in order to alleviate hunger and improve the test scores and grades of participating students;

(3) encourages all States to strengthen their school breakfast programs, provide incentives for the expansion of school breakfast programs, and promote improvements in the nutritional quality of breakfasts served; and

(4) recognizes the need to provide States with resources to improve the availability of adequate and nutritious breakfasts.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 2709, S. 2710, S. 2711, S. 2712, S. 2713, S. 2714, S. 2715, S. 2716, S. 2717, S. 2718, S. 2719, S. 2720, S. 2721, and S. 2722

Mr. PRYOR. Madam President, I understand there are 14 bills at the desk, and I ask for their first reading en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bills by title en bloc.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2709) to increase the criminal penalties for illegally reentering the United States and for other purposes.

A bill (S. 2710) to authorize the Department of Homeland Security to use an employer's failure to timely resolve discrepancies with the Social Security Administration after receiving a "no match" notice as evidence that the employer violated section 274A of the Immigration and Nationality Act.

A bill (S. 2711) to improve the enforcement of laws prohibiting the employment of unauthorized aliens and for other purposes.

A bill (S. 2712) to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to complete at least 700 miles of reinforced fencing along the Southwest border by December 31, 2010, and for other purposes.

A bill (S. 2713) to prohibit appropriated funds from being used in contravention of section 642(a) of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996.

A bill (S. 2714) to close the loophole that allowed the 9/11 hijackers to obtain credit cards from United States banks that financed their terrorists activities, to ensure that illegal immigrants cannot obtain credit cards to evade United States immigration laws, and for other purposes.