

only had to consider the merits of the job itself, but also had to factor in finding employment with someone who provided adequate insurance coverage and leave policies, and was also willing to accommodate situations like the need for flexible work schedules and adaptive equipment.

MS can also complicate decisions about personal relationships, marriage, and child bearing. Since MS affects twice as many women as men, young women with MS often struggle with the decision of whether or not to have children who could potentially inherit the disease. In making such decisions, they also have to consider options for caring for those children in the event that MS leaves them impaired or disabled.

Because many of the symptoms of MS—like fatigue, pain, vision problems, and numbness of extremities—are “invisible” to others, people often don’t realize the extent to which the disease affects those who suffer from it.

For those suffering from MS, some of the most important steps they can take are to seek prompt treatment with a physician qualified to address MS, consider beginning therapy with one of the FDA approved disease modifying drugs, and develop a supportive network of family and friends.

The most important thing that we in Congress can do for those who have MS is recognize the scope of this illness, which we are doing through this resolution, and resolve to find ways to improve treatments for those suffering from this devastating disease, and ultimately, resolve to help find a cure. With this resolution, I also invite the chief executive officers of the States, territories and possessions of the U.S. to issue proclamations designating National Multiple Sclerosis Education and Awareness Month.

SENATE RESOLUTION 478—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF “WORLD WATER DAY”

Mr. SMITH (for himself and Mr. KERRY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 478

Whereas the United Nations General Assembly, via resolution, has designated March 22 of each year as World Water Day;

Whereas a person needs 4 to 5 liters of water per day to survive;

Whereas a person can live weeks without food, but only days without water;

Whereas every 15 seconds a child dies from a water-borne disease;

Whereas, for children under age 5, water-borne diseases are the leading cause of death;

Whereas millions of women and children spend several hours a day collecting water from distant, often polluted sources;

Whereas every dollar spent on water and sanitation saves on average \$9 in costs averted and productivity gained;

Whereas, at any given time, ½ of the world’s hospital beds are occupied by patients suffering from a water-borne disease;

Whereas 88 percent of all diseases are caused by unsafe drinking water, inadequate sanitation, and poor hygiene;

Whereas 1,100,000,000 (1 in 6) people lack access to an improved water supply;

Whereas 2,600,000,000 people in the world lack access to improved sanitation;

Whereas the global celebration of World Water Day is an initiative that grew out of the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro;

Whereas the participants in the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, including the United States, agreed to the Plan of Implementation which included an agreement to work to reduce by ½ from the baseline year 1990 “the proportion of people who are unable to reach or to afford safe drinking water”, “and the proportion of people without access to basic sanitation” by 2015; and

Whereas Congress passed and the President signed into law the Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act of 2005 (Public Law 109-121), which was intended to “elevate the role of water and sanitation policy in the development of U.S. foreign policy and improve the effectiveness of U.S. official programs”: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals of ideals of “World Water Day”;

(2) urges an increased effort and the investment of greater resources by the Department of State, the United States Agency for International Development, and all relevant Federal departments and agencies toward providing sustainable and equitable access to safe drinking water and sanitation for the poor and the very poor; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to observe the week with appropriate activities that promote awareness of the importance of access to clean water.

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce a resolution supporting the ideals and goals of World Water Day. I am pleased to have my colleague Senator JOHN KERRY joining me in this cause by serving as the cosponsor of this resolution.

March 22 was established as World Water Day by the United Nations General Assembly to promote awareness of the importance of access to clean water and improved sanitation. Over 1 billion people lack access to an improved water supply and 2.6 billion people lack access to improved sanitation.

Activities are planned internationally to further the goals and ideals of World Water Day. In many cities across the United States, UNICEF is sponsoring the Tap Project. Restaurants will offer patrons the opportunity to add at least \$1 to their checks during the week of March 16. Each dollar donated will result in a child receiving clean water for 40 days. There are currently 16 featured cities, including Portland, OR, and Boston MA.

In 2000, the United Nations member States adopted eight millennium development goals as a basis for working cooperatively. To ensure environmental stability, one of the goals established is to reduce by half the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation by 2015. While some progress has been made, much more remains to be done. The United Nation’s 2007 Millennium Development Goals Report reveals that we are on pace to miss the

2015 target for access to basic sanitation by over 600 million.

Each day millions of women and girls spend hours traveling miles to transport water to their homes. In many cases, the source is polluted. At any given time, half of the world’s hospital beds are occupied by patients suffering from waterborne diseases. These diseases are the leading cause of death for children under 5.

The Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act of 2005 set a goal of providing equal and affordable access to clean and safe water and sanitation in developing countries. This access has long been recognized by the U.S. as a contributing factor to our foreign policy interests. More importantly, access to clean and safe water is basic human right.

We urge our colleagues to support this important piece of legislation.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 4147. Mr. KENNEDY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 70, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2009 and including the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2008 and 2010 through 2013; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4148. Mr. KENNEDY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 70, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4149. Mr. REID (for Mr. BINGAMAN) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 178, expressing the sympathy of the Senate to the families of women and girls murdered in Guatemala, and encouraging the United States to work with Guatemala to bring an end to these crimes.

SA 4150. Mr. REID (for Mr. BINGAMAN) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 178, supra.

SA 4151. Mr. KENNEDY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 70, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2009 and including the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2008 and 2010 through 2013; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4152. Mr. KENNEDY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 70, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 4147. Mr. KENNEDY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 70, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2009 and including the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2008 and 2010 through 2013; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 18, line 16, increase the amount by \$2,000,000.

On page 18, line 17, increase the amount by \$1,000,000.

On page 18, line 21, increase the amount by \$1,000,000.

On page 27, line 16, decrease the amount by \$2,000,000.

On page 27, line 17, decrease the amount by \$1,000,000.

On page 27, line 21, decrease the amount by \$1,000,000.

SA 4148. Mr. KENNEDY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 70, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2009 and including the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2008 and 2010 through 2013; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 19, line 16, increase the amount by \$71,000,000.

On page 19, line 17, increase the amount by \$54,000,000.

On page 19, line 21, increase the amount by \$12,000,000.

On page 19, line 25, increase the amount by \$3,000,000.

On page 20, line 4, increase the amount by \$1,000,000.

On page 27, line 16, decrease the amount by \$71,000,000.

On page 27, line 17, decrease the amount by \$54,000,000.

On page 27, line 21, decrease the amount by \$12,000,000.

On page 27, line 25, decrease the amount by \$3,000,000.

On page 28, line 4, decrease the amount by \$1,000,000.

SA 4149. Mr. REID (for Mr. BINGAMAN) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 178, expressing the sympathy of the Senate to the families of women and girls murdered in Guatemala, and encouraging the United States to work with Guatemala to bring an end to these crimes; as follows:

On page 5, strike line 7 through line 11, and insert the following:

(4) urges the Government of Guatemala to strengthen laws with respect to domestic violence and sexual harassment, to improve the integrity of the prosecutorial and judicial systems, and to provide the resources and commitment necessary to adequately enforce justice for crimes against women;

On page 5, insert "continue to" before "incorporate" in line 13.

On page 5, insert "continue to" after "encourages the Secretary of State to" in line 18.

On page 7, beginning in line 7, strike "all instances of improper investigatory methods" and insert "instances of failure to investigate and prosecute crimes".

SA 4150. Mr. REID (for Mr. BINGAMAN) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 178, expressing the sympathy of the Senate to the families of women and girls murdered in Guatemala, and encouraging the United States to work with Guatemala to bring an end to these crimes; as follows:

Strike the third whereas clause of the preamble and insert the following:

Whereas, while the overall murder rate in Guatemala has increased substantially, the rate at which women have been murdered in Guatemala has increased at an alarming rate, almost doubling from 2001 to 2006;

SA 4151. Mr. KENNEDY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S.

Con. Res. 70, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2009 and including the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2008 and 2010 through 2013; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 55, line 18, after the word "program" insert "or increasing Federal student loan limits".

SA 4152. Mr. KENNEDY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 70, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2009 and including the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2008 and 2010 through 2013; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 55, line 18, after the word "program" insert "or increasing Federal student loan limits".

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Lindsey Miller of my office be granted the privilege of the floor for the duration of the debate on the budget resolution.

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

COMMEMORATING THE 175TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN U.S. AND THAILAND

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be discharged from further consideration of S. Con. Res. 66.

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

The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 66) commemorating the 175th anniversary of the commencement of the special relationship between the United States and the Kingdom of Thailand.

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

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid on the table, that there be no intervening action or debate, and that any statements relating to this matter be printed in the RECORD.

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

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 66) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The concurrent resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. CON. RES. 66

Whereas 2008 marks the 175th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Amity and Commerce between the United States and the Kingdom of Thailand in 1833, during President Andrew Jackson's administration

and the reign of King Rama III, and the commencement of the relationship between the two countries;

Whereas Thailand was the first treaty ally of the United States in the Asia-Pacific region and remains a steadfast friend with shared values of freedom, democracy, and liberty;

Whereas, in December 2003, the United States designated Thailand as a major ally outside the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, which improved the security of both countries, particularly by facilitating joint counterterrorism efforts;

Whereas, for more than a quarter century, Thailand has been the host country of Cobra Gold, the United States Pacific Command's annual multinational military training exercise, designed to ensure regional peace and promote regional security cooperation;

Whereas, in the wake of the tragic 2004 tsunami, the United States and Thailand launched joint relief operations from Utapao, Thailand, strengthening the overall capacity of the forces involved in providing relief and setting the model for effective humanitarian operations throughout the entire region affected by the deadly tsunami;

Whereas Thailand is a key partner of the United States in Southeast Asia and has supported closer relations between the United States and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations;

Whereas, on June 22, 2006, Congress agreed to House Concurrent Resolution 409, 109th Congress, commemorating the 60th anniversary of the ascension to the throne of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand;

Whereas, on December 5, 2007, the people of Thailand celebrated the 80th birthday of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej, the world's longest-serving monarch, who is loved and respected for his lifelong dedication to the social and economic development of the people of Thailand;

Whereas, on December 23, 2007, the Royal Thai Government held nationwide parliamentary elections that are paving the way for a successful return of democracy to Thailand;

Whereas approximately 500,000 people of Thai descent live in the United States, joining in the pursuit of the American Dream;

Whereas Thailand is the 20th largest trading partner of the United States, with bilateral trade totaling approximately \$30,600,000,000 per year; and

Whereas the bonds of friendship and mutual respect between the United States and Thailand are strong; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—

(1) commemorates the 175th anniversary of relations between the United States and the Kingdom of Thailand;

(2) offers sincere congratulations to the Kingdom of Thailand and the people of Thailand for the democratic, free, and fair elections held on December 23, 2007;

(3) commemorates the 80th birthday of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand and offers sincere congratulations and best wishes for the continued prosperity of the Kingdom of Thailand; and

(4) looks forward to continued, enduring ties of friendship between the peoples of Thailand and the United States.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 2738 AND S. 2739

Mr. REID. It is my understanding there are two bills at the desk due for their first reading.

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