

than that national average for an underprivileged child. This proposal should help the most vulnerable at a time when the economic slowdown is creating more obstacles for families to make a successful transition from welfare to work.

In West Virginia, our neediest children are not even receiving the average amount spent on America's underprivileged children, and that is true in too many States. Our children and families are struggling to meet the bold goals of welfare reform with fewer resources and tougher standards. This reauthorization is a chance to help those States that are struggling to achieve the national average for funding. It would be base funding for underprivileged children rather than population growth. It will target resources to vulnerable children.

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise in support of the reauthorization of the TANF Supplemental Grant program. Today Senator ROCKEFELLER and I introduced legislation that would reauthorize these grants and more accurately ensure that the dollars spent on this program are directed to poor children in the States that need it most.

I am committed to ensuring that Federal dollars spent on welfare services and benefits are spent efficiently and provided to our citizens in a way that encourages self-sufficiency. In South Carolina, I am pleased that our Department of Social Services continues to work toward that end. Currently, less than half of States' TANF block grants are spent on welfare checks, and the majority of funding is spent on moving welfare recipients into the workforce. More and more States are using TANF dollars to help beneficiaries purchase services such as childcare, transportation and job training.

However, the neediest States continue to struggle to provide welfare-to-work services to poor families with children. South Carolina can only afford to spend 29 percent of the national average per poor child on TANF services compared to some States that spend well over the national average. It is important that this discrepancy be addressed.

The TANF Supplemental Grant program was created in 1996 to provide additional assistance to States that spend less money per poor person on TANF services. However, many States, like South Carolina, spend well below the national average and do not qualify for this assistance. To date, South Carolina has the lowest spending per poor person of any State in the country that does not receive a supplemental grant. Many States that do receive supplemental grants spend more than twice the TANF funds per poor person than South Carolina.

The Supplemental Grant program will expire on September 30, 2008. Reauthorizing this program is an opportunity to provide assistance, based on updated statistics, to States, like

South Carolina, that cannot afford to spend the national average per poor child on TANF services. Especially during economically challenging times, providing this assistance to States can help our neediest families with children to get back on their feet and back to work.

In working to pass this legislation, I look forward to collaborating with the Senate Finance Committee and Senator ROCKEFELLER on identifying an appropriate mechanism to offset the costs of this proposal. I am hopeful that the Senate will consider this legislation in a timely manner.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 499—URGING PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY PRESIDENT MAHMOUD ABBAS, WHO IS ALSO THE HEAD OF THE FATAH PARTY, TO OFFICIALLY ABROGATE THE 10 ARTICLES IN THE FATAH CONSTITUTION THAT CALL FOR ISRAEL'S DESTRUCTION AND TERRORISM AGAINST ISRAEL, OPPOSE ANY POLITICAL SOLUTION, AND LABEL ZIONISM AS RACISM

Mr. SPECTER (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. CASEY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 499

Whereas, on October 3, 2006, President Mahmoud Abbas of the Palestinian Authority said, "It is not required of Hamas, or of Fatah, or of the Popular Front to recognize Israel";

Whereas, on February 8, 2007, President Mahmoud Abbas openly signed the Mecca Agreement with Hamas, which does not recognize Israel and calls "for confronting the [Israeli] occupation";

Whereas, in 2007, there continue to exist 10 specific articles out of 27 articles in Chapter 1 of the Fatah Constitution that call for Israel's destruction, call for the armed struggle and armed revolution against Israel to continue, call for the prevention of Jewish immigration to Israel, oppose any political solution, and label Zionism as racism;

Whereas the 10 articles of the Fatah Constitution that oppose Israel and Zionism are: (1) "Article (4): The Palestinian struggle is part and parcel of the world-wide struggle against Zionism, colonialism and international imperialism."; (2) "Article (7): The Zionist Movement is racial, colonial and aggressive in ideology, goals, organization and method."; (3) "Article (8): The Israeli existence in Palestine is a Zionist invasion with a colonial expansive base, and it is a natural ally to colonialism and international imperialism."; (4) "Article (12): Complete liberation of Palestine, and eradication of Zionist economic, political, military and cultural existence."; (5) "Article (17): Armed public revolution is the inevitable method to liberating Palestine."; (6) "Article (19): Armed struggle is a strategy and not a tactic, and the Palestinian Arab People's armed revolution is a decisive factor in the liberation fight and in uprooting the Zionist existence, and this struggle will not cease unless the Zionist state is demolished and Palestine is completely liberated."; (7) "Article (22): Op-

posing any political solution offered as an alternative to demolishing the Zionist occupation in Palestine, as well as any project intended to liquidate the Palestinian case or impose any international mandate on its people."; (8) "Article (23): Maintaining relations with Arab countries . . . with the proviso that the armed struggle is not negatively affected"; (9) "Article (24): Maintaining relations with all liberal forces supporting our just struggle in order to resist Zionism and imperialism"; and (10) "Article (25): Convincing concerned countries in the world to prevent Jewish immigration to Palestine as a method of solving the problem." Now, therefore be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) urges President Mahmoud Abbas of the Palestinian Authority, who is also head of the Fatah Party, to officially abrogate the 10 articles from the Fatah Constitution that call for the destruction of Israel and terrorism against Israel, oppose any political solution, and label Zionism as racism; and

(2) condemns the continuing existence of these articles as part of the Fatah Constitution.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I have sought recognition to offer legislation to encourage Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, who is also the chairman of the Fatah Party, to officially abrogate the 10 articles in the Fatah Constitution that call for Israel's destruction and terrorism against Israel, oppose any political solution, and label Zionism as racism.

In order to move the Middle East peace process forward, it is necessary that the Fatah Party recognize Israel's legitimacy. The Fatah Constitution makes this impossible. At present, 10 articles in the constitution oppose Israel and Zionism. They read as follows:

(1) "Article [4]: The Palestinian struggle is part and parcel of the world-wide struggle against Zionism, colonialism and international imperialism."

(2) "Article [7]: The Zionist Movement is racial, colonial and aggressive in ideology, goals, organization and method."

(3) "Article [8]: The Israeli existence in Palestine is a Zionist invasion with a colonial expansive base, and it is a natural ally to colonialism and international imperialism."

(4) "Article [12]: Complete liberation of Palestine, and eradication of Zionist economic, political, military and cultural existence."

(5) "Article [17]: Armed public revolution is the inevitable method to liberating Palestine."

(6) "Article [19]: Armed struggle is a strategy and not a tactic, and the Palestinian Arab People's armed revolution is a decisive factor in the liberation fight and in uprooting the Zionist existence, and this struggle will not cease unless the Zionist state is demolished and Palestine is completely liberated."

(7) "Article [22]: Opposing any political solution offered as an alternative to demolishing the Zionist occupation in Palestine, as well as any project intended to liquidate the Palestinian case or impose any international mandate on its people."

(8) "Article [23]: Maintaining relations with Arab countries . . . with the proviso that the armed struggle is not negatively affected."

(9) "Article [24]: Maintaining relations with all liberal forces supporting our just struggle in order to resist Zionism and imperialism."

(10) "Article [25]: Convincing concerned countries in the world to prevent Jewish immigration to Palestine as a method of solving the problem."

The issue of the Mideast peace process has been tortuous. There have been so many developments since Israel emerged as a state in 1949. The enmity, which has existed for thousands of years, has meant senseless killing, terrorism in Israel, and Hezbollah firing rockets into northern Israel, prompting the justified retaliation by Israel as a matter of self-defense.

Much has changed since the Fatah Constitution was written in 1964. While some question the relevance of the document with respect to the day-to-day operations of the Palestinian Government, the fact remains that the language is incendiary. By striking the polemical language from its constitution, Fatah would be setting an example for the Arab world. It would demonstrate that the Palestinian leadership understands the importance of words and perceptions in the peace process.

This is not the first time I have addressed such an issue. In 1994, the U.S. Congress adopted an amendment put forward by Senator SHELBY and myself, which conditioned U.S. aid on the Palestinian Liberation Organization's elimination of provisions in its charter that called for the destruction of Israel. The amendment was accepted by the U.S. Congress.

The problem of the institutionalization of inflammatory language in the Middle East extends beyond the Fatah Constitution. The Center for Religious Freedom, formerly affiliated with Freedom House, in a 2006 report entitled "Saudi Arabia's Curriculum of Intolerance," stated that despite 2005 statements by the Saudi Foreign Minister that their educational curricula have been reformed, this is "simply not the case." On the contrary, religious textbooks continue to advocate the destruction of any non-Wahhabi Muslim. Saudi Arabia has established Wahhabism, an extreme form of Islam, as the official state doctrine, and about 5 million children are instructed each year in Islamic studies using Saudi Ministry of Education textbooks.

My intent in bringing the Fatah Constitution into focus now is not to undermine the Presidency of Mahmoud Abbas. Rather, my intent is to ensure that these problems of perception are addressed now so that all parties can take further steps towards peace.

The November 27, 2007, Joint Israeli-Palestinian Declaration at Annapolis stated, "We express our determination to bring an end to bloodshed, suffering and decades of conflict between our peoples; to usher in a new era of peace, based on freedom, security, justice, dignity, respect and mutual recognition; to propagate a culture of peace and nonviolence; to confront terrorism and incitement, whether committed by Palestinians or Israelis."

As Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice stated on October 15, 2007, in

Ramallah, "If you're going to have a two-state solution, you have to accept the right of the other party to exist. If you're going to have a two-state solution that is born of negotiation, you're going to have to renounce violence." I urge President Abbas to take action, not only in words, but with deeds.

SENATE RESOLUTION 500—HONORING MILITARY CHILDREN DURING "NATIONAL MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD"

Mr. KENNEDY (for himself and Mr. BAYH) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services:

S. RES. 500

Whereas more than 2,000,000 men and women are demonstrating their courage and commitment to freedom by serving in the Armed Forces of the United States;

Whereas 46 percent of members of the Armed Forces, when deployed away from their permanent duty stations, leave families with children behind;

Whereas no one feels the effect of deployments more than the children of deployed members of the Armed Forces;

Whereas, as of March 2007, approximately 2,108 children had lost a parent serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom;

Whereas the daily struggles and personal sacrifices of children of members of the Armed Forces too often go unnoticed;

Whereas the children of members of the Armed Forces are a source of pride and honor to the people of the United States and it is fitting that the Nation recognize their contributions and celebrate their spirit;

Whereas the "National Month of the Military Child", observed in April each year, recognizes military children for their sacrifices and contributes to demonstrating the Nation's unconditional support for members of the Armed Forces;

Whereas, in addition to Department of Defense programs to support military families and military children, various programs and campaigns have been established in the private sector to honor, support, and thank military children by fostering awareness and appreciation for the sacrifices and the challenges they face; and

Whereas a month-long salute to military children will encourage support for those organizations and campaigns established to provide direct support for military children and families: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) joins the Secretary of Defense in honoring the children of members of the Armed Forces and recognizes that those children also share in the burden of protecting the Nation;

(2) urges the people of the United States to join with the military community in observing the "National Month of the Military Child" with appropriate ceremonies and activities that honor, support, and thank military children; and

(3) recognizes with great appreciation the contributions made by private-sector organizations that provide resources and assistance to military families and the communities that support them.

SENATE RESOLUTION 501—HONORING THE SACRIFICE OF THE MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES WHO HAVE BEEN KILLED IN IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN

Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. REID, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. KYLE, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. BAYH, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. BOND, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. BURR, Mr. BYRD, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. COBURN, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. COLEMAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. CORKER, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DEMINT, Mr. DODD, Mrs. DOLE, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. ENSIGN, Mr. ENZI, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. GREGG, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. HATCH, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. INOUE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KERRY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. KOHL, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. MCCAIN, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. MIKULSKI, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, Mr. OBAMA, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. REED, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. SMITH, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. SPECTER, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. SUNUNU, Mr. TESTER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. VITTER, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WEBB, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. WYDEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 501

Whereas 4,009 members of the United States Armed Forces have lost their lives in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and 487 members of the United States Armed Forces have lost their lives in support of Operation Enduring Freedom;

Whereas we honor the ultimate sacrifice that these men and women made for our country;

Whereas the sacrifices of the fallen are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Coast Guard;

Whereas, as their families and loved ones have sacrificed as well, we honor them in commemorating the memory of those that lost their lives;

Whereas the following 4,009 members of the United States Armed Forces have lost their lives in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom:

(1) Corporal Roberto Abad, Los Angeles, California;

(2) Commander Joseph Acevedo, Bronx, New York;

(3) Sergeant First Class Ramon A. Acevedoaponte, Watertown, New York;

(4) Sergeant Michael D. Acklin II, Louisville, Kentucky;

(5) Specialist Genaro Acosta, Fair Oaks, California;

(6) Private First Class Steven Acosta; Calexico, California;

(7) Specialist James L. Adair, Carthage, Texas;