

to meet on Thursday, April 24, at 9 a.m. in Room 562 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building to conduct a business meeting on pending issues to be followed immediately by an oversight hearing on "Recommendations for Improving the Federal Acknowledgment Process."

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

#### COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, to conduct an executive business meeting on Thursday, April 24, 2008, at 10 a.m. in Room SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

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

#### SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 24, 2008, at 2:30 p.m. to hold a closed hearing.

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

#### SUBCOMMITTEE ON FEDERAL FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT, GOVERNMENT INFORMATION, FEDERAL SERVICES, AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs' Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management, Government Information, Federal Services, and International Security be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, April 24, 2008, at 9:30 a.m. in order to conduct a hearing entitled, "Addressing Iran's Nuclear Ambitions."

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

#### SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT OF GOVERNMENT MANAGEMENT, THE FEDERAL WORKFORCE, AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs' Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, April 24, 2008, at 2 p.m. in order to conduct a hearing entitled, "Beyond Control: Reforming Export Licensing Agencies for National Security and Economic Interests."

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

#### SUBCOMMITTEE ON ANTITRUST, COMPETITION POLICY AND CONSUMER RIGHTS

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights, be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, in order to conduct a hearing entitled "An Examination of the Delta-Northwest Merger" on Thursday, April 24, 2008, at 2 p.m., in Room SD-226

of the Dirksen Senate Office Building. The witness list is not yet available.

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

#### SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER AND POWER

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Water and Power be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate in order to conduct a hearing on Thursday, April 24, 2008, at 2:15 p.m., in Room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

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

#### PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Jeryle Greene and Mindy Van Woerkom of my staff be granted the privilege of the floor for the duration of today's session.

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

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, on behalf of Senator DODD, I ask unanimous consent that Pam Bradley, a fellow in Senator DODD's office, be granted floor privileges for the duration of consideration of the Genetic Information Non-discrimination Act.

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

#### FAA REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2007—MOTION TO PROCEED

##### CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 383, H.R. 2881, the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2007, and I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

##### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close the debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 383, H.R. 2881, the FAA reauthorization bill:

Harry Reid, Daniel K. Inouye, Barbara Boxer, Patty Murray, Byron L. Dorgan, Edward M. Kennedy, Christopher J. Dodd, Daniel K. Akaka, Benjamin L. Cardin, Patrick J. Leahy, Bernard Sanders, Sherrod Brown, Amy Klobuchar, Richard Durbin, Ken Salazar, Sheldon Whitehouse, Max Baucus.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that on Monday, April 28, the Senate resume consideration of the motion to invoke cloture at 4:30, with the time until 5:30 equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees; and that at 5:30 the Senate proceed to vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to H.R. 2881, with the mandatory quorum call being waived.

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

#### AUTHORITY TO SIGN ENROLLED BILLS

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent the majority leader be authorized to sign duly enrolled bills and joint resolutions through the recess or adjournment of the Senate until Monday, April 28, of this year.

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

#### AWARDING THE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO DAW AUNG SAN SUU KYI

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the Banking Committee be discharged from consideration of H.R. 4286.

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

The clerk will report the bill by title. The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4286) to award the Congressional Gold Medal to Daw Aung San Suu Kyi in recognition of her courageous and unwavering commitment to peace, nonviolence, human rights and democracy in Burma.

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

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to note Senate passage of H.R. 4286, legislation that would award the Congressional Gold Medal to the jailed prodemocracy leader and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi. The bill now goes to the President for his signature.

I am pleased to report that this legislation has enjoyed broad bipartisan support. Once again I am joined in this effort by my friend, the senior Senator from California. Senator FEINSTEIN and I introduced this legislation and it has 76 cosponsors. In this regard, I would like to thank Rich Harper of Senator FEINSTEIN's staff and Lucy Bean of my staff for their work on the bill.

When first established in 1776, the Congressional Gold Medal was given to military leaders for their achievements in battle. Since that time, it has become America's highest civilian honor, having been bestowed upon great friends of freedom such as Winston Churchill, Nelson Mandela and Martin Luther King, Jr. Granting Suu Kyi the Gold Medal would continue that same tradition of honoring heroism in the defense of liberty.

For more than 20 years, Suu Kyi's support for justice and democracy has placed her at odds with the tyranny and oppression of the Burmese junta, the State Peace and Development Council, SPDC. She and her supporters have combated the brutality of the junta with peaceful protest and resistance. She has chosen dignity as her weapon, and she has found allies around the world to aid her in her struggle.

Despite the efforts of Suu Kyi and her allies, the SPDC will soon place a sham constitution before the people of Burma for an up-or-down vote. This might sound democratic, but no one is fooled. This proposed constitution includes language that would forbid Suu

Kyi from holding public office. Criticism of the document is a criminal offense. The true intent behind the proposed constitution is not the expansion of democratic principles. Its true purpose is to legitimize and make permanent the military junta and its brutal tyranny.

By awarding Suu Kyi the Congressional Gold Medal, we in Congress are letting the world know that the American people stand with Suu Kyi and the freedom-loving people of Burma and against the junta and the illegitimate charter it is propounding.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time, passed, the motion to reconsider be laid on the table, there be no intervening action or debate, and that all statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

The question is on the third reading and passage of the bill.

The bill (H.R. 4286) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

#### NATIONAL CYSTIC FIBROSIS AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 510 and the Senate proceed to its 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. 510) supporting the goals and ideals of National Cystic Fibrosis Awareness Month.

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

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

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

The resolution (S. Res. 510) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preambles, reads as follows:

Whereas cystic fibrosis is one of the most common life-threatening genetic diseases in the United States and one for which there is no known cure;

Whereas the average life expectancy of an individual with cystic fibrosis is 37 years, an improvement from a life expectancy in the 1960s where children did not live long enough to attend elementary school, but still unacceptably short;

Whereas approximately 30,000 people in the United States have cystic fibrosis, more than half of them children;

Whereas 1 of every 3,500 babies born in the United States is born with cystic fibrosis;

Whereas more than 10,000,000 Americans are unknowing, symptom-free carriers of the cystic fibrosis gene;

Whereas the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend that all States consider newborn screening for cystic fibrosis;

Whereas the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation urges all States to implement newborn screening for cystic fibrosis to facilitate early diagnosis and treatment which improves health and life expectancy;

Whereas prompt, aggressive treatment of the symptoms of cystic fibrosis can extend the lives of people who have the disease;

Whereas recent advances in cystic fibrosis research have produced promising leads in gene, protein, and drug therapies beneficial to people who have the disease;

Whereas innovative research is progressing faster and is being conducted more aggressively than ever before, due, in part, to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation's establishment of a model clinical trials network;

Whereas, although the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation continues to fund a research pipeline for more than 30 potential therapies and funds a nationwide network of care centers that extend the length and quality of life for people with cystic fibrosis, lives continue to be lost to this disease every day;

Whereas education of the public about cystic fibrosis, including the symptoms of the disease, increases knowledge and understanding of cystic fibrosis and promotes early diagnosis; and

Whereas the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation will conduct activities to honor National Cystic Fibrosis Awareness Month in May 2008: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) honors the goals and ideals of National Cystic Fibrosis Awareness Month;

(2) supports the promotion of further public awareness and understanding of cystic fibrosis;

(3) encourages early diagnosis and access to quality care for people with cystic fibrosis to improve the quality of their lives; and

(4) supports research to find a cure for cystic fibrosis by fostering an enhanced research program through a strong Federal commitment and expanded public-private partnerships.

#### REGARDING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE MODERN STATE OF ISRAEL

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H. Con. Res. 322.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 322) recognizing the 60th anniversary of the founding of the modern State of Israel and reaffirming the bonds of close friendship and cooperation between the United States and Israel.

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 with no intervening action or debate, and any statements relating to this matter be printed in the RECORD.

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

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 322) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

Mr. REID. I would note that Senator LEVIN has agreed to lead the Senate delegation to this most important occasion. We appreciate very much his doing so. He is one of the senior Members of the Senate and chairman of the Armed Services Committee, an appropriate person to do this.

#### MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME

Mr. REID. I understand that H.R. 5613 is at the desk.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 5613) to extend certain moratoria and impose additional moratoria on certain Medicaid regulations through April 1, 2009, and for other purposes.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask for its second reading but then object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The bill will be read the second time on the next legislative day.

#### ORDERS FOR MONDAY, APRIL 28, 2008

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 2 p.m., Monday, April 28; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and there then be a period of morning business until 4:30 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, and that Senator DORGAN be recognized to speak for up to 30 minutes; that at 4:30 p.m., the Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 383, H.R. 2881, FAA reauthorization, as under the previous order.

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

#### FAA REAUTHORIZATION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I had the opportunity to meet this afternoon with unions representing different airline entities. I also met with the owners and operators of airlines. We have a real problem on our hands. Fuel costs are now approaching 50 percent of the costs of our commercial airlines—50 percent. It used to be that the No. 1 cost, of course, was labor, personnel, but that is not the way it is. It is approaching 50 percent.

We are spending billions and billions of dollars, and most of that money is going to places we would rather it not go, to countries that have certainly nondemocratic forms of government, and a number of them are doing some very bad things with the money we are sending.