

services that benefit women of all ages, races, and ethnicities;

Whereas National Women's Health Week begins on Mother's Day each year and celebrates the efforts of national and community organizations that work with partners and volunteers to improve awareness of key women's health issues; and

Whereas, in 2008, the week of May 11 through May 17 is dedicated as National Women's Health Week: Now, therefore, be it Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—

(1) recognizes the importance of preventing diseases that commonly affect women;

(2) supports the goals and ideals of National Women's Health Week;

(3) calls on the people of the United States to use National Women's Health Week as an opportunity to learn about health issues that face women;

(4) calls on the women of the United States to observe National Women's Check-Up Day on May 12, 2008 by receiving preventive screenings from their healthcare providers; and

(5) recognizes the importance of Federally funded programs that provide research and collect data on diseases that commonly affect women.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be added as a cosponsor of that resolution as well.

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

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF SANITATION

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be discharged from further consideration of S. Con. Res. 72, and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 72) supporting the goals and ideals of the International Year of Sanitation.

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

Mr. DODD. I further 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 that any statements relating to this measure be printed in the RECORD.

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

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 72) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

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

S. CON. RES. 72

Whereas, at the 55th Session of the United Nations General Assembly in 2000, the United States, along with other world leaders, committed to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which provide a framework for countries and international organizations to combat such global social ills as poverty, hunger, and disease;

Whereas one target of the Millennium Development Goals is to halve by 2015 the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation, the only target to be codified into United States law, in the Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act of 2005 (Public Law 109-121);

Whereas the lack of access to safe water and sanitation is one of the most pressing environmental public health issues in the world;

Whereas over 1,000,000,000 people live without potable water, and an estimated 2,600,000,000 people, including 980,000,000 children, do not have access to basic sanitation facilities;

Whereas, every 20 seconds, a child dies as a direct result of a lack of access to basic sanitation facilities;

Whereas only 36 percent of people in sub-Saharan Africa and 37 percent of people in South Asia have access to safe drinking water and sanitation, the lowest rates in the world;

Whereas, at any one time, almost half of the people in the developing world are suffering from diseases associated with lack of water, sanitation, and hygiene;

Whereas improved sanitation decreases the incidences of debilitating and deadly maladies such as cholera, intestinal worms, diarrhea, pneumonia, dysentery, and skin infections;

Whereas sanitation is the foundation of health, dignity, and development;

Whereas increased sanitation is fundamental for reaching all of the Millennium Development Goals;

Whereas access to basic sanitation helps economic and social development in countries where poor sanitation is a major cause of lost work and school days because of illness;

Whereas sanitation in schools enables children, particularly girls reaching puberty, to remain in the educational system;

Whereas, according to the World Health Organization, every dollar spent on proper sanitation by governments generates an average \$7 in economic benefit;

Whereas improved disposal of human waste protects the quality of water sources used for drinking, preparation of food, agriculture, and bathing;

Whereas, at the 61st Session of the United Nations General Assembly in 2006, the United Nations declared 2008 as the International Year of Sanitation to recognize the progress made in achieving the global sanitation target detailed in the Millennium Development Goals, as well as to call upon all member states, United Nations agencies, regional and international organizations, civil society organizations, and other relevant stakeholders to renew their commitment to attaining that target;

Whereas the official launching of the International Year of Sanitation at the United Nations was on November 21, 2007; and

Whereas the thrust of the International Year of Sanitation has three parts, including raising awareness of the importance of sanitation and its impact on reaching other Millennium Development Goals, encouraging governments and its partners to promote and implement policies and actions for meeting the sanitation target, and mobilizing communities, particularly women's groups, towards changing sanitation and hygiene practices through sanitation health-education campaigns: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) supports the goals and ideals of the International Year of Sanitation;

(2) recognizes the importance of sanitation on public health, poverty reduction, eco-

nomical and social development, and the environment; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to observe the International Year of Sanitation with appropriate recognition, ceremonies, activities, and programs to demonstrate the importance of sanitation, hygiene, and access to safe drinking water in achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 2991

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I understand that S. 2991, introduced earlier today by Senator REID of Nevada, is at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title for the first time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2991) to provide energy price relief and hold oil companies and other entities accountable for their actions with regard to high energy prices, and for other purposes.

Mr. DODD. I now ask for its second reading and object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection having been heard, the bill will receive its second reading on the next legislative day.

APPOINTMENTS

The Presiding Officer. The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, pursuant to Public Law 110-53, appoints the following individuals to serve as members of the Commission on the Prevention of Weapons of Mass Destruction Proliferation and Terrorism: Robin Cleveland of Virginia and James Talent of Missouri.

The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, pursuant to Public Law 110-53, appoints the following individuals to serve as members of the Commission on the Prevention of Weapons of Mass Destruction Proliferation and Terrorism: Graham Allison of Massachusetts and Richard Verma of Maryland.

The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, pursuant to Public Law 110-53, appoints the following individual to serve as a member and Chairman of the Commission on the Prevention of Weapons of Mass Destruction Proliferation and Terrorism: The Honorable BOB GRAHAM of Florida.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, MAY 8, 2008

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 9:30 a.m. tomorrow, Thursday, May 8; that following the prayer and the pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed to have expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that there be a period of morning business for up to 1 hour, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10

minutes each and the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with the Republicans controlling the first half and the majority controlling the final half; that following morning business, the Senate resume consideration of S. 2284, flood insurance, as under the previous order.

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

FLOOD INSURANCE REFORM

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, before reading the concluding comments here, I wish to take a minute or so to summarize what happened today regarding the flood insurance bill.

I express my gratitude, first of all, to Senator REID, the majority leader, for insisting that this flood insurance matter come before the Senate. This is an important bill. There are a lot of issues that our constituents are facing,—the housing issue, on which I am spending a great deal of time, the economic issues generally, the price of gasoline, and the price of oil at \$120 a barrel, causing staggering problems across our country. The flood insurance issue, as we enter hurricane season coming up, could make a great deal of difference for people in this country who are concerned about that issue and what could happen with the cost of premiums, whether they are going to have that coverage at all.

Senator SHELBY of Alabama, my ranking member and former chairman of the committee, along with Senator BUNNING and others actually passed this legislation in a previous Congress and weren't able to get it adopted. We adopted it again out of the Banking Committee earlier this year, and I am optimistic that we will be able to bring final closure to this issue.

In light of the fact that there is a tremendous amount of debt, FEMA—the Federal Emergency Management Agency—had to borrow \$17 billion from the Federal Treasury to meet the claims of people who faced the devastating loss as a result of the flooding that occurred with the major natural disasters. Borrowing that money had an interest payment due on it, and that cost alone was raising the cost of premiums. This bill, which I hope we complete tomorrow, will forgive that debt. That will remove that cost that is added to the premiums, which are not inexpensive but absolutely necessary if you are going to have a flood insurance program.

I point out that the program generates about \$2.5 billion worth of revenues each year with the premiums collected. About a billion dollars of that is administrative costs.

When you have demands, as we did out of 2005 of \$17 billion just in the flood insurance area, you get some idea of how expensive this program can be if it is not well managed and actuarially sound. So we have made this significant effort, which I think will be valuable to people across the country and make a difference.

We still have major work to do on the housing issue. I would be remiss if I didn't say how disappointed I was earlier today to listen to the President of the United States standing with the Republican leadership of the House of Representatives, announcing that he intended to veto the housing legislation. Congressman FRANKS and his Republican counterparts are working on it in the House, and we are working on it in the Banking Committee. We are nowhere near having a bill per se, so I was shocked to hear the President saying he was vetoing something that doesn't exist yet. We are making an effort to have a bipartisan bill. I would have hoped he would say: I am watching what you are doing and I am interested, and I have ideas about what ought to be included, or excluded, and I invite the leadership in Congress to make sure we are involved. That would have been appropriate because we have dealt with the leadership of the administration's agencies that have been deeply involved in helping us craft the Hope for Homeowners Act. It was, therefore, shocking to have the President of the United States, despite the advice and counsel of some of the key economic advisers of the administration who have been constructive in working with us on a way to keep people in their own homes, announce he intended to veto something even before we have had a chance to put it together.

The good news is that I believe my colleagues on the Banking Committee, who are working on this, from the minority and Republican side, are still interested in hearing some ideas and working on this. That is not to suggest they have agreed to anything. They have not. But we are working—and our staffs are—to develop that compromise bill. They haven't been cowed by the announcement by the administration that they will veto anything we might do to keep hundreds of thousands of people in their homes.

I would be remiss if I didn't note that it was only about a month ago or a month and a half ago that the Federal Government committed \$29 billion, without ever a vote occurring here, to make the merger between Bear Stearns and JPMorgan occur. That \$29 billion the Federal Government put into that deal made it possible for it to actually be accomplished.

I happen to think they probably did the right thing that Sunday night of March 16. But I find it somewhat shocking that the President of the United States had little or nothing to say about that commitment of Federal dollars, and yet the idea that we might do something to make it possible for middle-income, hard-working families to stay in that most important possession, their home, he objects to—a bill before it exists that might accomplish that goal, done in a bipartisan fashion, involving his administration, key regulators from his own Government. That he would announce a veto of it is alarming to me, knowing how damaging this mortgage crisis is in so many aspects of our lives: commercial lending, student loans—they are all being adversely affected because of the mortgage crisis. The fact the President said, I am going to veto this bill no matter what you do up there, is disappointing.

My hope is in the coming days, as we move toward a markup in the Banking Committee on this issue, that we will get cooperation and support. I cannot guarantee what we are doing will work, but I know inaction is not an option and failure is not an option. Too many of our fellow citizens are hurting with rising energy prices, health care costs, the cost of higher education, not to mention all these other costs, commodity increases and the like, and they need to know their Government is making an effort to make it possible for them to stay in their homes. That is why I feel so strongly about it.

Although we are dealing with flood insurance today, I did not want to have people believe we are unmindful of what needs to be done in the area of home foreclosure. Mr. President, 7,000 to 8,000 foreclosures are filed every day, by 7,000 to 8,000 of our fellow citizens, and if you add our next door neighbors who are adversely affected, that is more than 20,000 people a day who have their life savings, their best investment put in jeopardy.

For those reasons, I am hopeful we can get more cooperation on that issue.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M.
TOMORROW

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 9:01 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, May 8, 2008, at 9:30 a.m.