

Resolved. That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the goals of Catholic Schools Week, an event cosponsored by the National Catholic Educational Association and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops that recognizes the vital contributions of thousands of Catholic elementary and secondary schools in the United States; and

(2) commends Catholic schools, students, parents, and teachers across the United States for their ongoing contributions to education, and for the vital role they play in promoting and ensuring a brighter, stronger future for the United States.

NATIONAL SCHOOL COUNSELING WEEK

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to S. Res. 436.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 436) designating the week of February 4 through February 8, 2008, as “National School Counseling Week.”

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

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

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

The resolution (S. Res. 436) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 436

Whereas the American School Counselor Association has declared the week of February 4 through February 8, 2008, as “National School Counseling Week”;

Whereas the Senate has recognized the importance of school counseling through the inclusion of elementary and secondary school counseling programs in the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965;

Whereas school counselors have long advocated that the education system of the United States must leave no child behind and must provide opportunities for every student;

Whereas personal and social growth results in increased academic achievement;

Whereas school counselors help develop well-rounded students by guiding them through their academic, personal, social, and career development;

Whereas school counselors have been instrumental in helping students, teachers, and parents deal with the trauma that was inflicted upon them by hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Wilma, and other recent natural disasters;

Whereas students face myriad challenges every day, including peer pressure, depression, the deployment of family members to serve in conflicts overseas, and school violence;

Whereas school counselors are usually the only professionals in a school building who are trained in both education and mental health matters;

Whereas the roles and responsibilities of school counselors are often misunderstood,

and the school counselor position is often among the first to be eliminated in order to meet budgetary constraints;

Whereas the national average ratio of students to school counselors of 476-to-1 is almost twice the 250-to-1 ratio recommended by the American School Counselor Association, the American Counseling Association, the American Medical Association, the American Psychological Association, and other organizations; and

Whereas the celebration of National School Counseling Week would increase awareness of the important and necessary role school counselors play in the lives of students in the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of February 4 through February 8, 2008, as “National School Counseling Week”; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to observe the week with appropriate ceremonies and activities that promote awareness of the role school counselors perform in the school and the community at large in preparing students for fulfilling lives as contributing members of society.

HONORING THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to S. Res. 429. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 429) honoring the brave men and women of the United States Coast Guard whose tireless work, dedication, and commitment to protecting the United States have led to the confiscation of over 350,000 pounds of cocaine at sea during 2007.

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I watch The Weather Channel sometimes, and they have these pieces on what the Coast Guard does in violent seas. The Chair, being from Rhode Island, probably doesn't appreciate it as much as I do, being from the desert, but the Coast Guard rides some rough seas. So they are entitled to this resolution tonight.

I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid on the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 429) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 429

Whereas the estimated import value of the 350,000 pounds of cocaine confiscated by the United States Coast Guard in 2007 is more than \$4,700,000,000, or nearly ½ of the Coast Guard's annual budget;

Whereas the Coast Guard's at-sea drug interdictions are making a difference in the lives of United States citizens, as evidenced by the reduced supply of cocaine in more than 35 major cities throughout the United States;

Whereas keeping illegal drugs from reaching our shores, where they undermine American values and threaten families, schools, and communities, continues to be an important national priority;

Whereas, through robust interagency teamwork, collaboration with international partners, and ever more effective tools and tactics, the Coast Guard has removed more than 2,000,000 pounds of cocaine during the past 10 years and will continue to tighten the web of detection and interdiction at sea; and

Whereas the men and women of the Coast Guard who, while away from family and hundreds of miles from our shores, execute this dangerous mission, as well as other vital maritime safety, security, and environmental protection missions, with quiet dedication and without need of public recognition, continue to display selfless service in protecting the Nation and the American people: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors the United States Coast Guard, with its proud 217-year legacy of maritime law enforcement and border protection, along with the brave men and women whose efforts clearly demonstrate the honor, respect, and devotion to duty that ensure the parents of the United States can sleep soundly knowing the Coast Guard is on patrol; and

(2) recognizes the tireless work, dedication, and commitment that have allowed the Coast Guard to confiscate over 350,000 pounds of cocaine at sea in 2007.

PEACEFUL RESOLUTION TO THE CURRENT ELECTORAL CRISIS IN KENYA

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 431 and the Senate proceed to that matter.

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. 431) calling for a peaceful resolution to the current electoral crisis in Kenya.

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 that any statements relating to this matter be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 431) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 431

Whereas on December 27, 2007, Kenyan citizens went peacefully to the polls to elect a new parliament and a new President and signaled their commitment to democracy by turning out in large numbers, and in some instances waiting in long lines to vote;

Whereas election observers reported serious irregularities and a lack of transparency that, combined with the implausibility of the margin of victory, and the swearing in of the Party of National Unity presidential candidate Mwai Kibaki with undue haste, all serve to undermine the credibility of the presidential election results;

Whereas the Government of Kenya imposed a ban on live media broadcasts that day, and shortly after the election results were announced, in contravention of Kenyan law, the Government also announced a blanket

ban on public assembly and gave police the authority to use lethal force;

Whereas subsequent to declaring Mr. Kibaki the winner, the head of the Election Commission of Kenya (ECK) stated that he did not know who won the presidential election;

Whereas in the aftermath of the election announcement, significant violence began and continues to flare;

Whereas on January 1, 2008, 4 commissioners on the ECK issued a statement which called for a judicial review and tallying of the vote;

Whereas the head of the European Union Election Observation Mission stated that “[l]ack of transparency, as well as a number of verified irregularities . . . cast doubt on the accuracy of the results of the presidential election as announced by the ECK” and called for an international audit of the results;

Whereas the Attorney General of Kenya has called for an independent investigation of the tallying of votes and for the votes to be retallied;

Whereas observers from the East African Community have called for an investigation into irregularities during the tallying process and for those responsible for such irregularities to be held accountable;

Whereas some estimates indicate that at least 700 people have died and as many as 250,000 have been displaced as a result of this violence, which continues;

Whereas the economic cost to Kenya of the violence and civil unrest in the wake of the disputed polls is estimated at \$1,000,000,000;

Whereas the Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs traveled to Nairobi in an attempt to mediate between the 2 leading presidential candidates and has stated that “serious flaws in the vote tallying process damaged the credibility of the process” and that the United States should not “conduct business as usual” in Kenya; and

Whereas Kenya has been a valuable strategic, political, diplomatic, and economic partner to those in the subregion, region, and to the United States and has been 1 of the major recipients of United States foreign assistance in sub-Saharan Africa for decades: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends the Kenyan people for their commitment to democracy and respect for the democratic process, as evidenced by the high voter turnout and peaceful voting on election day;

(2) strongly condemns the violence in Kenya;

(3) urges all politicians and political parties to immediately desist from the reactivation, support, and use of militia organizations that are ethnic-based or otherwise constituted;

(4) calls on the 2 leading presidential candidates to—

(A) engage in an internationally brokered dialogue, which results in a new political dispensation that is supported by Kenyan civil society; and

(B) respect the will of the Kenyan people;

(5) simultaneously—

(A) supports a call for electoral justice in Kenya, including a thorough and credible independent audit of election results with the possibility, depending on what is discovered, of a recount or retallying of votes, or a rerun of the presidential elections within a specified time period; and

(B) encourages any political settlement to take into account these recommendations;

(6) calls on Kenyan security forces to refrain from use of excessive force and respect the human rights of Kenyan citizens;

(7) calls for those who are found guilty of committing human rights violations to be held accountable for their actions;

(8) calls for an immediate end to the restrictions on the media, and on the rights of peaceful assembly and association;

(9) condemns threats to civil society leaders and human rights activists who are working towards a peaceful, just, and equitable political solution to the current electoral crisis;

(10) holds all political actors in Kenya responsible for the safety and security of civil society leaders and human rights advocates;

(11) calls on the international community, United Nations aid organizations, and all neighboring countries to provide assistance to Kenyan refugees who have fled in search of greater security;

(12) encourages others in the international community to work together and use all diplomatic means at their disposal to persuade relevant political actors to commit to a peaceful resolution to the current crisis; and

(13) urges the President of the United States to—

(A) support diplomatic efforts to facilitate a dialogue between leaders of the Party of National Unity, the Orange Democratic Movement, and other relevant actors;

(B) consider the imposition of personal sanctions, including a travel ban and asset freeze on leaders in the Party of National Unity, the Orange Democratic Movement, and other relevant actors who refuse to engage in meaningful dialogue to end the current crisis; and

(C) conduct a review of current United States aid to Kenya for the purpose of restricting all nonessential assistance to Kenya, unless all parties are able to establish a peaceful, political resolution to the current crisis, which is credible with the Kenyan people.

EXTENSION OF THE PROTECT AMERICA ACT OF 2007

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of H.R. 5104, a 15-day FISA extension, received from the House earlier today; that the bill be read a third time, passed, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table; that any statements relating to this matter be printed in the RECORD.

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

The bill (H.R. 5104) was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I appreciate the cooperation of my colleagues, especially Senator McCONNELL. We are going to do our very best to have an agreement shortly so we can move to finish Senate action on this. There has been a lot of time spent on this by a lot of people—people in the Intelligence Committee, Democrats and Republicans; members of the Judiciary Committee, Democrats and Republicans.

There is an effort to try to resolve this. We have had a number of good meetings today. This will allow us to do that. Our goal is to get it done quickly so we can get it to the House and complete a conference prior to the 15 days being extended.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—H.R. 5140

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I now ask unanimous consent that the adoption of a motion to proceed to H.R. 5140, the economic stimulus package, not displace any pending measures.

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

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, let me say that we are going to work real hard tomorrow and the next day to get a lot of work done. We have so much to do. This is a relatively short work period. We have the stimulus package. We have foreign intelligence that we have to do. We have a lands bill from the Energy Committee. We have an agreement to move forward on that. We would like to finish the Indian health bill, if we can. We have a lot to do.

That being the case, we are going to have to have a vote this coming Monday. We are going to do it later rather than earlier, but we are going to have to work on Tuesday. Tuesday is Super Tuesday. I had talked to the Republican leader earlier hoping we could work something out, that we would not have to be in. Certainly, it is no one's fault, even though there is a lot of finger pointing going on. But we were not able to get much work done yesterday and today. So losing those 2 days, I do not see any alternative.

I know a number of people would like to go home on Super Tuesday, but they can vote absentee, and I think the country will survive without Senators being there on election day. I hope everyone here understands we have a limited amount of time to do a lot of work.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—H.R. 5140

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I understand that H.R. 5140 is now here and at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask for its first reading.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 5140) to provide economic stimulus through recovery rebates to individuals, incentives for business investment, and an increase in conforming and FHA loan limits.

Mr. REID. I ask, Mr. President, that further work on this matter be terminated now, so I object to its second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 30, 2008

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand