

for the continuity of benefits under paragraph (2) of this subsection relating to subchapter III of chapter 84 of that title. Regulations under this subparagraph shall include regulations relating to employee deductions and employee and employer contributions and deposits in the Thrift Savings Fund.

(d) COVERED INDIVIDUALS NOT ENTITLED TO SEVERANCE PAY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided under paragraph (2), a covered individual shall not be entitled to severance pay under section 5595 of title 5, United States Code, by reason of—

(A) separation from service with the Architect of the Capitol and becoming an employee of a contractor under a food services contract; or

(B) termination of employment with a contractor, or successor to a contractor.

(2) SEPARATION DURING 90-DAY PERIOD.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—

(i) COVERED INDIVIDUALS.—Except as provided under clause (ii), a covered individual shall be entitled to severance pay under section 5595 of title 5, United States Code, if during the 90-day period following the transfer date the employment of that individual with a contractor is terminated as provided under a food services contract.

(ii) EXCEPTION.—Clause (i) shall not apply to a covered individual who is terminated for cause.

(B) TREATMENT.—For purposes of section 5595 of title 5, United States Code—

(i) any period of continuous service performed by a covered individual described under subparagraph (A) as an employee of a contractor shall be deemed to be a period of service as an employee of the Architect of the Capitol; and

(ii) any termination of employment of a covered individual described under subparagraph (A) with a contractor shall be treated as a separation from service with the Architect of the Capitol.

(e) VOLUNTARY SEPARATION INCENTIVE PAYMENTS.—

(1) SUBMISSION OF PLAN.—Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Architect of the Capitol shall submit a plan under section 210 of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2005 (2 U.S.C. 60q) to the applicable committees as provided under that section.

(2) PLAN.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 210(e) of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2005 (2 U.S.C. 60q(e)), the plan submitted under this subsection shall—

(i) offer a voluntary separation incentive payment to any employee described under subsection (a)(2)(A) of this section in accordance with section 210 of that Act; and

(ii) offer such a payment to any such employee who becomes a covered individual, if that individual accepts the offer during the 90-day period following the transfer date.

(B) TREATMENT OF COVERED INDIVIDUALS.—For purposes of the plan under this subsection—

(i) any period of continuous service performed by a covered individual as an employee of a contractor shall be deemed to be a period of service as an employee of the Architect of the Capitol; and

(ii) any termination of employment of a covered individual with a contractor shall be treated as a separation from service with the Architect of the Capitol.

(f) EARLY RETIREMENT TREATMENT FOR CERTAIN SEPARATED EMPLOYEES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—This subsection applies to—

(A) an employee of the Senate Restaurants of the Office of the Architect of the Capitol who—

(i) voluntarily separates from service on or after the date of enactment of this Act, but prior to the day before the transfer date; and

(ii) on such date of separation—

(I) has completed 25 years of service as defined under section 8331(12) or 8401(26) of title 5, United States Code; or

(II) has completed 20 years of such service and is at least 50 years of age; and

(B) except as provided under paragraph (2), a covered individual—

(i) whose employment with a contractor is terminated as provided under a food services contract during the 90-day period following the transfer date; and

(ii) on the date of such termination—

(I) has completed 25 years of service as defined under section 8331(12) or 8401(26) of title 5, United States Code; or

(II) has completed 20 years of such service and is at least 50 years of age.

(2) EXCEPTION.—Paragraph (1)(B) shall not apply to a covered individual who is terminated for cause.

(3) TREATMENT.—

(A) ANNUITY.—Notwithstanding any provision of chapter 83 or 84 of title 5, United States Code, an employee described under paragraph (1) is entitled to an annuity which shall be computed consistent with the provisions of law applicable to annuities under section 8336(d) or 8414(b) of title 5, United States Code.

(B) SEPARATION DURING 90-DAY PERIOD.—For purposes of chapter 83 or 84 of title 5, United States Code—

(i) any period of continuous service performed by a covered individual described under paragraphs (1)(B) and (2) as an employee of a contractor shall be deemed to be a period of service as an employee of the Architect of the Capitol; and

(ii) any termination of employment of a covered individual described under paragraphs (1)(B) and (2) with a contractor shall be treated as a separation from service with the Architect of the Capitol.

(g) CONGRESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 1995.—

(1) EMPLOYEES OF THE ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL.—Section 101(5) of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1301(5)) is amended by striking “, the Botanic Garden, or the Senate Restaurant” and inserting “or the Botanic Garden”.

(2) DISABILITIES.—Section 210(a)(7) of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1331(a)(7)) is amended by striking “the Senate Restaurants and the Botanic Garden” and inserting “the Botanic Garden”.

(3) CONTINUING APPLICATION TO CERTAIN ACTS AND OMISSIONS.—For purposes of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1301 et seq.) a covered individual shall be treated as an employee of the Architect of the Capitol with respect to any act or omission which occurred before the transfer date.

(h) DEPOSIT OF COMMISSIONS.—

(1) SENATE RESTAURANTS FOOD SERVICES CONTRACT.—Any commissions paid by a contractor under a food services contract shall be deposited in the miscellaneous items account within the contingent fund of the Senate.

(2) USE OF FUNDS.—Any funds deposited under paragraph (1) shall be available for expenditure in the same manner as funds appropriated into that account.

(i) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This Act shall take effect on the date of enactment of this Act and apply to the remainder of the fiscal year in which enacted and each fiscal year thereafter.

REGARDING STATEMENTS MADE BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION THAT UNDERMINE THE REPUBLIC OF GEORGIA

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 741, S. Res. 550.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 550) expressing the sense of the Senate regarding provocative and dangerous statements made by the government of the Russian Federation that undermine the territorial integrity of the Republic of Georgia.

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

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the 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 that any statements related to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 550) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 550

Whereas, since 1993, the territorial integrity of the Republic of Georgia has been reaffirmed by the international community and 32 United Nations Security Council resolutions;

Whereas the Government of the Republic of Georgia has pursued with good faith the peaceful resolution of territorial conflicts in the regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia since the end of hostilities in 1993;

Whereas President of Georgia Mikheil Saakashvili has offered a clear plan for resolving the conflict in Abkhazia and securing legitimate interests of the Abkhaz and South Ossetian people within a unified Georgia;

Whereas, for several years, the Government of Russia has engaged in an ongoing process of usurping the sovereignty of Georgia in Abkhazia and South Ossetia by awarding subsidies, the right to vote in elections in Russia, and Russian passports to people living in those regions;

Whereas the announcement of the Government of the Russian Federation that it will establish “official ties” with the breakaway regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia and further involve itself in aspects of their government appears to be a thinly veiled attempt at annexation;

Whereas the statements and counter-productive behavior of the Government of the Russian Federation in these regions has undermined the peace and security of those regions, the Republic of Georgia, and the region as a whole; and

Whereas the consistent effort to undermine the sovereignty of a neighbor is incompatible with the role of the Russian Federation as one of the world’s leading powers and is inconsistent with the commitments to international peacekeeping made by the Government of the Russian Federation: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns recent decisions made by the Government of the Russian Federation to establish “official ties” with the breakaway

regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia, a process that further impedes reconciliation between those regions and the Government of Georgia and violates the sovereignty of the Republic of Georgia and the commitments of the Government of the Russian Federation to international peacekeeping;

(2) calls upon the Government of the Russian Federation to disavow this policy, which gives the appearance of being motivated by an appetite for annexation;

(3) affirms that the restoration of the territorial integrity of the Republic of Georgia is in the interest of all who seek peace and stability in the region;

(4) urges all parties to the conflicts in the Republic of Georgia and governments around the world to eschew rhetoric that escalates tensions and undermines efforts to negotiate a settlement to the conflicts; and

(5) commends the Government of Georgia for acting with restraint in the face of serious provocation.

AUTHORIZING THE USE OF THE CAPITOL GROUNDS

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H. Con. Res. 309 which was received from the House.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 309) authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the District of Columbia Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run.

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

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and any statements related to the measure be printed in the RECORD.

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

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 309) was agreed to.

DESIGNATING JUNE 6, 2008, AS "NATIONAL HUNTINGTON'S DISEASE AWARENESS DAY"

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 581, which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 581) designating June 6, 2008 as "National Huntington's Disease Awareness Day."

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

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 581) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 581

Whereas Huntington's Disease is a progressive degenerative neurological disease that causes total physical and mental deterioration over a 12 to 15 year period;

Whereas each child of a parent with Huntington's Disease has a 50 percent chance of inheriting the Huntington's Disease gene;

Whereas Huntington's Disease typically begins in mid-life, between the ages of 30 and 45, though onset may occur as early as the age of 2;

Whereas children who develop the juvenile form of the disease rarely live to adulthood;

Whereas the average lifespan after onset of Huntington's Disease is 10 to 20 years, and the younger the age of onset, the more rapid the progression of the disease;

Whereas Huntington's Disease affects 30,000 patients and 200,000 genetically "at risk" individuals in the United States;

Whereas, since the discovery of the gene that causes Huntington's Disease in 1993, the pace of Huntington's Disease research has accelerated;

Whereas, although no effective treatment or cure currently exists, scientists and researchers are hopeful that breakthroughs will be forthcoming;

Whereas researchers across the Nation are conducting important research projects involving Huntington's Disease; and

Whereas the Senate is an institution that can raise awareness in the general public and the medical community of Huntington's Disease: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates June 6, 2008, as "National Huntington's Disease Awareness Day";

(2) recognizes that all people of the United States should become more informed and aware of Huntington's Disease; and

(3) respectfully requests the Secretary of the Senate to transmit a copy of this resolution to the Huntington's Disease Society of America.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4, 2008

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 9:30 a.m. tomorrow, Wednesday, June 4; 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, and there then be a period of morning business until 11:30 a.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, with the majority controlling the first 30 minutes, and the Republicans controlling the second 30 minutes; and that, at 11:30 a.m., the Senate consider the budget resolution conference report as under the previous order. I further ask unanimous consent that the time during any adjournment or morning business count against cloture.

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

PROGRAM

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, under a previous order, the Senate will proceed to a vote on adoption of the budget conference report at approximately 11:45 a.m. tomorrow morning. Following the vote on adoption of the budget conference report, I expect the Senate to begin consideration of the climate security legislation.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. BOXER. 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, following the remarks of Senators DOLE, INHOFE, and ENZI.

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

Mrs. BOXER. I thank the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The senior Senator from North Carolina is recognized.

CLIMATE SECURITY ACT

Mrs. DOLE. Mr. President, nearly a year ago, I began working on the Climate Security Act with two Senators, both of whom I also serve with on the Armed Services Committee. As members of that committee, we have worked together to write and pass defense authorization bills to strengthen our national security and support our military. Senators JOE LIEBERMAN and JOHN WARNER have moved the issue of climate security forward in the American dialogue, and I join them in that effort.

I understand this bill is viewed by most as an environmental bill—which it is—but it is also essential to our national security. Just a few weeks ago, Secretary of Defense Robert Gates talked about the threats our Nation faces. He said, "Rather than one, single entity—the Soviet Union—and one, single animating ideology—communism—we are instead facing challenges from multiple sources: a new, more malignant form of terrorism inspired by jihadist extremism, ethnic strife, disease, poverty, climate change, failed and failing states, resurgent powers, and so on." Of the threats Secretary Gates articulated, we know the predicted negative ramifications of climate change could initiate a chain-reaction of events such as severe drought or floods that diminish food supply and displace millions of people.

Additionally, last year 11 retired three-star and four-star admirals and generals issued a report, National Security and the Threat of Climate Change. They had four primary findings: (1) Projected climate change poses a serious threat to America's national security; (2) Climate change acts as a threat multiplier for instability in some of the most volatile regions of the world; (3) Projected climate change will add to tensions even in stable regions of the world; and (4) Climate