

hearing will be held on Monday, July 21, 2008, at 9:30 a.m., the new location: Alumni Hall, Highsmith Union, University of North Carolina Asheville, One University Heights, Asheville, North Carolina.

The purpose of the hearing is to receive testimony regarding the All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory of all species within the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Specifically, the hearing will address: (1) How much has been learned up to this point and at what cost? (2) What is left to be done and what is the estimated time and cost to complete the inventory? (3) How has the data been used and are there other ways to use it? (4) What changes, if any, should be made in the program and (5) Should the program be expanded to include other National Parks?

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record should send it to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, Washington, DC 20510-6150, or by email to rachel_pasternack@energy.senate.gov.

For further information, please contact Kira Finkler at (202) 224-5523 or Rachel Pasternack at (202) 224-0883.

PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs will hold a hearing entitled, "Medicare Vulnerabilities: Payments for Claims Tied to Deceased Doctors." The Subcommittee hearing will examine fraud, waste, and abuse in the Medicare program in connection with the payment of claims containing the physician identification numbers of doctors who had died at least 1 year before the prescription was filled. The hearing will focus on Durable Medical Equipment (DME) claims citing a deceased doctor as the prescribing physician, and inadequate oversight by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to correct the problem. The Subcommittee will also issue a Subcommittee staff report in conjunction with the hearing summarizing its investigative findings. Witnesses for the upcoming hearing will include representatives from CMS, Health & Human Services' Office of the Inspector General, and the Social Security Administration.

The Subcommittee hearing is scheduled for Wednesday, July 9, 2008, at 10:30 a.m., in Room 342 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building. For further information, please contact Elise Bean of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations at 224-9505.

NOTICE: REGISTRATION OF MASS MAILINGS

The filing date for 2008 second quarter Mass Mailings is Friday, July 25,

2008. If your office did no mass mailings during this period, please submit a form that states "none."

Mass mailing registrations, or negative reports, should be submitted to the Senate Office of Public Records, 232 Hart Building, Washington, DC 20510-7116.

The Public Records office will be open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on the filing date to accept these filings. For further information, please contact the Public Records office at (202) 224-0322.

RELATIVE TO THE DEATH OF SENATOR JESSE ALEXANDER HELMS, JR.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 608, which was submitted earlier today.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 608) relative to the death of Jesse Alexander Helms, Jr., former United States Senator for the State of North Carolina.

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

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. 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. 608) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 608

Whereas Jesse Alexander Helms, Jr., born in Monroe, North Carolina on October 18, 1921, spent a 52-year public career dedicating himself to his country, his family, and his home State, representing North Carolina in the United States Senate for 30 years;

Whereas Jesse Alexander Helms, Jr., served in the United States Navy from 1942 until 1945;

Whereas Jesse Alexander Helms, Jr., was educated in the public schools of Monroe, North Carolina and at Wingate Junior College and Wake Forest College, served as city editor of the Raleigh Times, administrative assistant to United States Senators Willis Smith and Alton Lennon, executive director of the North Carolina Bankers Association, member of the Raleigh City Council, and a television and radio executive;

Whereas Jesse Alexander Helms, Jr., was elected to the United States Senate in 1972, and served as Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the Senate Agriculture Committee, ultimately serving five terms, equal to the longest of any Senator from North Carolina;

Whereas Jesse Alexander Helms, Jr., was a leader against Communism and became the first legislator of any nation to address the United Nations Security Council;

Whereas Jesse Alexander Helms, Jr., was married for 65 years to Dorothy "Dot" Coble Helms, whom he termed his "best friend" and is the father of three children;

Whereas Jesse Alexander Helms, Jr., made invaluable contributions to his community, State, Nation, and the World;

Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate has heard with profound sorrow and deep regret the an-

nouncement of the death of the Honorable Jesse Alexander Helms, Jr., former Member of the United States Senate.

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate communicate these resolutions to the House of Representatives and transmit an enrolled copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

Resolved, That when the Senate adjourns today, it stand in adjournment as a further mark of respect to the memory of the Honorable Jesse Alexander Helms, Jr.

TAY-SACHS AWARENESS MONTH

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 853, S. Res. 594.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 594) designating September 2008 as "Tay-Sachs Awareness Month."

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

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. 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, with no intervening action or debate, and any statements related to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 594) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 594

Whereas Tay-Sachs disease is a rare, genetic disorder that causes destruction of nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord due to the poor functioning of an enzyme called beta-hexosaminidase A;

Whereas there is no proven treatment or cure for Tay-Sachs disease and the disease is always fatal in children;

Whereas the disorder was named after Warren Tay, an ophthalmologist from the United Kingdom, and Bernard Sachs, a neurologist from the United States, both of whom contributed to the discovery of the disease in 1881 and 1887, respectively;

Whereas Tay-Sachs disease often affects families with no prior history of the disease;

Whereas approximately 1 in 27 Ashkenazi Jews, 1 in 30 Louisianan Cajuns, 1 in 30 French Canadians, 1 in 50 Irish Americans, and 1 in every 250 people are carriers of Tay-Sachs disease, which means approximately 1,200,000 Americans are carriers;

Whereas these unaffected carriers of the disease possess the recessive gene that can trigger the disease in future generations;

Whereas, if both parents of a child are carriers of Tay-Sachs disease, there is a 1 in 4 chance that the child will develop Tay-Sachs disease;

Whereas a simple and inexpensive blood test can determine if an individual is a carrier of Tay-Sachs disease, and all people in the United States, especially those citizens who are members of high-risk populations, should be screened; and

Whereas raising awareness of Tay-Sachs disease is the best way to fight this horrific disease: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate designates September 2008 as "Tay-Sachs Awareness Month".

NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION ESTABLISHMENT ACT AMENDMENT OF 2007

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 860, H.R. 3891.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3891) to amend the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Establishment Act to increase the number of Directors on the Board of Directors of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

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

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read the third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and any statements be printed in the RECORD.

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

The bill (H.R. 3891) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—H.R. 6377

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I understand that H.R. 6377 has been received from the House and is at the desk.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 6377) to direct the Commodity Futures Trading Commission to utilize all its authority, including its emergency powers, to curb immediately the role of excessive speculation in any contract market within the jurisdiction and control of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, on or through which energy futures or swaps are traded, and to eliminate excessive speculation, price distortion, sudden or unreasonable fluctuations or unwarranted changes in prices, or other unlawful activity that is causing major market disturbances that prevent the market from accurately reflecting the forces of supply and demand for energy commodities.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I ask for its second reading and object to my own request.

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

REMOVAL OF INJUNCTION OF SECRECY—TREATY DOCUMENT NO. 110-19

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, as in executive session, I ask unanimous consent that the injunction of secrecy be removed from the following treaty transmitted to the Senate on July 7,

2008, by the President of the United States. It is the Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Treaty Document No. 110-19).

I further ask that the treaty be considered as having been read the first time; that it be referred, with accompanying papers, to the Committee on Foreign Relations and ordered to be printed; and that the President's message be printed in the RECORD.

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

The message of the President is as follows:

To the Senate of the United States:

I transmit herewith for advice and consent of the Senate to ratification the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, adopted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on November 3, 2001, and signed by the United States on November 1, 2002 (the "Treaty"). The Treaty entered into force in June 2004.

The centerpiece of the Treaty is the establishment of a multilateral system under which a party provides access to other parties, upon request, to listed plant genetic resources held in national genebanks. These resources are to be used solely for purposes of research, breeding, and training in agriculture. A recipient of such a resource must then share the benefits from its use, e.g., a recipient who commercializes a product containing an accessed plant genetic resource must generally pay a percentage of any gross sales into a trust account.

Transfers under the multilateral system are to be accompanied by a standard material transfer agreement, the current version of which was concluded in June 2006.

Provision of plant genetic resources from U.S. genebanks is fully consistent with the Department of Agriculture's long-standing general practice of providing access to such plant genetic resources upon request. Ratification of the Treaty will provide U.S. agricultural interests with similar access to other parties' genebanks, thus helping U.S. farmers and researchers sustain and improve their crops and promote food security.

The Treaty may be implemented under existing U.S. authorities.

I also transmit, for the information of the Senate, the report of the Department of State concerning the Treaty, which contains an understanding regarding Article 12.

GEORGE W. BUSH.
THE WHITE HOUSE, July 7, 2008.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider Calendar Nos. 633 through 636; that the nominations be confirmed, en

bloc, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, en bloc; that no further motions be in order; provided further that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate return to legislative session.

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

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

UNITED STATES TAX COURT

Richard T. Morrison, of Virginia, to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court for a term of fifteen years.

David Gustafson, of Virginia, to be Judge of the United States Tax Court for a term of fifteen years.

Elizabeth Crewson Paris, of the District of Columbia, to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court for a term of fifteen years.

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Edwin Eck, of Montana, to be a Member of the Internal Revenue Service Oversight Board for a term expiring September 14, 2008.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now return to legislative session.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, JULY 8, 2008

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow, July 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, and there be a period of morning business for up to 1 hour, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each. I further ask that following morning business the Senate resume consideration of H.R. 6304, the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, as under the previous order; that all time in adjournment, recess, morning business, and consideration of H.R. 6304 count postcloture. Finally, I ask that the Senate recess from 12:30 until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly Democratic caucus luncheon.

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

PROGRAM

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, in order to accommodate Senators attending the funeral of former Senator Jesse Helms, there will be no rollcall votes during Tuesday's session. Senators should expect the votes in relation to the FISA legislation to begin around 11:15 a.m. on Wednesday, July 9.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned as a further mark of respect to the memory of former Senator Jesse Helms.