

NATIONAL DRUG PREVENTION AND EDUCATION WEEK

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 434, and the Senate now proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 434) designating the week of February 10 through 16, 2008 as "National Drug Prevention and Education Week."

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

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

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

The resolution (S. Res. 434) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 434

Whereas recent survey data suggests that illegal drug use among youth has declined by 24 percent since 2001;

Whereas, despite the reduction in drug use among youth, the number of 8th, 10th, and 12th graders who use drugs remains too high and the rates of prescription and over-the-counter drug abuse are alarming;

Whereas the overall rate of current illegal drug use among persons aged 12 or older is 8.3 percent, which has remained stable since 2002;

Whereas ecstasy (methylenedioxymethamphetamine, or MDMA) use among high school age youth has been rising since 2004;

Whereas, while methamphetamine use is down among 8th, 10th, and 12th graders, many counties across the country still report that methamphetamine is a serious drug problem;

Whereas 25 percent of youth in the 10th grade reported the use of marijuana during the past year;

Whereas youth who first smoke marijuana under the age of 14 are more than 5 times as likely to abuse drugs in adulthood;

Whereas nearly 6 percent of 12th graders have used over-the-counter cough and cold medications in the past year for the purpose of getting high;

Whereas Vicodin remains one of the most commonly abused drugs among 12th graders, with 1 in 10 reporting nonmedical use within the past year;

Whereas teenagers' and parents' lack of understanding of the potential harms of these powerful medicines makes it even more critical to raise public awareness about the dangers associated with their non-medical use;

Whereas the rates of use for any illegal drug are directly related to the perception of harm and social disapproval;

Whereas more than 20 years of research has demonstrated that prevention interventions,

designed and tested to reduce risk and enhance protective factors, can help children at every step along their developmental path, from early childhood into young adulthood;

Whereas prevention efforts should be flexible enough to address and prevent local problems before they become national trends;

Whereas research has demonstrated that there are 4 major targets of prevention: youth, parents, schools (including colleges and universities), and communities and social environments that must be reinforced by each other to have the greatest effect in deterring the consequences of drug use;

Whereas a comprehensive blend of individually and environmentally focused efforts must be adopted and a variety of strategies must be implemented across multiple sectors of a community to reduce drug use;

Whereas community anti-drug coalitions are an essential component of any drug prevention and education campaign because they are data driven, know their community epidemiology, and are capable of understanding and implementing the multi-sector interventions required to reduce the availability and use of drugs;

Whereas community anti-drug coalitions help to change community norms, laws, policies, regulations, and procedures to create an environment that discourages the use of drugs;

Whereas school-based prevention programs should be part of a comprehensive community wide approach to deal with drug use;

Whereas the more successful we are at general prevention of drug use in younger adolescents, the less we will have to deal with the concomitant economic and societal consequences of their use;

Whereas the total economic cost of drug, alcohol, and tobacco abuse in the United States is more than \$500,000,000,000;

Whereas the savings per dollar spent on substance abuse prevention rather than on substance abuse treatment are substantial, and can range from \$2.00 to \$20.00;

Whereas there will always be new and emerging drug trends that require additional prevention and education efforts;

Whereas preventing drug use before it begins and educating the public about the dangers of drug use is a critical component of what must be a consistent and comprehensive effort to stunt and decrease drug use rates throughout the country; and

Whereas thousands of community anti-drug coalition leaders and community based substance abuse prevention, treatment, and education specialists come to Washington, DC to receive state-of-the-art technical assistance, training, and education on drug prevention at the Community Anti-Drug Coalition of America's Annual National Leadership Forum in February: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of February 10–16, 2008, as "National Drug Prevention and Education Week"; and

(2) urges communities, schools, parents, and youth to engage in, and carry out, appropriate prevention and education activities and programs to reduce and stop drug use before it starts.

DESIGNATING FEBRUARY 2008 AS "GO DIRECT MONTH"

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 443.

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 443) designating February 2008 as "Go Direct Month."

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

Mr. REID. 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. 443) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 443

Whereas, in fiscal year 2007, nearly 60,000 checks issued by the Department of the Treasury, worth approximately \$56,000,000, were endorsed by forgery;

Whereas the Department of the Treasury receives approximately 1,400,000 inquiries each year regarding problems with paper checks;

Whereas, each month, nearly 12,000,000 social security and other Federal benefit payments are made with checks;

Whereas the United States would generate approximately \$132,000,000 in annual savings if all Federal benefit checks were paid by direct deposit;

Whereas the use of direct deposit is a more secure, reliable, and cost-effective method of payment than paper checks because the use of direct deposit—

(1) helps protect against identity theft and fraud;

(2) provides easier access to funds during emergencies and natural disasters; and

(3) provides the people of the United States with more control over their money;

Whereas the Department of the Treasury and the Federal Reserve Banks have launched *Go Direct*, a national campaign to motivate people who receive Federal benefit payments to use direct deposit to receive those payments;

Whereas *Go Direct* works with more than 1,100 partners across the Nation, including financial institutions, advocacy groups, and community organizations;

Whereas more than 130 financial institutions representing 25,000 branches nationwide participated in the 2007 "Go Direct Champions" competition to encourage the use of direct deposit among people who receive Federal benefit payments; and

Whereas more than 1,600,000 people in the United States have switched from paper checks to direct deposit to receive Federal benefit payments since *Go Direct* launched in the fall of 2004: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates February 2008 as "Go Direct Month";

(2) supports the goals and ideals of the *Go Direct* campaign;

(3) commends Federal, State, and local governments, nonprofit agencies, and the private sector for promoting February as *Go Direct* Month; and

(4) encourages people in the United States who are eligible to receive social security or other Federal benefit payments to—

(A) participate in events and awareness initiatives held during the month of February with respect to using direct deposit;

(B) become informed about the convenience and safety of direct deposit; and

(C) consider signing up for direct deposit of social security or other Federal benefit payments.

THE STIMULUS PACKAGE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, before we leave, I want to say a couple of things.

It is a very important vote we have tomorrow. I want the Senate to know we have received support from all over the country on the Senate stimulus package. I picked two of these just to comment on at this time.

The Los Angeles Times editorial policy in recent years has not been very progressive in nature, but to date here is what they said:

It's looking all but certain that Congress will pass an economic stimulus bill before mid-February, which isn't necessarily good news. It's questionable whether handing taxpayers a few hundred bucks each would really jolt a sluggish economy, yet there's no doubt at all that it would increase an already scary national debt. Still, some stimuli are more appealing than others, and if we must have a bill, the Senate has a better plan than the House.

Among other things, this editorial says:

The Senate's plan extends unemployment insurance by an additional 13 weeks, provides rebate checks to about 20 million seniors living on Social Security and about 250,000 disabled veterans (neither group would get a penny under the House version), and expands home-heating subsidies. Jobless people and those on fixed incomes are much more likely to spend their rebate checks quickly than those in the middle class, so if the goal is to stimulate spending, this is precisely the population Congress should be targeting.

The Senate also addresses one of the biggest failings of last year's energy bill. Wind and solar power installations are growing at a sizzling pace, but that growth is fueled by production tax credits that expire at the end of next year. An extension was stripped from the energy bill because of an unrelated dispute over taxing oil companies. The credits must be extended as quickly as possible because investors won't pump money into clean power if there's a danger of losing their tax incentives. Renewable energy reduces reliance on foreign oil while cutting greenhouse gases and other pollutants; green technology is also an extremely promising growth industry that could help make up for the loss of manufacturing jobs.

The final paragraph of the editorial is as follows:

McCain has made much during the campaign about his determination to combat global warming. If he's the man of conviction he claims to be, he should return to Washington and back the Baucus bill.

That was the Los Angeles Times.

Mr. President, now the Arizona Republic, which is a very conservative publication. That is an understatement. But here is what they said:

The economic stimulus package from Congress needs some power. Renewable power. The plan should include an extension of tax credits for renewable-energy sources, such as wind, solar and geothermal.

We would get a three-for-one impact: creating jobs, diversifying our energy supply, and reducing pollution.

These aren't new tax credits. They're existing ones that are serving us well. Last year, nearly 6,000 megawatts of renewable energy came on line. That injected \$20 billion into the economy. . . .

Mr. President, this bill that came out of the Finance Committee, which we

will vote on tomorrow, is a good piece of legislation—the Arizona Republic, the Los Angeles Times—and we have had support from all over the country.

I will quote directly from the President's State of the Union Address when he said:

We should allow State housing agencies to issue tax free bonds to help homeowners refinance their mortgages. (Applause.)

This was greeted by applause.

These are difficult times for many American families, and by taking these steps, we can help more of them to keep their homes.

That is in our bill.

We are going to have an opportunity at a quarter to 6 tomorrow to vote on this package. We are not going to pick and choose which of these provisions on a bipartisan basis is placed in the bill. Are we going to throw overboard the seniors? No, they are part of the package. Are we going to throw under the bus disabled veterans? No. Are we going to do away with these business provisions that the business community loves because it will create jobs? Are we going to throw over the homebuilders who are in Washington trying to get this package passed? No. It is important. It is important because it will stop foreclosures. It will help an industry that is in peril. Are we going to tell people who are unemployed, some of whom have been unemployed for a long period of time, that we are not going to help them, we are going to strip them out of the package?

Everything we have in this bill is good. We have to go to conference anyway because there is a provision in here dealing with people who are undocumented and getting benefits.

This is a program, it is a package, it is a good package. That is why we have had support from all over the country as to how much better it is than the proposal we got from the House. Is there anything wrong with the House bill? No, not as far as it goes; it just didn't go far enough. Democrats will vote for this bill, all 51 Democrats will vote for this, but I plead with my Republican friends, this is an important piece of legislation, not for Democrats, not for Republicans, it is for the American people.

I was called by one of my Senators this afternoon. He said he talked with one of the Republican Senators, one of the senior Senators, and said: Can you support us? He said: No, I can't because the Republican leader said at our conference today that he thinks we will have an opportunity to put in the seniors.

Democrats are not willing to throw overboard the very needy people who we believe should be part of this package. It is a package and it is a good package. Are my Republican colleagues going to tell the unemployed it is unnecessary they get help? Are they going to tell the business community this is not necessary now? I am not going to go through all the provisions of the legislation, but it is good, it is a package. And my Republican col-

leagues, nine of them, we need nine of them. We know we have three from the Finance Committee, and I hope we have some other brave souls who will do the right thing for the American people and not follow the path that for 7 years has led this country into a period of where today—the last report I got is the Dow Jones was down about 350 points. Up and down—it is very bad for the economy.

My Republican colleagues should understand that the White House has done the country and not done the Republicans any favors during these past 7 years. The economy is in a deep trip south, and we have to do what we can to rectify that situation. It would help if we passed our package. I cannot imagine why they would keep walking over that cliff as a result of what this President is telling them to do. It is disaster for them. It is disaster for the American people. And nine of them should step forward and do the right thing.

Senator GRASSLEY supports this package. Senator GRASSLEY is one of the most conservative Members in this entire Senate. He is doing it because it is the right thing to do. This gentleman farmer is a great legislator. My Republican colleagues, support this man, support the ranking member of the Finance Committee. It would be good for our country, good for our economy.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2008

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 9:30 a.m. tomorrow; 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; there then be a period of morning business for up to 60 minutes, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with the majority in control of the first half and the Republicans in control of the final half; that following morning business, the Senate resume consideration of S. 2248, the FISA bill.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. REID. Mr. President, with the agreement we just entered on the economic stimulus bill, there will be a rollcall vote at 5:45 p.m. on the cloture motion on the Finance amendment. In addition, Senators should be aware rollcall votes are possible earlier in the day. I would hope that is the case.

We don't have an agreement on FISA yet, but I have been given the assurance by my Republican colleagues that, for example, the amendment the