

of Congress or to the extent of matter within its jurisdiction, any committee or subcommittee thereof." This interpretation clearly bypasses the inclusion of the word "or" and instead reads that Congress only intended it to apply to committee chairman. Conveniently, this opinion has been repeatedly used to block information requested from ranking members.

Section 3 of the bill corrects this erroneous interpretation by clearly adding in that chairman and ranking members may qualify for the exception under the Privacy Act. This provision is consistent with the intent of the Privacy Act exception and the goals of making the government more transparent and accountable under good governance statutes.

This bill is a simple, straightforward effort to make our Federal Government more accountable to the American taxpayers. Further, it will help ensure that Congress has the necessary access to documents from the executive branch so it can conduct its constitutionally required duty of oversight. I am pleased that Senator SPECTER has joined as an original cosponsor and urge my colleagues to support swift passage of this important legislation.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 614—DESIGNATING THE MONTH OF AUGUST 2008 AS "NATIONAL MEDICINE ABUSE AWARENESS MONTH"

Mr. BIDEN (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 614

Whereas over-the-counter and prescription medicines are extremely safe, effective, and potentially lifesaving when used properly;

Whereas the abuse and recreational use of over-the-counter and prescription medicines can be extremely dangerous and produce serious side effects;

Whereas in a recently sampled month, 7,000,000 individuals aged 12 or older reported using prescription psychotherapeutic medicines for nonmedical purposes;

Whereas abuse of prescription medicines, including pain relievers, tranquilizers, stimulants, and sedatives is second only to marijuana, the number 1 illegal drug of abuse in the United States;

Whereas recent studies indicate that 2,400,000 children, or 1 in 10 children aged 12 through 17, have intentionally abused cough medicine to get high from the ingredient dextromethorphan;

Whereas 4,500,000, or 1 in 5, young adults have used prescription medicines for nonmedical purposes;

Whereas according to research from the Partnership for a Drug-Free America, more than 1/3 of teens mistakenly believe that taking prescription drugs, even if not prescribed by a doctor, is much safer than using more traditional street drugs;

Whereas the lack of understanding by teens and parents of the potential harms of these powerful prescription drugs makes raising public awareness about the dangers of the misuse of such drugs more critical than ever;

Whereas misused prescription drugs are most often obtained through friends and relatives;

Whereas misused prescription drugs are also obtained through rogue Internet pharmacies;

Whereas parents should be aware that the Internet gives teens access to websites that promote medicine abuse;

Whereas National Medicine Abuse Awareness Month promotes the messages that over-the-counter and prescription medicines should be taken only as labeled or prescribed, and that taking over-the-counter and prescription medicines for recreational uses or in large doses can have serious and life-threatening consequences;

Whereas National Medicine Abuse Awareness Month will encourage parents to become educated about prescription drug abuse and talk to teens about all types of substance abuse;

Whereas observance of National Medicine Abuse Awareness Month should be encouraged at the national, State, and local levels to increase awareness of the misuse of medicines;

Whereas some groups, including the Consumer Healthcare Products Association and the Community Anti-Drug Coalition of America, have taken important steps by creating educational toolkits, including "A Dose of Prevention: Stopping Cough Medicine Abuse Before it Starts", which provides guides to educate parents, teachers, law enforcement officials, doctors and healthcare professionals, and retailers about the potential dangers of abusing over-the-counter cough and cold medicines;

Whereas the Partnership for a Drug-Free America and community alliance and affiliate partners have undertaken a nationwide prevention campaign utilizing research-based educational advertisements, public relations and news media, and the Internet to inform parents about the negative teen behavior of intentional abuse of medicines so that parents are empowered to effectively communicate the facts about this dangerous trend with teens and to take necessary steps to safeguard prescription and over-the-counter medicines at home; and

Whereas educating the public about the dangers of medicine abuse and promoting prevention is a critical component of what must be a multi-pronged effort to curb the disturbing rise in medicine misuse: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the month of August 2008 as "National Medicine Abuse Awareness Month"; and

(2) urges communities to carry out appropriate programs and activities to educate parents and youth about the potential dangers associated with medicine abuse.

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce a resolution marking August 2008 as National Medicine Abuse Awareness Month. The intentional misuse of prescription and over-the-counter drugs remains a serious problem in this country. This resolution builds on the progress we have made in raising teens' and parents' awareness of the issue, and it seeks to expand our educational efforts even further.

While recent studies indicate that overall use of illegal drugs has remained relatively stable and use among teens has declined since 2002, the misuse of so-called "legal" medications is a serious and growing problem. The figures speak for themselves: 1 in 5

teens has misused a prescription drug, and more people age 12 or older have recently started abusing prescription pain relievers than started smoking marijuana.

Abuse of over-the-counter cough and cold medicines is also alarming. While over-the-counter and prescription medicines are extremely safe and effective when used properly, the abuse and recreational use of these medicines can be lethal. A study by the Partnership for a Drug-Free America indicates that 1 in 10 young people aged 12 through 17, or 2.4 million kids, have intentionally abused cough medicine to get high off its active ingredient, Dextromethorphan, or DXM. In March, I chaired a hearing in the Judiciary Crime and Drugs Subcommittee where-at Misty Fetko told the tragic story of her son Carl's overdose death from a combination of painkillers and over-the-counter cough and cold medicine. These tragedies continue and we have got to work to stop this abuse.

Educating teens and parents about the dangers of medicine abuse is an important component of solving this multifaceted problem. Too many teens think that prescription and over-the-counter medicines are safe anytime, in any dose, and even without a prescription or doctor supervision. They are gravely mistaken. Prescription drug abuse, without a valid prescription and close monitoring by a physician, can lead to dependency, overdose, and even death. Misuse of over-the-counter medicines can similarly cause harmful results.

Another reason driving this abuse is the fact that these drugs are cheap and easy to obtain. A bottle of cough syrup costs a few dollars at the local drug store and prescription drugs can often be found in unguarded medicine cabinets at home. A February 2007 report released by the office of National Drug Control Policy revealed that a shocking 47 percent of youth got their prescription drugs for free from a relative or friend. Parents are becoming their kids' drug dealers and don't even know it.

But we can turn these numbers around through robust education, awareness, and enforcement efforts—and that's just what National Medicine Abuse Awareness Month tries to accomplish by promoting the message that over-the-counter and prescription medicines must be taken only as labeled or prescribed, and that when used recreationally or in large doses they can have serious and life-threatening consequences. The resolution will help remind parents that access to drugs that are abused doesn't just happen in alleys and on the streets, but can often occur right in their medicine cabinets at home.

A number of groups have proactively worked to curb this abuse and I hope this resolution pushes their efforts even further. For example, the Consumer Health Care Products Association and the Community Anti-Drug Coalition of America have teamed up to

create educational toolkits, such as “A Dose of Prevention: Stopping Cough Medicine Abuse Before It Starts,” which include guides to educate parents, teachers, law enforcement officials, doctors and healthcare professionals, and retailers about the potential harms of over-the-counter drug abuse. In addition, the Partnership for Drug-Free America and its community alliance and affiliate partners are undertaking a nationwide prevention campaign that uses research-based educational advertisements, public relations, news media and the Internet to inform parents about the prevalence of intentional abuse of medicines among teens. These campaigns empower parents to effectively communicate the facts of this dangerous trend to their children and to take necessary steps to safely store prescription and over-the-counter medicines in their homes.

I have long advocated robust prevention efforts as a key component to getting a handle on any substance abuse problem. As is the case with other substance abuse issues, prevention is just as important here and educating parents and teens about the realities of medicine abuse is critical. I hope this resolution encourages communities, companies, prevention organizations, parents and others to raise awareness about these dangers, talk to our kids, and keep advancing our efforts to prevent all types of substance abuse in this country.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 5084. Mr. DORGAN (for himself, Mr. THUNE, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KYL, Mr. BINGAMAN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, and Mrs. CLINTON) proposed an amendment to amendment SA 5076 proposed by Mr. THUNE (for himself, Mr. KYL, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. TESTER, and Mr. DOMENICI) to the bill S. 2731, to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2009 through 2013 to provide assistance to foreign countries to combat HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria, and for other purposes.

SA 5085. Mr. BIDEN (for Mr. GREGG) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2731, supra.

SA 5086. Mr. BIDEN (for Mr. VITTER) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2731, supra.

SA 5087. Mr. BIDEN (for Mr. SESSIONS) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2731, supra.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 5084. Mr. DORGAN (for himself, Mr. THUNE, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KYL, Mr. BINGAMAN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, and Mrs. CLINTON) proposed an amendment to amendment SA 5076 proposed by Mr. THUNE (for himself, Mr. KYL, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. TESTER, and Mr. DOMENICI) to the bill S. 2731, to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2009 through 2013 to provide assistance to foreign countries to combat HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 4, line 8, strike “and water” and insert “, water, and health care”.

On page 4, line 12, strike “25 percent” and insert “18.5 percent”.

On page 4, line 15, strike “2.5 percent” and insert “1.5 percent”.

On page 4, line 21, strike “1 percent” and insert “0.5 percent”.

On page 5, line 12, strike “20 percent” and insert “15.5 percent”.

On page 5, line 20, strike “45 percent” and insert “50 percent”.

On page 6, strike lines 7 through 17 and insert the following:

(3) the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Director of the Indian Health Service, shall use 12.5 percent to provide, directly or through contracts or compacts with Indian tribes under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450 et seq.)—

(A) contract health services;

(B) construction, rehabilitation, and replacement of Indian health facilities; and

(C) domestic and community sanitation facilities serving members of Indian tribes (as defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450b)) pursuant to section 7 of the Act of August 5, 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2004a).

SA 5085. Mr. BIDEN (for Mr. GREGG) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2731, to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2009 through 2013 to provide assistance to foreign countries to combat HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 77, line 2, strike “and”

On page 77, line 5, strike “.” and insert a semicolon.

On page 77, between lines 5 and 6, insert the following:

“(C) the inclusion of cost sharing assurances that meet the requirements under section 110; and

“(D) the inclusion of transition strategies to ensure sustainability of such programs and activities, including health care systems, under other international donor support, or budget support by respective foreign governments.”

On page 88, line 22, strike “.” and insert the following: “, including—

“(A) cost sharing assurances that meet the requirements under section 110; and

“(B) transition strategies to ensure sustainability of such programs and activities, including health care systems, under other international donor support, or budget support by respective foreign governments.”

On page 94, after line 25, add the following:

“(G) Amounts made available for compacts described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) shall be subject to the inclusion of—

“(i) cost sharing assurances that meet the requirements under section 110; and

“(ii) transition strategies to ensure sustainability of such programs and activities, including health care systems, under other international donor support, and budget support by respective foreign governments.

SA 5086. Mr. BIDEN (for Mr. VITTER) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2731, to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2009 through 2013 to provide assistance to foreign countries to combat HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 60, strike line 2.

On page 60, line 12, strike the period at the end and insert the following: “; and

(K) has established procedures providing access by the Office of Inspector General of

the Department of State and Broadcasting Board of Governors, as cognizant Inspector General, and the Inspector General of the Health and Human Services and the Inspector General of the United States Agency for International Development, to Global Fund financial data, and other information relevant to United States contributions (as determined by the Inspector General in consultation with the Global AIDS Coordinator).

SA 5087. Mr. BIDEN (for Mr. SESSIONS) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2731, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year’s 2009 through 2013 to provide assistance to foreign countries to combat HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 20, line 13, strike “and” and all that follows through “(C)” on line 14, and insert the following:

“(C) promoting universal precautions in formal and informal health care settings;

“(D) educating the public to recognize and to avoid risks to contract HIV through blood exposures during formal and informal health care and cosmetic services;

“(E) investigating suspected nosocomial infections to identify and stop further nosocomial transmission; and

“(F)

On page 28, line 13, insert “public education about risks to acquire HIV infection from blood exposures, promotion of universal precautions, investigation of suspected nosocomial infections” after “safe blood supply.”

On page 102, line 21, strike “and” and all that follows through “(xii)” on line 22, and insert the following:

“(xii) building capacity to identify, investigate, and stop nosocomial transmission of infectious diseases, including HIV and tuberculosis; and

“(xiii)”

On page 132, between lines 12 and 13, insert “public education about risks to acquire HIV infection from blood exposures, promoting universal precautions, investigating suspected nosocomial infections.”

NOTICE OF HEARING

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a hearing has been scheduled before the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. The hearing will be held on Wednesday, July 23, 2008, at 9:45 a.m., in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The purpose of the hearing is to review the status of existing Federal programs targeted at reducing gasoline demand in the near term and to discuss additional proposals for near term gasoline demand reductions.

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 may do so by sending it to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, Washington, DC 20510-6150, or by e-mail to RosemarieCalabro@energy.senate.gov.