

matter in the House of Representatives, and I am proud to give voice to the issue in the Senate.

According to the most recent statistics available, 26,000 youth aged out of foster care in fiscal year 2006. Though many of these youth have characteristics that make them ideal for employment, research shows they have few resources for self-sufficiency and are less likely to be regularly employed than their counterparts in the general population. Because of the instability they experience in foster care, these young adults do not have access to the same kinds of family and community resources that often link young people to jobs and internships.

That is why I am introducing a resolution today recognizing how critical it is for foster youth to be connected to internship and employment opportunities as they transition from foster care to life on their own. This resolution expresses the importance of linking these youth to the workforce through internships and encourages employers to increase their hiring of former foster youth.

Throughout my career, I have been an advocate for foster youth. As First Lady, I worked towards enacting the Foster Care Independence Act of 1999, legislation that doubled funding for the Federal Independent Living Program and helps youth in foster care earn a high school diploma, participate in vocational training or education, and learn daily living skills. The legislation also extends services to youth up to age 21, which enables more of these young adults to obtain a college education and allows states to provide them with financial assistance as they learn skills to enter the workforce. In the Senate, I have introduced legislation addressing the needs of foster youth. Most recently, I introduced the Focusing Investments and Resources for a Safe Transition (FIRST) Act, legislation that enables states to establish Individual Development Accounts for youth aging out of foster care.

Over the years, I have hosted several foster youth interns in my Senate office through programs sponsored by the Orphan Foundation of America and the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute. I know firsthand that these individuals have extraordinary talent and potential, and have seen many of them go on to graduate school, law school, and the workforce; flourished by the experience. Without meaningful connections to employment, however, many foster youth will experience obstacles to building successful, independent lives. I encourage my colleagues to participate in the various internship programs that bring these young and talented individuals to work in the Congress and it is my hope that my colleagues will join me in expressing the Senate's support for foster youth as these young adults strive toward bright futures.

SENATE RESOLUTION 631—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE SENATE HAS LOST CONFIDENCE IN THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, STEPHEN L. JOHNSON, THAT THE ADMINISTRATOR SHOULD RESIGN HIS POSITION IMMEDIATELY, AND THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE SHOULD OPEN AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE VERACITY OF HIS CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY REGARDING THE CALIFORNIA WAIVER DECISION AND PURSUE ANY PROSECUTORIAL ACTION THE DEPARTMENT DETERMINES TO BE WARRANTED

Mrs. BOXER (for herself, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. SANDERS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works:

S. RES. 631

Whereas, for most of its nearly 4-decade history, people of the United States could look to the Environmental Protection Agency for independent leadership, grounded in science and the rule of law, with a sole mission to protect our health and our environment;

Whereas, since Stephen L. Johnson was sworn in as Administrator, the Environmental Protection Agency has failed to carry out its mission, and has issued decision after decision that fails to adequately protect public health and the environment;

Whereas, on the issue of pollution from ozone, the Environmental Protection Agency under Administrator Johnson rejected the recommendations of agency scientists, public health officials, and the agency's own scientific advisory committees, and instead established an ozone standard that fails to protect the public, especially children and the elderly, from the harmful effects of ozone pollution, such as lung disease and asthma;

Whereas, on the issue of pollution from soot, known as "particulate matter", Administrator Johnson bowed to pressure from industry and failed to strengthen an outdated standard limiting the annual average levels of soot pollution, despite calls from the agency's own scientific advisory committees and health and medical experts to strengthen that standard to protect public health;

Whereas, on the issue of pollution from lead, Administrator Johnson failed to heed the Environmental Protection Agency's own scientists and proposed a standard that would leave children in harm's way;

Whereas, on the issue of the Toxic Release Inventory, the Agency's decision to weaken the community right-to-know rules for toxic chemicals used and released in communities across the country will quadruple the quantity of toxic pollutants that companies can release before the companies are required to provide to the public detailed information about the releases;

Whereas the Environmental Protection Agency went forward with those changes to the Toxic Release Inventory despite objections from 23 State agencies and attorneys general, and despite concerns raised by the Agency's own science advisory board;

Whereas, on the issue of the toxin perchlorate, the Environmental Protection Agency promulgated a rule revoking the requirement for testing of tap water for perchlorate, a contaminant that has been found in the drinking water of millions of people in

35 States, and which interferes with the thyroid and is especially risky to pregnant women and newborns, and as a result, people in the United States will lack up-to-date information on whether their tap water is contaminated with that toxin;

Whereas, on the issue of vehicle tailpipe emissions, Administrator Johnson denied a waiver that would have allowed California and up to 18 other States to enact strict restrictions on global warming pollution from automobiles, despite the reportedly unanimous recommendations of his professional staff in favor of granting the waiver at least in part, and finding that denying it would very likely be successfully challenged in court;

Whereas, on the issue of global warming pollution, in defiance of the Supreme Court's decision in *Massachusetts v. E.P.A.* (549 U.S. 497), Administrator Johnson has failed to take action after the Court's ruling that the Environmental Protection Agency has the authority, under the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.), to regulate greenhouse gas emissions that pollute our air, instead bowing to pressures from the Bush White House to punt the issue to the next administration;

Whereas, under Administrator Johnson, the Environmental Protection Agency has offered legal arguments for its insufficient standards that have provoked ridicule by the courts, which, for example, have accused the agency of employing the "logic of the Queen of Hearts" and living in "a Humpty-Dumpty" world in attempting to evade the intent of Congress and the clear meaning of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.);

Whereas, Administrator Johnson has allowed the Environmental Protection Agency's scientific advisory panels to be infiltrated by the very industries they are meant to regulate and control, while at the same time removing from those panels without justification qualified scientists who opposed industry positions;

Whereas a report issued on April 23, 2008, by the Union of Concerned Scientists, entitled "Interference at the EPA", uncovered widespread political influence in the Environmental Protection Agency decisions, noting, for example, that 60 percent of the Environmental Protection Agency career scientists surveyed had personally experienced at least 1 incident of political interference during the past 5 years;

Whereas the Environmental Protection Agency under Administrator Johnson has altered administrative procedures of the agency to allow the White House Office of Management and Budget and Pentagon secret influence over agency decisionmaking, such as through the Integrated Risk Information System process, an action which the Government Accountability Office has found to be "inconsistent with the principle of sound science that relies on, among other things, transparency";

Whereas Administrator Johnson's response to widespread criticism that his agency is in crisis, and that he allows White House political operatives and polluting industries to dictate his decisions rather than the law and science, has been to label those who have raised those concerns, many of whom are dedicated career employees of his agency, as "yammering critics";

Whereas, in defiance of his charge under the Constitution of the United States, Administrator Johnson has personally and repeatedly refused to cooperate with Congress in its efforts to conduct regular oversight of the Executive branch, refusing to produce documents as part of legitimate oversight investigations, refusing to appear before committees of Congress, and, when he has appeared, refusing to answer questions in a forthright manner;

Whereas there is strong evidence to believe that Administrator Johnson, at a minimum, provided misleading and intentionally incomplete statements to congressional committees regarding the California waiver issue and, at worst, has given false testimony before those committees;

Whereas, for example, Administrator Johnson on numerous occasions testified before the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate that he based his denial of the California waiver request on California's failure to meet the "compelling and extraordinary" circumstances criterion under section 209(b) of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7543(b)), and that he reached this decision independently;

Whereas, testimony by a former senior Environmental Protection Agency official, Jason Burnett, reveals that in fact Administrator Johnson had determined that California met the requirements for a waiver under that Act and had communicated his plan to partially grant the waiver to the Administration in a meeting at the White House, only to reverse course and deny the waiver after White House officials "clearly articulated" President Bush's "policy preference" for a single regulatory system, even though the Clean Air Act clearly contemplates a dual system in cases in which the statutory criteria for the waiver are met;

Whereas Mr. Burnett's testimony was that Administrator Johnson was prepared to grant the California waiver until it was "clearly articulated" to him that the President preferred a different approach;

Whereas Administrator Johnson's sworn testimony before the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate appears to have been designed to mislead Congress and the people of the United States regarding the extent to which the White House intervened in the decision to deny the California waiver, despite the conclusion of career staff at the Environmental Protection Agency, and evidently of the Administrator himself, that the statutory criteria for granting the waiver under the Clean Air Act had been met; and

Whereas the Environmental Protection Agency is an agency in crisis and is in need of leadership dedicated to tackling the enormous public health and environmental issues faced by our country and our planet, in an independent manner that comports with science and the law and is immune from political interference: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the Senate has lost confidence in the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, Stephen L. Johnson;

(2) Administrator Johnson should resign his position immediately; and

(3) the Department of Justice should open an investigation into the veracity of his congressional testimony regarding the California waiver decision and to pursue any prosecutorial action the Department determines to be warranted.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 96—COMMEMORATING IRENA SENDLER, A WOMAN WHOSE BRAVERY SAVED THE LIVES OF THOUSANDS DURING THE HOLOCAUST AND REMEMBERING HER LEGACY OF COURAGE, SELFLESSNESS, AND HOPE.

Mr. REID (for Mr. OBAMA (for himself and Mr. SPECTER)) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. CON. RES. 96

Whereas on May 12, 2008, Irena Sendler, a living example of social justice, died at the age of 98;

Whereas Irena Sendler repeatedly risked her life during the Holocaust to rescue over 2,500 Jewish children who lived in the Warsaw ghetto in Poland from Nazi extermination;

Whereas Irena Sendler was inspired by her father, a physician who treated poor Jewish patients, to dedicate her life to others;

Whereas Irena Sendler became an activist at the start of World War II, heading the clandestine group Zegota and driving an underground movement that provided safe passage for Jews from the Warsaw ghetto who faced disease, execution, or deportation to concentration camps;

Whereas Irena Sendler became 1 of the most successful workers within Zegota, taking charge of the children's division and using her senior position with the welfare department in Warsaw to gain access to and from the ghetto to build a network of allies to help ferry Jewish children from the Warsaw ghetto;

Whereas Irena Sendler was arrested by the Gestapo on October 20, 1943, tortured, and sentenced to death by firing squad;

Whereas Irena Sendler never revealed details of her contacts, escaped from Pawiak prison, and continued her invaluable work with Zegota;

Whereas in 1965, Irena Sendler was recognized as "Righteous Among the Nations" by the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial in Israel;

Whereas in 2006, Irena Sendler was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize;

Whereas Irena Sendler was awarded the Order of the White Eagle, the highest civilian decoration in Poland;

Whereas "Tzedek: The Righteous", a documentary film, and "Life in a Jar", a play about the rescue efforts made by Irena Sendler, chronicle the life of Irena Sendler;

Whereas Irena Sendler, a woman who risked everything for the lives of others and whose bravery is unimaginable to many, expressed guilt for not being able to do more for the Jewish people; and

Whereas the story of Irena Sendler reminds citizens of the United States and the world community not only of the horrible cruelty at the time of the Holocaust, but also the incredible difference one person can make: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—

(1) mourns the loss of Irena Sendler, a woman whose bravery and heroic efforts saved over 2,500 Jewish children during the Holocaust;

(2) pays respect and extends condolences to the Sendler family;

(3) honors the legacy of courage, selflessness, and hope that Irena Sendler exhibited; and

(4) remembers the life and unwavering dedication to justice and human rights of Irena Sendler.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 5250. Mr. DURBIN (for Mr. KENNEDY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. DURBIN to the bill H.R. 4137, to amend and extend the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes.

SA 5251. Mr. CRAIG submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3268, to amend the Commodity Exchange Act, to prevent excessive price speculation with respect to energy commodities,

and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5252. Mr. CRAIG submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3268, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5253. Mr. ALLARD submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3268, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 5250. Mr. DURBIN (for Mr. KENNEDY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. DURBIN to the bill H.R. 4137, to amend and extend the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause, and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the "Higher Education Amendments of 2007".

(b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. References.

Sec. 3. General effective date.

TITLE I—GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 101. Additional definitions.

Sec. 102. General definition of institution of higher education.

Sec. 103. Definition of institution of higher education for purposes of title IV programs.

Sec. 104. Protection of student speech and association rights.

Sec. 105. Accreditation and Institutional Quality and Integrity Advisory Committee.

Sec. 106. Drug and alcohol abuse prevention.

Sec. 107. Prior rights and obligations.

Sec. 108. Transparency in college tuition for consumers.

Sec. 109. Databases of student information prohibited.

Sec. 110. Clear and easy-to-find information on student financial aid.

Sec. 110A. State higher education information system pilot program.

Sec. 111. Performance-based organization for the delivery of Federal student financial assistance.

Sec. 112. Procurement flexibility.

Sec. 113. Institution and lender reporting and disclosure requirements.

Sec. 114. Employment of postsecondary education graduates.

Sec. 115. Foreign medical schools.

Sec. 116. Demonstration and certification regarding the use of certain Federal funds.

TITLE II—TEACHER QUALITY ENHANCEMENT

Sec. 201. Teacher quality partnership grants.

Sec. 202. General provisions.

TITLE III—INSTITUTIONAL AID

Sec. 301. Program purpose.

Sec. 302. Definitions; eligibility.

Sec. 303. American Indian tribally controlled colleges and universities.

Sec. 304. Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian-serving institutions.

Sec. 305. Native American-serving, nontribal institutions.

Sec. 306. Part B definitions.

Sec. 307. Grants to institutions.

Sec. 308. Allotments to institutions.

Sec. 309. Professional or graduate institutions.

Sec. 310. Authority of the Secretary.

Sec. 311. Authorization of appropriations.

Sec. 312. Technical corrections.