

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 643—CALLING FOR GREATER DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE DALAI LAMA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF CHINA REGARDING RIGHTS FOR THE PEOPLE OF TIBET, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. SMITH (for himself and Mr. FEINGOLD) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 643

Whereas, on April 25, 2008, China's official news agency Xinhua expressed the willingness of the Government of China to meet with envoys of the Dalai Lama;

Whereas, on May 4, 2008, Special Envoy of His Holiness the Dalai Lama Lodi Gyari and Envoy Kelsang Gyaltsen met with Chinese Executive Vice Minister Zhu Weiqun and Executive Vice Minister Sithar for one day of talks, in which the Government of China alleged that the Dalai Lama instigated the March 2008 unrest in autonomous Tibetan areas of China, and was sabotaging the Olympic Games;

Whereas Hu Jintao, General Secretary of the Communist Party of China, released a statement after this meeting saying that his Government of China was committed to a "serious" dialogue with the Dalai Lama;

Whereas, at the United States-European Union (EU) Summit on June 10, 2008, the United States and the European Union issued a joint statement welcoming the decision by the Government of China to hold talks with representatives of the Dalai Lama, and urged "both parties to move forward with a substantive, constructive and results-oriented dialogue at an early date";

Whereas the Envoys of His Holiness the Dalai Lama's Kelsang Gyaltsen and Lodi Gyari visited Beijing from June 30 to July 3, 2008, to conduct the seventh round of the Tibetan-Chinese dialogue;

Whereas, during these talks, the Government of China issued a new set of demands, including that the Dalai Lama prove that he does not support Tibetan independence or disruption of the Olympic Games in Beijing;

Whereas the Dalai Lama has stated multiple times he does not favor the independence of Tibet and is instead seeking negotiations to address the legitimate grievances of, and provide genuine autonomy for, the Tibetan people within the People's Republic of China, and is committed to non-violence;

Whereas the Dalai Lama has repeatedly and publicly declared his support for the Olympic Games in China, as well as his intention to attend the opening ceremony, if invited;

Whereas, at the conclusion of the July round of talks, officials of the Government of China did not accept a proposal by the representatives of the Dalai Lama to agree to a joint statement supporting a continuation of the dialogue process;

Whereas Special Envoy Lodi Gyari said on July 5, 2008, that the talks with the Government of China, called for by the international community, were "disappointing and difficult";

Whereas, in contrast to the opinion of Special Envoy Lodi Gyari, President George W. Bush said on July 6, 2008, that "it looks like there's some progress, at least in the talks with the Dalai Lama";

Whereas officials of the Government of China subsequently stated that the talks with the Dalai Lama's envoys are only about the Dalai Lama's personal future, rather than about the future of Tibet;

Whereas the Office of the Dalai Lama on July 17, 2008, restated its position that the talks are about "the future of 6,000,000 Tibetans in Tibet and not His Holiness the Dalai Lama";

Whereas, on July 11, 2008, the European Parliament adopted a resolution that "welcomes the resumption of contacts, after the events of March 2008 in Lhasa, between the representatives of the Dalai Lama and the Chinese authorities" and "encourages the two parties to intensify these contacts so as to establish the bases for mutual trust, without which it will be impossible to arrive at a mutually acceptable political solution";

Whereas, on the official stage during the Olympic torch's relay through Lhasa on June 21, 2008, China's Communist Party chief in the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR), Zhang Qingli, said, "Tibet's sky will never change and the red flag with five stars will forever flutter high above it. ... [W]e will certainly be able to totally smash the splittist schemes of the Dalai Lama clique.";

Whereas, in reference to Zhang Qingli, the International Olympics Committee said in a rare rebuke that it "regrets that political statements were made during the closing ceremony of the torch relay in Tibet"; and

Whereas China's People's Armed Police troops have been sent to monasteries in Tibetan areas to give monks "relevant information" about the Olympics, and Chinese authorities have stepped up "patriotic education" campaigns designed to conform the religious practices of Tibetan Buddhists to Communist Party rules, including forcing monks and nuns to denounce the Dalai Lama: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) urges the Dalai Lama or his representatives and the Government of the People's Republic of China to begin earnest negotiations, without preconditions, to provide for a mutually agreeable solution that addresses the legitimate grievances of, and provides genuine autonomy for, the Tibetan people;

(2) urges that the talks in October 2008 between the Government of China and the Dalai Lama should focus on the welfare, cultural, political, and religious autonomy of the Tibetan people, and not on the person of the Dalai Lama;

(3) affirms that the human rights of Tibetans and their right to practice religion free of government regulation is not an internal matter of any one country;

(4) urges the President to take a more personal and engaged interest in the successful conclusion of these negotiations, both unilaterally and in coordination with United States allies; and

(5) calls on the United States Government to press the Government of China—

(A) to respect freedom of speech and freedom of association, as required by international law and as enshrined in the Constitution of China and to release those who have committed no crime other than peaceful protest; and

(B) to end the "patriotic education" campaign against lay and clerical Tibetans and allow Tibetans to practice their religion freely.

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce a resolution with my colleague, Senator FEINGOLD, supporting the human rights and religious freedom of Tibetans.

Last March, I was one of many people worldwide who watched as Tibetan demonstrations in China exploded into violence. These protests reflected longstanding frustration with the harsh measures imposed on Tibetans by the Government of China. Among other

harassment, Tibetans can be required to undergo propaganda-based "political education," detained without judicial due process, and are forbidden from possessing pictures of the Dalai Lama. After the March 2008 unrest, much of the international community urged China and the Dalai Lama to enter a positive, results-based dialogue on the human rights of Tibetans living. Unfortunately, these pleas have apparently fallen on deaf ears in Beijing. After the latest round of Tibetan-Chinese dialogue from June 30 to July 3, the Tibetan representatives expressed disappointment that the two sides could not even agree on a joint resolution calling for more talks. Progress, it seems, has been almost non-existent.

As a result, Senator FEINGOLD and I are introducing a resolution urging that the talks—real, results-oriented talks—continue. We also call for the United States to press the Government of China to make a serious commitment to the human rights and religious freedom of Tibetans living on its soil, and an end to forced "political education" of Tibetans. The aim of the dialogue between the Government of China and the Dalai Lama must include an end to harassment of lay and religious Tibetans, and genuine autonomy for ethnically Tibetan regions.

SENATE RESOLUTION 644—DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 2008 AS "NATIONAL CHILD AWARENESS MONTH" TO PROMOTE AWARENESS OF CHARITIES BENEFITTING CHILDREN AND YOUTH-SERVING ORGANIZATIONS THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES AND RECOGNIZING EFFORTS MADE BY THESE CHARITIES AND ORGANIZATIONS ON BEHALF OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH AS A POSITIVE INVESTMENT IN THE FUTURE OF THE UNITED STATES

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

S.RES. 644

Whereas millions of children and youth in the United States represent the hopes and future of the United States;

Whereas numerous individuals, charities benefitting children, and youth-serving organizations that work with children and youth collaborate to provide invaluable services to enrich and better the lives of children and youth throughout the United States;

Whereas raising awareness of and increasing support for organizations that provide access to healthcare, social services, education, the arts, sports, and other services will result in the development of character and the future success of children and youth;

Whereas the President issued a proclamation on May 30, 2008, proclaiming June 1, 2008 as "National Child's Day" to demonstrate a commitment to the youth of the United States;

Whereas September, as the school year begins, is a time when parents, families, teachers, school administrators, and communities increase their focus on children and youth throughout the United States;

Whereas September is a time for the people of the United States to highlight and be mindful of the needs of children and youth;

Whereas private corporations and businesses have joined with hundreds of national and local charitable organizations throughout the United States in support of a month-long focus on children and youth;

Whereas designating September 2008 as "National Child Awareness Month" would recognize that a long-term commitment to children and youth is in the public interest, and will encourage widespread support for charities and organizations that seek to provide a better future for the children and youth of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate designates September 2008 as "National Child Awareness Month"—

(1) to promote awareness of charities benefiting children and youth-serving organizations throughout the United States; and

(2) to recognize efforts made by such charities and organizations on behalf of children and youth as a positive investment in the future of the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 645—HONORING THE LIFE OF ANNE LEGENDRE ARMSTRONG

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

S. RES. 645

Whereas Anne Legendre Armstrong, a pioneer for women in public service, passed away on July 30, 2008, at the age of 80;

Whereas Anne Armstrong was educated at Foxcroft School in Middleburg, Virginia, where she was valedictorian of her graduating class;

Whereas Anne Armstrong received her B.A. degree from Vassar College, where she was elected to Phi Beta Kappa in her junior year;

Whereas Anne Armstrong was an active and respected leader in the Texas Republican Party and the first female co-chair of the Republican National Committee;

Whereas Anne Armstrong served both President Richard Nixon and President Gerald Ford as a Cabinet-level counselor, the first woman to do so;

Whereas Anne Armstrong was named by President Gerald Ford as the United States Ambassador to the United Kingdom, the first woman to hold that important and prestigious post;

Whereas Anne Armstrong was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the Nation's highest civilian honor, by President Ronald Reagan;

Whereas Anne Armstrong graciously hosted world leaders and other prominent individuals at the legendary Armstrong Ranch in Kenedy County, Texas;

Whereas Anne Armstrong was inducted into the Texas Women's Hall of Fame in 1986 for her numerous achievements and contributions to the State of Texas and the Nation;

Whereas Anne Armstrong lost her beloved husband Tobin in 2005, and is survived by 5 five children: J. Barclay Armstrong, Katharine Armstrong Love, Sarita Armstrong Hixon, James Armstrong, and Tobin Armstrong, Jr.;

Whereas Anne Armstrong is also survived by 13 grandchildren and a sister, Katharine Legendre King; and

Whereas Anne Armstrong will be deeply missed by the people of Texas and the Nation as a whole: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate honors the life of Anne Legendre Armstrong, an exemplar of

dedication to public service and an inspiration for the Texans who have followed her.

SENATE RESOLUTION 646—RECOGNIZING AND SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL RUNAWAY PREVENTION MONTH

Mr. SHELBY (for himself and Mrs. LINCOLN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 646

Whereas the prevalence of running away from home and homelessness among youths is staggering, with studies suggesting that between 1,600,000 and 2,800,000 youths live on the streets of the United States each year;

Whereas running away from home is widespread, and youths aged 12 to 17 are at a higher risk of becoming homeless than adults;

Whereas youths who run away from home most often have been expelled from their homes by their families, have been physically, sexually, or emotionally abused at home, have been discharged by State custodial systems without adequate transition plans, or have been separated from their parents by death and divorce, are too poor to secure their own basic needs, and are ineligible or unable to access adequate medical or mental health resources;

Whereas effective programs that support runaway youths and assist youths and their families in preventing youths from running away succeed because of partnerships created among families, community-based human service agencies, law enforcement agencies, schools, faith-based organizations, and businesses;

Whereas preventing youths from running away from home and supporting youths in high-risk situations are priorities for families, communities, and the Nation;

Whereas the future well-being of the United States is dependent on the opportunities provided for youths and families to acquire the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary for youths to develop into safe, healthy, and productive adults;

Whereas the National Network for Youth and its members advocate on behalf of runaway and homeless youths and provide an array of community-based support to address their critical needs;

Whereas the National Runaway Switchboard provides crisis intervention and referrals to reconnect runaway youths with their families and to link youths to local resources that provide positive alternatives to running away from home; and

Whereas the National Network for Youth and the National Runaway Switchboard are cosponsoring National Runaway Prevention Month in November 2008 to increase public awareness of the life circumstances of youths in high-risk situations, the need for safe, healthy, and productive alternatives to running away, and the resources and support available for youths, families, and communities: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate recognizes and supports the goals and ideals of National Runaway Prevention Month.

SENATE RESOLUTION 647—DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 9, 2008, AS "NATIONAL FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDERS AWARENESS DAY"

Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself, Mr. JOHNSON, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. COLEMAN, Mr. STEVENS, and Mr. HATCH) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 647

Whereas the term "fetal alcohol spectrum disorders" includes a broader range of conditions and therefore has replaced the term "fetal alcohol syndrome" as the umbrella term describing the range of effects that can occur in an individual whose mother drank alcohol during pregnancy;

Whereas fetal alcohol spectrum disorders are the leading cause of cognitive disability in western civilization, including the United States, and are 100 percent preventable;

Whereas fetal alcohol spectrum disorders are a major cause of numerous social disorders, including learning disabilities, school failure, juvenile delinquency, homelessness, unemployment, mental illness, and crime;

Whereas the incidence rate of fetal alcohol syndrome is estimated at 1 out of 500 live births and the incidence rate of fetal alcohol spectrum disorders is estimated at 1 out of every 100 live births;

Whereas, although the economic costs of fetal alcohol spectrum disorders are difficult to estimate, the cost of fetal alcohol syndrome alone in the United States was \$5,400,000,000 in 2003 and it is estimated that each individual with fetal alcohol syndrome will cost taxpayers of the United States between \$1,500,000 and \$3,000,000 in his or her lifetime;

Whereas, in February 1999, a small group of parents of children who suffer from fetal alcohol spectrum disorders came together with the hope that in 1 magic moment the world could be made aware of the devastating consequences of alcohol consumption during pregnancy;

Whereas the first International Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Awareness Day was observed on September 9, 1999;

Whereas Bonnie Buxton of Toronto, Canada, the co-founder of the first International Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Awareness Day, asked "What if . . . a world full of FAS/E [Fetal Alcohol Syndrome/Effect] parents all got together on the ninth hour of the ninth day of the ninth month of the year and asked the world to remember that during the 9 months of pregnancy a woman should not consume alcohol . . . would the rest of the world listen?"; and

Whereas on the ninth day of the ninth month of each year since 1999, communities around the world have observed International Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Awareness Day: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates September 9, 2008, as "National Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Awareness Day"; and

(2) calls upon the people of the United States—

(A) to observe National Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Awareness Day with appropriate ceremonies—

(i) to promote awareness of the effects of prenatal exposure to alcohol;

(ii) to increase compassion for individuals affected by prenatal exposure to alcohol;

(iii) to minimize further effects of prenatal exposure to alcohol; and

(iv) to ensure healthier communities across the United States; and