

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress congratulates the University of Nebraska at Omaha on its 100 years of outstanding service to the city of Omaha, the State of Nebraska, the United States, and the world in fulfilling its mission of providing sound learning and education.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL OVARIAN CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 678, submitted earlier today by Senator STABENOW.

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 678) supporting the goals and ideals of National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month.

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

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements related to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 678) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 678

Whereas ovarian cancer is the deadliest of all gynecological cancers, and the reported incidence of ovarian cancer is increasing over time;

Whereas ovarian cancer is the 5th leading cause of cancer deaths among women in the United States;

Whereas all women are at risk for ovarian cancer, and 90 percent of women diagnosed with ovarian cancer do not have a family history that puts them at higher risk;

Whereas the Pap smear is sensitive and specific to the early detection of cervical cancer, but not to ovarian cancer;

Whereas there is currently no reliable and easy-to-administer screening test used for the early detection of ovarian cancer;

Whereas many people are unaware that the symptoms of ovarian cancer often include bloating, pelvic or abdominal pain, difficulty eating or feeling full quickly, and urinary symptoms, among several other symptoms that are easily confused with other diseases;

Whereas due to the lack of a reliable early screening test, 75 percent of cases of ovarian cancer are detected at an advanced stage, when the 5-year survival rate is only 50 percent, a much lower rate than for many other cancers;

Whereas if ovarian cancer is diagnosed and treated at an early stage before the cancer spreads outside of the ovary, the treatment is potentially less costly, and the survival rate is as high as 90 percent;

Whereas there are factors that are known to reduce the risk for ovarian cancer and play an important role in the prevention of the disease;

Whereas awareness and early recognition of ovarian cancer symptoms are currently the best way to save women's lives;

Whereas the Ovarian Cancer National Alliance, during the month of September, holds a number of events to increase public awareness of ovarian cancer; and

Whereas September 2008 has been designated by the President as National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate supports the goals and ideals of National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEAS OF NATIONAL SPINA BIFIDA AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the HELP Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 661, and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 661) supporting the goals and ideals of National Spina Bifida Awareness Month.

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

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise today to support, with Senator WICKER, a resolution to raise awareness about spina bifida, the most common, permanently disabling birth defect. This often devastating birth defect occurs during the first month of pregnancy when the spine fails to close completely, leaving a permanent opening and resulting in a multitude of serious medical complications.

Thanks to modern medicine and technological advances, most babies born with spina bifida—1,500 to 2,000 a year—survive, and many are now living longer than ever before. It is estimated that in the United States no less than 70,000 people, and possibly as many as 130,000 people, currently live with spina bifida. This is wonderful progress, but there are substantial hurdles that can prevent those with spina bifida from reaching their full potential.

For a person with spina bifida, the body, mind, and spirit are all under assault. Most children with the worst form of spina bifida must undergo a surgery to insert a permanent shunt to drain fluid from the brain for the duration of their lives. People with spina bifida may endure any combination of full or partial paralysis, seizures, bladder and bowel problems, latex allergies, learning disabilities, depression, and other psychosocial issues. The promise of an extended life expectancy for individuals with spina bifida may be dampened by the new challenges they face in education, job training, independent living, health care for secondary conditions and aging concerns. Far more needs to be done to improve the quality of life for those suffering with spina bifida.

I applaud the groups that labor so diligently to offer support to the many Americans with spina bifida and their families. In particular, I extend my gratitude to the Spina Bifida Association, which has been dedicated to this important issue for more than three decades. They are steadfast advocates for those whose lives have been touched by spina bifida, working across our Nation to improve lives through education, research, and service.

The Spina Bifida Association, together with the National Spina Bifida Program at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other groups, is working hard to spread the word to the 65 million women at risk of having a baby born with spina bifida. On any given day in the United States, eight births are affected by spina bifida or a similar birth defect of the brain and spine. It is estimated that 70 percent of birth defects such as spina bifida are preventable by consuming an adequate amount of folic acid prior to pregnancy. This is a simple step that women can take to reduce their risk, but far more outreach and education is required to reach women with this important message.

It is time to renew our efforts to prevent spina bifida and help the many individuals and families living with spina bifida. The resolution we will adopt today calls for a greater commitment to spina bifida prevention and to improving the quality of life of those affected by it, increased funding for evidence-based spina bifida research, and further development of the National Spina Bifida Patient Registry. Taken together, these efforts will help decrease the incidence of spina bifida and improve available treatments and quality of life for those living with it. I wholeheartedly urge my colleagues to join with me in support of this resolution.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements relating to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 661) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 661

Whereas spina bifida is the most common, permanently disabling birth defect;

Whereas spina bifida occurs during the first month of pregnancy and leaves a permanent opening in the spinal column that subsequently impacts nearly every organ system;

Whereas an estimated 70,000 to 130,000 people in the United States currently live with spina bifida;

Whereas all women of childbearing age are at risk of having a spina bifida affected pregnancy;

Whereas an estimated 70 percent of neural tube defects such as spina bifida can be prevented if a woman consumes adequate

amounts of folic acid, which is found in most over-the-counter multivitamins and foods rich in folate such as spinach, prior to becoming pregnant;

Whereas Hispanic women are at the highest risk, between 1.5 and 2 times higher than non-Hispanic whites, of delivering a baby with spina bifida or another neural tube defect, yet are the least likely to consume sufficient amounts of folic acid prior to becoming pregnant;

Whereas people with spina bifida face unprecedented medical complications associated with aging because people with spina bifida are living longer than people with spina bifida in previous generations lived and care for spina bifida is complex and involves myriad clinical specialists;

Whereas a 2005 nationwide survey of spina bifida clinics revealed that the current system of care serving people with spina bifida does not fully meet current or anticipated needs and physicians have little evidence-based research about spina bifida on which to build neurological, orthopedic, or urologic treatment regimens and interventions;

Whereas the National Spina Bifida Program, administered by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, exists to improve the health, well being, and overall quality of life for the individuals and families affected by spina bifida through numerous programmatic components, including the National Spina Bifida Patient Registry and critical quality of life research in spina bifida;

Whereas the National Spina Bifida Patient Registry helps to improve the quality of care, to reduce morbidity and mortality from spina bifida, and to increase the efficiency of, and decrease the cost of, care by supporting the collection of longitudinal treatment data, developing quality measures and treatment standards of care and best practices, identifying centers of excellence

in spina bifida, evaluating the clinical and cost effectiveness of the treatment of spina bifida, and exchanging evidence-based information among health care providers across the country; and

Whereas October has been designated as "National Spina Bifida Awareness Month" to increase awareness of spina bifida, of ways to prevent spina bifida, and of the need for increased funding to support improving evidence-based research and enhancing the quality of life of those living with spina bifida; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Spina Bifida Awareness Month and of national organizations working for people with spina bifida;

(2) recognizes the importance of—

(A) highlighting the occurrence of spina bifida;

(B) recognizing the struggles and successes of people who live with spina bifida; and

(C) advancing efforts to decrease the incidence of spina bifida;

(3) supports the ongoing development of the National Spina Bifida Patient Registry to improve lives through research and to improve the treatment of spina bifida in both children and adults;

(4) recognizes that there is a continued need for a commitment of resources for efforts to reduce and prevent disabling birth defects like spina bifida; and

(5) commends the work of national organizations that educate, support, and provide hope for individuals who are affected by spina bifida and their families.

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ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2008

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Sen-

ate completes its business today, it stand in recess until 9:30 a.m. tomorrow, Wednesday, September 24; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate proceed to a period for the transaction of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with the majority controlling the first 30 minutes and the Republicans controlling the second 30 minutes; that following that hour, morning business continue with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

RECESS UNTIL 9:30 A.M.
TOMORROW

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand in recess under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:46 p.m., recessed until Wednesday, September 24, 2008, at 9:30 a.m.