

Whereas in March and May of 2008, Iranian intelligence officials in Mashhad and Tehran arrested and imprisoned Mrs. Fariba Kamalabadi, Mr. Jamaloddin Khanjani, Mr. Afif Naeimi, Mr. Saeid Rezaie, Mr. Behrouz Tavakkoli, Mrs. Mahvash Sabet, and Mr. Vahid Tizfahm, the members of the coordinating group for the Baha'i community in Iran;

Whereas these seven leaders have been imprisoned for well over a year and are yet to stand trial, the trial having been delayed multiple times;

Whereas official Iranian media has announced that they will face charges of "espionage for Israel, insulting religious sanctities and propaganda against the Islamic Republic";

Whereas these seven Baha'i leaders were targeted solely on the basis of their religion; and

Whereas the Government of Iran is party to the International Covenants on Human Rights: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns the Government of Iran for its state-sponsored persecution of the Baha'i minority in Iran and its continued violation of the International Covenants on Human Rights;

(2) calls on the Government of Iran to immediately release the seven leaders and all other prisoners held solely on account of their religion, including Mrs. Fariba Kamalabadi, Mr. Jamaloddin Khanjani, Mr. Afif Naeimi, Mr. Saeid Rezaie, Mr. Behrouz Tavakkoli, Mrs. Mahvash Sabet, Mr. Vahid Tizfahm, Ms. Raha Sabet, Mr. Sasan Taqva, and Ms. Haleh Roohi; and

(3) calls on the President and Secretary of State, in cooperation with responsible nations, to immediately condemn the Government of Iran's continued violation of human rights and demand the immediate release of prisoners held solely on account of their religion, including Mrs. Fariba Kamalabadi, Mr. Jamaloddin Khanjani, Mr. Afif Naeimi, Mr. Saeid Rezaie, Mr. Behrouz Tavakkoli, Mrs. Mahvash Sabet, Mr. Vahid Tizfahm, Ms. Raha Sabet, Mr. Sasan Taqva, and Ms. Haleh Roohi.

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA DAY

Mr. DURBIN. I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 358.

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. 358) designating December 12, 2009, as "Wreaths Across America Day."

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

Mr. DURBIN. 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. 358) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 358

Whereas 18 years ago, the Wreaths Across America project began an annual tradition,

during the month of December, of donating, transporting, and placing Maine balsam fir holiday wreaths on the graves of the fallen heroes buried at Arlington National Cemetery;

Whereas since that tradition began, through the hard work and generosity of the individuals involved in the Wreaths Across America project, hundreds of thousands of wreaths have been sent to national cemeteries and veterans memorials in every State and to locations overseas;

Whereas in 2008, wreaths were sent to 372 locations across the United States, as well as 24 sites overseas;

Whereas in December 2009, the Patriot Guard Riders, a motorcycle and motor vehicle group that is dedicated to patriotic events and includes more than 177,000 members nationwide, will continue their tradition of escorting a tractor-trailer filled with donated wreaths from Harrington, Maine, to Arlington National Cemetery;

Whereas thousands of individuals volunteer each December to escort and lay the wreaths;

Whereas, December 13, 2008, was previously designated by the Senate as "Wreaths Across America Day"; and

Whereas the Wreaths Across America project will continue its proud legacy on December 12, 2009, bringing 15,000 wreaths to Arlington National Cemetery on that day: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates December 12, 2009, as "Wreaths Across America Day";

(2) honors the Wreaths Across America project, the Patriot Guard Riders, and all of the volunteers and donors involved in this worthy tradition; and

(3) recognizes the sacrifices our veterans, servicemembers, and their families have made, and continue to make, for our great Nation.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ANTARCTIC TREATY

Mr. DURBIN. I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 365 submitted earlier today.

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 365) recognizing the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Antarctic Treaty.

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

Mr. DURBIN. 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 any statements related to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 365) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 365

Whereas the Antarctic Treaty was signed by 12 nations in Washington, DC, on December 1, 1959, "with the interests of science and the progress of all mankind";

Whereas the Antarctic Treaty was established to continue and develop international

"cooperation on the basis of freedom of scientific investigation in Antarctica as applied during the International Geophysical Year";

Whereas the Antarctic Treaty came into force on June 23, 1961, after its unanimous ratification by the seven countries (Argentina, Australia, Chile, France, New Zealand, Norway, and the United Kingdom) with territorial claims in the region and five other countries (Belgium, Japan, South Africa, the Soviet Union, and the United States), which had collaborated in Antarctic research activities during the International Geophysical Year from July 1, 1957, through December 31, 1958;

Whereas the Antarctic Treaty now has 47 nations as signatories that together represent nearly 90 percent of humanity;

Whereas Article IV of the Antarctic Treaty states that "no acts or activities taking place while the present Treaty is in force shall constitute a basis for asserting, supporting or denying a claim to territorial sovereignty in Antarctica";

Whereas the 14 articles of the Antarctic Treaty have provided a lasting foundation for maintaining the region south of 60 degrees south latitude, nearly 10 percent of the Earth's surface, "for peaceful purposes only";

Whereas the Antarctic Treaty prohibits "any measure of a military nature";

Whereas the Antarctic Treaty has promoted international nuclear cooperation by prohibiting "any nuclear explosions in Antarctica and the disposal there of radioactive waste material";

Whereas the Antarctic Treaty provides a framework for the signatories to continue to meet "for the purpose of exchanging information, consulting together on matters of common interest pertaining to Antarctica, and formulating and considering, and recommending to their Governments, measures in furtherance of the principles and objectives of the Treaty";

Whereas common interests among the Antarctic Treaty nations facilitated the development and ratification of the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources;

Whereas the international cooperation represented by the Antarctic Treaty offers humankind a precedent for the peaceful governance of international spaces;

Whereas in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the International Geophysical Year, the Antarctic Treaty Parties in their Edinburgh Declaration recognized the current International Polar Year for its contributions to science worldwide and to international cooperation; and

Whereas the International Polar Year program has endorsed the Antarctic Treaty Summit that will convene in Washington, DC, at the Smithsonian Institution on the 50th anniversary of the Antarctic Treaty: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes that the Antarctic Treaty has greatly contributed to science and science cooperation worldwide and successfully ensured the "use of Antarctica for peaceful purposes only and the continuance of international harmony" for the past half century; and

(2) encourages international and interdisciplinary collaboration in the Antarctic Treaty Summit to identify lessons from 50 years of international cooperation under the Antarctic Treaty that have legacy value for humankind.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY,
DECEMBER 2, 2009

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:30 a.m. tomorrow, Wednesday, December 2; 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, and the Senate resume consideration of H.R. 3590, the health care reform legislation, for debate only, with no amendments or motions in order; and that the time until 11:30 a.m. be equally divided, with alternating blocks of time, with the Republicans controlling the first 30 minutes, the majority controlling the second 30 minutes; further that the Senate recess from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, rollcall votes are expected to occur throughout the day.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it adjourn under the previous order, following the remarks of Senators ENZI and INHOFE.

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

The Senator from Wyoming.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, after the speech by the Senator from Illinois, I feel compelled to make a few comments. One, he challenged us a little bit to do a bill in 2,000 pages or less. I am one of those people who do not think it can be done in less. I do not think there are nearly enough pages there to solve the biggest problem in the United States for every American.

People are not comprehending how big health care is. The bill we are doing will affect 100 percent of the people in America. I do not know if we have ever had a bill before that affected 100 percent of the people—100 percent of the people, 100 percent of the professions, 100 percent of the businesses. This is big. Everybody has a role in health care, and we are trying to condense it into 2,000 pages and make it seem a lot simpler than it is.

The reason our side has been saying you need to take this a step at a time and get it right is because that gives up some of the right. There are over 200 references in the 2,000 pages that say the Secretary of Health and Human Services will solve that particular problem; in other words, put in the details. We do not have nearly the details

in there to actually run health care for America. Without the details, we do not know what the devil is, and that is the difficulty. So we really ought to break it down a step at a time.

One step I really think would calm America down is if we did Medicare as a separate step. That way we could assure seniors that Medicare was going to be for Medicare. Yes, there are savings in Medicare. Yes, Medicare is going broke. Use the savings for Medicare. It seems pretty simple to me.

One of the things they are complaining about is the doc fix we have. We are not paying doctors adequately to be willing to take Medicare patients. Of course, we are not paying them adequately to take Medicaid patients either. But we are not paying them right. It would cost about \$250 billion to fix that.

Well, if we are talking about \$464 billion worth of savings in Medicare, why not use that \$250 billion to fix that problem so we have doctors. I do not care what kind of insurance you have, I do not care how much you pay for the insurance, if you cannot see a doctor, you really do not have insurance. That is what seniors are being faced with. That is what Medicaid people are being faced with.

Medicaid—well, that is another piece that ought to be maybe a step because 40 percent of the doctors will not take a Medicaid patient because they are not being paid adequately for it. If you are not paid adequately, you go broke. They are small businesses. They are affected by this bill in more than one way. They have to provide what we are saying is a government requirement for the minimum insurance they have, and they also have to live with whatever rules we put in there and whatever pay fixes we put in there.

On the government option, one of the things CBO said was, the only way that would ever bring down costs is if the government fixes prices for the doctors, for the hospitals. Well, we are kind of doing that in this bill for Medicare because we are telling nursing homes they are going to take a big cut. Nursing homes do not have a lot of margin, and if nursing homes go broke, people have to go a long ways, sometimes—in Wyoming, anyway, and Colorado, wherever we have rural populations—they may have to go a long way to see their loved one. They may not even be able to do it. So we have to keep those small nursing homes in business as well.

So we ought to do this in steps and get it right. That is one of the problems that the Group of 6 ran into. We were not given the time. We allocated about 13 different areas to go through. I think we made it through 5 completely and probably 3 fairly completely, and the rest we were just asking basic questions. With any business, it looks pretty easy until you scratch the surface a little bit, and when you scratch the surface, you find out that every job out there is fairly com-

plicated. If you have never done it before, and you are trying to come up with 2,000 pages worth of laws to govern that, you are probably going to get it wrong.

That is what the doctors are telling us. That is what the other providers are telling us. This bill has it wrong, in a lot of places, enough places that it is going to cause a crisis in America if this bill passes the way it is.

We have never passed a major bill in this body with just one side voting for it. If that were to happen, the other side would take potshots at anything that turned out to be something that had not been comprehended when the bill was written. And there will be plenty of that in here.

But just as important, the American people will not have confidence in it. They do not have confidence in us now—either side. I think that is what the elections in Virginia and New Jersey said. That is what the tea parties are saying. They are saying: We don't trust any of you. Throw the whole bunch out. Start over.

Well, we need to stop and get their confidence. Just steamrolling from one side, even if they have the 60 votes, is not going to do that. I have been saying that since we started. It is something so important that we have to get it right, and we do not have it right in this bill because there are a whole bunch of things, over 200, where we said to the Secretary of Health and Human Services: You figure that one out. Well, that is going to be thousands of pages, and it is going to be done by an unelected bureaucrat. It is not going to be approved by this body.

We ought to take the responsibility for getting those things right. And we can. Yes, it takes time. Yes, we have a lot of things to do. But I am in agreement that health care is the most important thing we have to do. But we ought to take the time to get it right.

There are a lot of ideas out there that would—in fact, one of the things that always upsets me when they say: So where is the Republican version? Well, I have been working on this thing for about 4 years. I have been working on it, actually—health care—ever since I got on the committee over 13 years ago, but for the last 4 years pretty intensively.

Senator Kennedy and I sat down and worked out principles we wanted to have. The principles are still the principles we are talking about around here. We want to make sure people are covered in catastrophic situations. We want to make sure preexisting conditions are taken care of. We want to make sure they have portability when they go from one job to another. The list goes on and on. We reached agreement. He was busy working on the Higher Education Act because it was way past due for being reauthorized, so I was kind of released to go talk to everybody on health care. I worked that. I worked both sides of the aisle, finding out ideas they had, and boiled it down to a 10-step plan.