

Debra Fastino, The Coalition for Social Justice, Massachusetts.

Jim Breslauer, Neighborhood Legal Services, Lawrence, Massachusetts.

Caroline Murray, Alliance to Develop Power/ADP Worker Center, Massachusetts
Paheadra B. Robinson, Mississippi Center for Justice.

Robin Acree, GRO-Grassroots Organizing, Missouri.

Mike Cherry, Consumer Credit Counseling Service, Missouri.

Mike Ferry, Gateway Legal Services, Inc., Missouri, Arkansas, and Illinois.

Linda Gryczan, Montana Business and Professional Women, Montana Women's Lobby

Linda E. Reed, Montana Community Foundation.

Michele Johnson, Consumer Credit Counseling Service, Nevada and Utah

Dan Wulz, Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada.

Paula J. O'Brien, New York State Consumer Protection Board.

Josh Zinner and Sarah Ludwig, Neighborhood Economic Development Advocacy Project, New York.

Al Ripley, North Carolina Justice Center.

Jeffrey D. Dillman, Housing Research and Advocacy Center, Ohio.

Bill Faith, Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio.

Jim McCarthy, Miami Valley Fair Housing Center, Inc., Ohio.

David Rothstein, PolicyMatters, Ohio.

Jeff Shuman, Deep Fork Community Action, Oklahoma.

Linda Burgin, SEIU Local 503, Oregon.

Linda Burgin, SEIU Oregon State Council.

Jerry Cohen, AARP Oregon.

Alice Dale, SEIU Local 49, Oregon.

Angela Martin, Our Oregon.

Kerry Smith, Community Legal Services, Pennsylvania.

Sue Berkowitz, South Carolina Appleseed Legal Justice Center.

Rena Eller, Senior Citizens of Hendersonville, Inc.

Dana M. Given, United Way of Sumner County, Tennessee.

Corky Neale, RISE Foundation and Memphis Responsible Lending Collaborative, TN.

Karen Pershing, United Way of Greater Knoxville, Tennessee.

Sherry Tolli, Home Safe of Sumner, Wilson and Robertson Counties, Inc., Tennessee.

Carlos Gallinar, La Fe Community Development Corporation, El Paso, Texas.

Regina Harvey, Dominion Financial Management, Smyrna, Texas.

Linda Hilton, Coalition of Religious Communities, Utah.

Janice "Jay" Johnson, Virginia Organizing Project.

Irene E. Leech, Virginia Citizens Consumer Council.

LaTonya Reed and C. Douglas Smith, Virginia Interfaith Center.

Ward Scull and Mike Lane, Virginians against Payday Lending.

James W. Speer, Virginia Poverty Law Center.

Dana Wiggins, Virginia Partnership to Encourage Responsible Lending.

Maya Baxter, Statewide Poverty Action Network, Washington.

John R. Jones, Washington ACORN.

Bruce Neas, Columbia Legal Services, Washington, on behalf of clients.

Will Pittz, Washington Community Action Network.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 57—DESIGNATING THE FIRST WEEK OF APRIL 2009 AS "NATIONAL ASBESTOS AWARENESS WEEK"

Mr. BAUCUS (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. TESTER, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. REID, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mrs. MURRAY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 57

Whereas dangerous asbestos fibers are invisible and cannot be smelled or tasted;

Whereas the inhalation of airborne asbestos fibers can cause significant damage;

Whereas asbestos fibers can cause mesothelioma, asbestosis, and other health problems;

Whereas asbestos-related diseases can take 10 to 50 years to present themselves;

Whereas the expected survival time for those diagnosed with mesothelioma is between 6 and 24 months;

Whereas generally, little is known about late-stage treatment of asbestos-related diseases, and there is no cure for such diseases;

Whereas early detection of asbestos-related diseases may give some patients increased treatment options and might improve their prognoses;

Whereas the United States has reduced its consumption of asbestos substantially, yet continues to consume almost 2,000 metric tons of the fibrous mineral for use in certain products throughout the Nation;

Whereas asbestos-related diseases have killed thousands of people in the United States;

Whereas exposure to asbestos continues, but safety and prevention of asbestos exposure already has significantly reduced the incidence of asbestos-related diseases and can further reduce the incidence of such diseases;

Whereas asbestos has been a cause of occupational cancer;

Whereas thousands of workers in the United States face significant asbestos exposure;

Whereas thousands of people in the United States die from asbestos-related diseases every year;

Whereas a significant percentage of all asbestos-related disease victims were exposed to asbestos on naval ships and in shipyards;

Whereas asbestos was used in the construction of a significant number of office buildings and public facilities built before 1975;

Whereas people in the small community of Libby, Montana have asbestos-related diseases at a significantly higher rate than the national average and suffer from mesothelioma at a significantly higher rate than the national average; and

Whereas the establishment of a "National Asbestos Awareness Week" will raise public awareness about the prevalence of asbestos-related diseases and the dangers of asbestos exposure: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the first week of April 2009 as "National Asbestos Awareness Week";

(2) urges the Surgeon General to warn and educate people about the public health issue of asbestos exposure, which may be hazardous to their health; and

(3) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit a copy of this resolution to the Office of the Surgeon General.

SENATE RESOLUTION 58—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF MARCH 1 THROUGH MARCH 8, 2009, AS "SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK WEEK"

Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. KERRY, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. BROWN, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mrs. MURRAY, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mr. FEINGOLD) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 58

Whereas the Senate has recognized the importance of school social work through the inclusion of school social work programs in the current authorizations of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.) and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.);

Whereas school social workers serve as vital members of a school's educational team, playing a central role in creating partnerships between the home, school, and community to ensure student academic success;

Whereas school social workers are especially skilled in providing services to students who face serious challenges to school success, including poverty, disability, discrimination, abuse, addiction, bullying, divorce of parents, loss of a loved one, and other barriers to learning;

Whereas there is a growing need for local educational agencies to offer the mental health services that school social workers provide when working with families, teachers, principals, community agencies, and other entities to address students' emotional, physical, and environmental needs so that students may achieve behavioral and academic success;

Whereas to achieve the goal of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (Public Law 107-110) of helping all children reach their optimal levels of potential and achievement, including children with serious emotional disturbances, schools must work to remove the emotional, behavioral, and academic barriers that interfere with student success in school;

Whereas fewer than 1 in 5 of the 17,500,000 children in need of mental health services actually receive these services, and research indicates that school mental health programs improve educational outcomes by decreasing absences, decreasing discipline referrals, and improving academic achievement;

Whereas school mental health programs are critical to early identification of mental health problems and in the provision of appropriate services when needed;

Whereas the national average ratio of students to school social workers recommended by the School Social Work Association of America is 400 to 1; and

Whereas the celebration of "School Social Work Week" highlights the vital role school social workers play in the lives of students in the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates March 1 through March 8, 2009, as "School Social Work Week";

(2) honors and recognizes the contributions of school social workers to the successes of students in schools across the Nation; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to observe "School Social Work Week" with appropriate ceremonies and activities that promote awareness of the vital role of school social workers, in schools and in the community as a whole, in helping students prepare for their futures as productive citizens.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 591. Mr. DURBIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 160, to provide the District of Columbia a voting seat and the State of Utah an additional seat in the House of Representatives.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 591. Mr. DURBIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 160, to provide the District of Columbia a voting seat and the State of Utah an additional seat in the House of Representatives; as follows:

At the end of the bill add the following:

SEC. 9. FCC AUTHORITIES.

(a) CLARIFICATION OF GENERAL POWERS.—Title III of the Communications Act of 1934 is amended by inserting after section 303 (47 U.S.C. 303) the following new section:

“SEC. 303B. CLARIFICATION OF GENERAL POWERS.

“(a) CERTAIN AFFIRMATIVE ACTIONS REQUIRED.—The Commission shall take actions to encourage and promote diversity in communication media ownership and to ensure that broadcast station licenses are used in the public interest.

“(b) CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in section 303A shall be construed to limit the authority of the Commission regarding matters unrelated to a requirement that broadcasters present or ascertain opposing viewpoints on issues of public importance.”.

(b) SEVERABILITY.—Notwithstanding section 7(a), if any provision of section 2(a)(1), 2(b)(1), or 3 or any amendment made by those sections is declared or held invalid or unenforceable by a court of competent jurisdiction, the amendment made by subsection (a) and the application of such amendment to any other person or circumstance shall not be affected by such holding.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, February 26, 2009, at 9:30 a.m., in open session to receive testimony on strategic options for the way ahead in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

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

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 26, 2009, at 10 a.m., in order to conduct a committee hearing entitled An Examination of the Administration's Homeowner Affordability and Stability Plan.

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

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Com-

mittee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to hold a hearing during the session of the Senate on Thursday, February 26, 2009, at 10 a.m., in room 253 of the Russell Senate Office Building.

The Committee will examine Consumer Protection and the Credit Crisis and enforcement against fraudulent credit repair schemes under the Credit Repair Organization Act (CROA).

Specifically, the Committee will examine consumer protection in credit counseling, debt management, and foreclosure rescue programs and fraud. The Committee will also examine oversight of the federal authorities, protecting distressed consumers from mortgage fraud scams, and steering families away from these fraudulent schemes toward a path of financial stability.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate in order to conduct a hearing on Thursday, February 26, 2009, at 2:30 p.m., in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building. The purpose of the hearing is to provide recommendations for reducing energy consumption in buildings through improved implementation of authorized DOE programs and through other innovative federal energy efficiency policies and programs.

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, February 26, 2009, at 2:30 p.m., to hold a hearing titled “Engaging Muslim Communities around the World.”

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

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to meet, during the session of the Senate, in order to conduct a hearing entitled “Integrative Care: A Pathway To A Healthier Nation” on Thursday, February 26, 2009. The hearing will commence at 10 a.m. in room 430 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

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

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Indian Affairs be authorized to meet on Thursday, February 26, 2009 at 10 a.m. in Room 628 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building to conduct an oversight hearing on Youth Suicide in Indian Country.

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, in order to conduct an executive business meeting on Thursday, February 26, 2009, at 10 a.m. in room SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

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

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, February 26, 2009 at 10 a.m. to conduct a hearing on Caring for Veterans in Rural Areas. The Committee will meet in room 418 of the Russell Senate Office Building beginning at 9:30 a.m.

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

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 26, 2009 at 2:30 p.m. to hold a closed meeting.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT OF GOVERNMENT MANAGEMENT, THE FEDERAL WORKFORCE, AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs' Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, February 26, 2009, at 2:30 p.m. in order to conduct a hearing entitled, “Protecting Public and Animal Health—Homeland Security and the Federal Veterinarian Workforce.”

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

STANLEY J. ROSZKOWSKI UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Environment and Public Works Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. 387 and that the Senate then proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 387) to designate the United States courthouse located at 211 South Court Street, Rockford, Illinois, as the Stanley J. Roszkowski United States Courthouse.

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

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be