

In the last 30 years, the Arctic has lost sea-ice cover over an area 10 times as large as the State of Maine. In the summer, the change is even more dramatic, with twice as much ice loss. The ice that remains is as much as 40 percent thinner than it was just a few decades ago. In Ny-Alesund, Senator MCCAIN and I witnessed massive blocks of ice falling off glaciers that had already retreated well back from the shores where they once rested.

The melting of glaciers and sea ice, the thawing of permafrost, and the increases in sea levels resulting from warming are already beginning to cause environmental, social, and economic changes. If these changes were to be compounded with an abrupt climate change on the scale seen in our climatic history, the result could be devastating.

Mr. President, this measure has passed the Senate many times, as part of the 2001, 2003, and 2007 energy bills. I hope this is the year that we finally pass this important provision into law. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1667

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Abrupt Climate Change Research Act of 2009".

SEC. 2. ABRUPT CLIMATE CHANGE DEFINED.

In this Act, the term "abrupt climate change" means a change in the climate that occurs so rapidly or unexpectedly that human or natural systems have difficulty adapting to the climate as changed.

SEC. 3. ABRUPT CLIMATE CHANGE RESEARCH PROGRAM.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.—The Secretary of Commerce shall establish within the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and carry out, a program of extramural awards, made on a peer-reviewed and competitive basis, to conduct scientific research on abrupt climate change.

(b) PURPOSES OF PROGRAM.—The purposes of the program established under subsection (a) shall be as follows:

(1) To develop a global array of terrestrial and oceanographic indicators of paleoclimate in order to sufficiently identify and describe past instances of abrupt climate change.

(2) To improve understanding of thresholds and nonlinearities in geophysical systems related to the mechanisms of abrupt climate change.

(3) To incorporate such mechanisms into advanced geophysical models of climate change.

(4) To test the simulation of climate change by such models against an improved global array of records of past abrupt climate changes.

SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Commerce for each of fiscal years 2010 through 2016, \$10,000,000 to carry out the research program established under section 3(a).

(b) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of

appropriations in subsection (a) are authorized to remain available until expended.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 263—DESIGNATING OCTOBER 2009 AS "NATIONAL MEDICINE ABUSE AWARENESS MONTH"

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

S. RES. 263

Whereas over-the-counter and prescription medicines are extremely safe, effective, and potentially lifesaving when used properly;

Whereas the abuse and recreational use of over-the-counter and prescription medicines can be extremely dangerous and produce serious side effects;

Whereas during a recently sampled month, approximately 7,000,000 individuals 12 years of age and older reported using prescription psychotherapeutic medicines for non-medical purposes;

Whereas prescription medications such as pain relievers, tranquilizers, stimulants, and sedatives are second only to marijuana as the most abused drug in the United States;

Whereas recent studies indicate that 2,500,000 children between 12 and 17 years of age, or 1 out of every 10 children, have intentionally abused cough medicine to get high from the ingredient dextromethorphan;

Whereas 4,700,000 young adults, or 1 out of every 5 young men and women, have used prescription medicines for non-medical purposes;

Whereas in 2008, the National Institute on Drug Abuse estimated that the rates for intentional abuse of cough medicine among eighth, tenth, and twelfth graders stood at 3.6 percent, 5.3 percent, and 5.5 percent, respectively;

Whereas according to research from the Partnership for a Drug-Free America, more than 1/3rd of teenagers mistakenly believe that taking prescription drugs, even if not prescribed by a doctor, is much safer than using street drugs;

Whereas the lack of understanding by teenagers and parents of the potential harms of these powerful medicines makes it more critical than ever to raise public awareness about the dangers of their abuse;

Whereas when prescription drugs are abused, they are most often obtained through friends and relatives, but can also be obtained through rogue internet pharmacies;

Whereas parents should be aware that the Internet gives teenagers access to websites that promote abuse of medicines;

Whereas National Medicine Abuse Awareness Month promotes the message that over-the-counter and prescription medicines should be taken only as labeled or prescribed, and that taking over-the-counter and prescription medicines for recreational use or in large doses can have serious and life-threatening consequences;

Whereas National Medicine Abuse Awareness Month will encourage parents to educate themselves about this problem and talk to their children about all types of substance abuse;

Whereas observance of National Medicine Abuse Awareness Month should be encouraged at the national, State, and local levels to increase awareness of the rising abuse of medicines;

Whereas educational toolkits and training methods have been developed on how to best

engage and educate parents and grandparents, teachers, law enforcement officials, doctors and health care professionals, and retailers about the potential harms of cough medicine abuse; and

Whereas educating the public on the dangers of medicine abuse and promoting prevention is a critical component of what must be a multi-pronged effort to curb the disturbing rise in medicine abuse: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates October 2009 as "National Medicine Abuse Awareness Month"; and

(2) urges communities to carry out appropriate programs and activities to educate parents and youth of the potential dangers associated with medicine abuse.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I am pleased to submit a resolution designating the month of October, 2009 as the National Medicine Abuse Awareness Month. The abuse of prescription drugs and cold medicine is currently the fastest growing drug abuse trend in the country. According to the most recent National Survey of Drug Use and Health, NSDUH, nearly 7 million people have admitted to using controlled substances without a doctor's prescription. People between the ages of 12 and 25 are the most common group to abuse these drugs. However, more and more people are dying because of this abuse. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report that the unintentional deaths involving prescription narcotics increased 117 percent from the years 2001 to 2005.

Abuse of over-the-counter, OTC, cough and cold medicines is also alarming. While these common cold medicines are safe and effective if used properly, the abuse of these medicines can also be destructive. According to a study conducted by the Partnership for a Drug-Free America, nearly one in ten young people between the ages of 12 and 17 have intentionally abused cough medicine to get high off its main ingredient Dextromethorphan. These are statistics that can no longer be ignored.

Millions of Americans use these medicines every year to treat a variety of symptoms due to injury, depression, insomnia, and the effects of the common cold. Many legitimate users of these drugs often do not use as much medication as the prescription contains. As a result, these drugs remain in the family medicine cabinet for months or years because people forget about them or do not know how to properly dispose of them. However, many of these drugs, when not properly used or administered, are just as addictive and deadly as street drugs like methamphetamine or cocaine.

According to the NSDUH, more than half of the people who abuse these drugs reported that they obtained OTC and prescription drugs from a friend or relative or from the family medicine cabinet. As a result, groups like the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America, the Consumer Healthcare Products Association, and the Partnership for a Drug-Free America have been reaching out to communities

throughout the nation to raise awareness of this growing drug abuse trend and encourage communities to tackle the problem head on. Many community anti-drug coalitions, public health officials, and law enforcement officials have been holding town halls, organizing community “clean out your medicine cabinet” events, and holding many other events to raise awareness of this growing abuse in an effort to reverse this trend.

We can stop the growing trend of medicine abuse in its tracks, but it will require all sectors of the community to join together to make it happen. The National Medicine Abuse Awareness Month Resolution promotes the message that over-the-counter and prescription medicines must be taken as directed, and when used recreationally or in large doses they can have serious and deadly consequences. This resolution will help remind parents that access to drugs that are abused doesn't just happen in alleys and on the streets, but can often occur right in the home. I urge all my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution.

SENATE RESOLUTION 264—DESIGNATING THE CAUCUS ROOM OF THE RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING AS THE “KENNEDY CAUCUS ROOM”

Mr. DODD (for himself, Mr. KERRY, Mr. REID, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. BAYH, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. BOND, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. BURR, Mr. BURRIS, Mr. BYRD, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. COBURN, Mr. COCHRAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. CORKER, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DEMINT, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ENSIGN, Mr. ENZI, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. GREGG, Mrs. HAGAN, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. HATCH, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. INOUE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JOHANNIS, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KAUFMAN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. KOHL, Mr. KYL, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. LEMIEUX, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. MCCAIN, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. MIKULSKI, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. REED, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SESSIONS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SHELBY, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. SPECTER, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. TESTER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. VITTER, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WEBB, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. WYDEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 264

Whereas, during the last century, few rooms have borne witness to as much history

as the Caucus Room of the Russell Senate Office Building;

Whereas, during the last century, few families have played as integral a role in the history of the United States as has the Kennedy family;

Whereas the Senate mourns the passing of Senator Edward Moore Kennedy, one of the most accomplished, effective, and beloved Senators of all time;

Whereas Senator Edward Moore Kennedy played a role in every major national debate during the last 50 years, serving as a constant champion of the disadvantaged and overlooked;

Whereas the legacy of Senator Edward Moore Kennedy includes not only his prolific achievements on behalf of the people of the United States, but the enduring friendships he formed with colleagues on both sides of the aisle;

Whereas the wit and passion of Senator Edward Moore Kennedy and his perseverance in the face of adversity will be remembered in equal measure to his impressive legislative and rhetorical skills;

Whereas Senator Edward Moore Kennedy was part of a proud family tradition of public service, which included 2 other distinguished Senators;

Whereas never before have 3 brothers served in the Senate, and rarely have any 3 brothers served the United States so well;

Whereas John Fitzgerald Kennedy served the people of Massachusetts with distinction in the Senate, before being elected the 35th President of the United States;

Whereas Robert Francis Kennedy served the people of New York with distinction in the Senate, after serving as the 64th Attorney General;

Whereas Edward Moore Kennedy served the people of Massachusetts with distinction in the Senate for nearly half a century, acting as a tireless advocate for those who might otherwise have been without an advocate;

Whereas the Senate has been greatly enriched by the dedication, compassion, and talent of the 3 Kennedy brothers who served as Senators;

Whereas, in the Caucus Room of the Russell Senate Office Building, the people of the United States have commemorated tragedy, celebrated triumph, and held hearings of great importance on the most important issues facing the Nation;

Whereas it was in the Caucus Room of the Russell Senate Office Building that both Senator John Fitzgerald Kennedy and Senator Robert Francis Kennedy announced their intention to run for the office of the President of the United States;

Whereas a spirit of passionate advocacy and deep respect for the institution of the Senate should govern the deliberations that take place in the Caucus Room of the Russell Senate Office Building; and

Whereas the Senate wishes to honor the life and work of Senator Edward Moore Kennedy, to recognize the contributions of the 3 Kennedy brothers who served as Senators, and to celebrate the spirit of public service exemplified by the Kennedy family: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate designates room 325 of the Russell Senate Office Building, commonly referred to as the “Caucus Room”, as the “Kennedy Caucus Room”, in recognition of the service to the Senate and the people of the United States of Senators Edward Moore Kennedy, Robert Francis Kennedy, and John Fitzgerald Kennedy.

SENATE RESOLUTION 265—HONORING THE FIREFIGHTERS WHO SACRIFICED THEIR LIVES WHILE BATTLING THE STATION FIRE IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA IN AUGUST 2009

Mrs. BOXER (for herself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN), submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 265

Whereas in late August 2009, the Angeles National Forest and neighboring communities north of Los Angeles, California were engulfed by an intense wildfire, which came to be known as the “Station Fire”;

Whereas the Station Fire, ignited by arson on August 26, 2009, burned more than 160,000 acres of public lands and private property in Los Angeles County and the Angeles National Forest, including more than 160 structures and homes;

Whereas as of September 9, 2009, the Station Fire was the 10th largest wildfire in modern California history, and the largest wildfire in the modern history of Los Angeles County;

Whereas as of September 9, 2009, the Station Fire continued to threaten 12,000 structures in the National Forest and nearby communities such as Acton, Altadena, Glendale, La Cañada Flintridge, La Crescenta, Pasadena, Littlerock, Sunland, and Tujunga;

Whereas more than 8,000 fire personnel and 800 fire engines and approximately 40 helicopters, 13 fixed winged aircraft, and 88 water tenders were deployed statewide to assist with firefighting efforts;

Whereas the extraordinary effort made by firefighters throughout the region contributed to the preservation of the historic Mount Wilson Observatory, a national landmark for astronomical research;

Whereas Fire Captain Tedmund D. “Ted” Hall, aged 47, and Firefighter Specialist Arnaldo “Arnie” Quinones, aged 34, lost their lives in the line of duty fighting the Station Fire;

Whereas Tedmund D. Hall joined the Los Angeles County Fire Department on April 22, 1981;

Whereas during his time in the Los Angeles County Fire Department, Tedmund D. Hall served the city of Lakewood, the city of Whittier, the city of La Puente, and the Department's command and control team;

Whereas in January 2001, Tedmund D. Hall was promoted to fire captain;

Whereas Tedmund D. Hall is survived by his wife, Katherine, sons Randall and Steven, and parents, Roland Ray and Donna Marie Hall;

Whereas Arnaldo Quinones joined the Los Angeles County Fire Department on August 6, 1998;

Whereas during his time in the Los Angeles County Fire Department, Arnaldo Quinones served the city of Palmdale, the city of Covina, and the city of La Cañada Flintridge;

Whereas in December 2005, Arnaldo Quinones was promoted to firefighter specialist; and

Whereas Arnaldo Quinones is survived by his wife, Loressa, who is expecting their first child, and his mother Sonia Quinones: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses its heartfelt condolences to the families, fellow firefighters, and friends of Tedmund D. Hall and Arnaldo Quinones;

(2) recognizes the noble and brave service that firefighters provide to every community in the United States; and