

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding the provisions of section 1342 of title 31, United States Code, the Co-Chairs of the Task Force are authorized to accept and utilize the services of volunteers serving without compensation. The Task Force may reimburse such volunteers for local travel and office supplies, and for other travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of substance, as authorized by section 5703 of title 5, United States Code.

“(B) EMPLOYEE STATUS.—A person providing volunteer services to the Task Force shall be considered an employee of the Federal Government in the performance of those services for the purposes of Chapter 81 of title 5, United States Code, relating to compensation for work-related injuries, chapter 171 of title 28, United States Code, relating to tort claims and chapter 11 of title 18, United States Code, relating to conflicts of interests.

“(C) ETHICAL GUIDELINES FOR STAFF.—In the absence of statutorily defined coverage, the staff, including staff director, shall follow the ethical rules and guidelines of the Senate. Staff coming from the private sector or outside public government may petition the Co-Chairs for a waiver from provisions of Senate Ethics rules.

“(9) ADVISORY PANEL.—The Task Force may establish an advisory panel consisting of volunteers with knowledge and expertise relevant to the Task Force's purpose. Membership of the Advisory Panel, and the scope of the Panel's activities, shall be decided by the Co-Chairs in consultation with the other members of the Task Force.

“(d) TERMINATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Task Force shall terminate on the date that is 90 days after the Task Force submits the report required under paragraph (b)(3)(B).

“(2) CONCLUDING ACTIVITIES.—The Task Force may use the 90-day period referred to in paragraph (1) for the purpose of concluding its activities, including providing testimony to committees of Congress concerning its report and disseminating the final report.

“(e) CONSIDERATION OF TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS.—

“(1) INTRODUCTION OF TASK FORCE BILL.—The proposed legislative language contained in the report submitted pursuant to subsection (b)(3)(B), upon receipt by the Congress, shall be introduced in the Senate and in the House of Representatives by the majority leader of each House of Congress (by request), or by any member or members of that House designated by the majority leader. If the Task Force bill is not introduced in accordance with the preceding sentence in either House of Congress within 5 days on which that House is in session after receipt, then any member of that House may introduce the Task Force bill on any day thereafter. Upon introduction, the Task Force bill shall be referred to the appropriate committees under paragraph (2).

“(2) COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION.—A Task Force bill introduced in either House of Congress shall be referred to the appropriate committee or committees of jurisdiction under the rules of that House.

“(3) PROCEDURES.—

“(A) CONSIDERATION IN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, consideration of a Task Force bill shall be governed by the Rules of the House of Representatives, and no expedited procedures shall apply.

“(B) CONSIDERATION IN SENATE.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, consideration of a Task Force bill shall be governed by the Standing Rules of the Senate, and no expedited procedures shall apply.”

SEC. 3. FUNDING.

From the amounts appropriated or made available and remaining unobligated under

division A (other than under title X of division A) of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-5), there is rescinded pro rata an aggregate amount equal to \$9,000,000, which amount shall be made available without need for further appropriation to the Bipartisan Task Force for Responsible Fiscal Action to carry out the purposes of the Bipartisan Task Force for Responsible Fiscal Action, and which shall remain available through fiscal year 2011. Not later than 14 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall administer the rescission and make available such amount to the Bipartisan Task Force for Responsible Fiscal Action.

SA 3307. Mr. SPECTER (for Mr. CRAPO) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 373, designating the month of February 2010 as “National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month”, as follows:

In the sixteenth whereas clause of the preamble, strike “haven” and insert “have”.

EMERGENCY AID TO AMERICAN SURVIVORS OF THE HAITI EARTHQUAKE ACT

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, on behalf of the leader, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. 2949, which was introduced earlier today.

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

The clerk will state the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2949) to amend section 1113 of the Social Security Act to provide authority for increased fiscal year 2010 payments for temporary assistance to United States citizens returned from foreign countries, to provide necessary funding to avoid shortfalls in the Medicare cost-sharing program for low-income qualifying individuals, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I join in today with my colleagues Senators BILL NELSON, BOB MENENDEZ, GEORGE LEMIEUX, and CHUCK GRASSLEY in support of the Emergency Aid to American Survivors of the Haiti Earthquake Act. This bill will provide much-needed resources to the United States Repatriation Program, which is currently assisting U.S. citizens who are returning home from Haiti.

The United States Repatriation Program was established by title XI, section 1113 of the Social Security Act to provide temporary assistance to U.S. citizens and their dependents who have been identified by the Department of State as having returned, or been brought from a foreign country to the U.S. because of destitution, illness, war, threat of war, or a similar crisis.

The Department of Health and Human Services works with State and local governments to administer the Repatriation Program and provide vital services such as immediate medical care, temporary lodging and travel, and food assistance to returning

Americans in need. The Federal Government reimburses States for the full cost of providing these services and individuals who receive aid are expected to repay it except in the case of extreme hardship.

The Repatriation Program is currently being used by the Department of Health and Human Services to provide assistance to citizens returning from Haiti as a result of last week's devastating earthquake.

But, funding for this important program is capped at \$1 million per year, which will not cover the cost states have already incurred to provide support for the more than 14,000 Americans who have already returned from Haiti. And the State Department expects between 600 and 2,000 more Americans will continue to return from Haiti each day in the coming months. They too will need the vital services this program provides.

As a result, we have been asked by the Department of Health and Human Services to increase the cap for this fiscal year so that the program can continue to provide these vital services to Americans returning home from Haiti.

This bill will answer the Department's call for help by raising the cap for fiscal year 2010 to \$25 million.

In the past Congress has passed similar measures to aid Americans returning home from abroad during times of crisis. In 2006, for example, Congress raised the \$1 million annual limit to accommodate Americans returning home from the devastation in Lebanon. During the gulf war, the annual limit was waived entirely. These measures proved to be simple and successful solutions to help bring Americans home safely and give them the support they need to get back on their feet.

This bill is modeled closely off those measures and we have worked with the Department of Health and Human Services and other government agencies in creating this bill.

Additionally, this legislation will provide additional funding for the Qualified Individual Program, which pays the Medicare Part B premium costs for low-income seniors here at home.

Like the Repatriation Program, the Qualified Individual Program is also subject to annual spending caps. Without additional funding for 2010, this program will see shortfalls in approximately two dozen States.

This legislation will provide \$65 million in additional funding for the Qualified Individual Program to ensure all States are able to provide this critical assistance to seniors this year.

The entire cost of this legislation, \$60 million, is fully paid for through the Medicaid improvement fund.

This legislation is a reasonable and fiscally responsible solution that will allow these programs to meet their obligations to Americans in need. We urge the Senate to pass this bill and send it to the House for immediate consideration.

We should not allow these important resources to be denied or needlessly delayed.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read the third time, passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating thereto be printed in the RECORD.

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

The bill (S. 2949) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 2949

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 “Emergency Aid to American Survivors of the Haiti Earthquake Act”.

SEC. 2. INCREASE IN AGGREGATE PAYMENTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010 FOR TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE TO UNITED STATES CITIZENS RETURNED FROM FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

Section 1113(d) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1313(d)) is amended by striking “September, 30, 2003” and all that follows and inserting “September 30, 2009, except that, in the case of fiscal year 2010, the total amount of such assistance provided during that fiscal year shall not exceed \$25,000,000.”.

SEC. 3. QI PROGRAM FUNDING.

Section 1933(g)(2) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396u–3(g)(2)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (M), by striking “\$412,500,000” and inserting “\$462,500,000”; and

(2) in subparagraph (N), by striking “\$150,000,000” and inserting “\$165,000,000”.

SEC. 4. APPLICATION OF MEDICAID IMPROVEMENT FUND.

Section 1941(b)(1)(A) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396w–1(b)(1)(A)) is amended by striking “\$100,000,000” and inserting “\$10,000,000”.

CRIMINAL HISTORY BACKGROUND CHECKS PILOT EXTENSION ACT OF 2009

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, on behalf of the leader, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. 2950.

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2950) to extend the pilot program for volunteer groups to obtain criminal history background checks.

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

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read three times, passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

The bill (S. 2950) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 2950

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 “Criminal History Background Checks Pilot Extension Act of 2009”.

SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF PILOT PROGRAM.

Section 108(a)(3)(A) of the PROTECT Act (42 U.S.C. 5119a note) is amended by striking “a 78-month” and inserting “a 92-month”.

NATIONAL TEEN DATING VIOLENCE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, on behalf of the leader, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 373.

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. 373) designating the month of February 2010 as “National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month.”

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

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the amendment to the preamble be agreed to, the preamble, as amended, 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. 373) was agreed to.

The amendment (No. 3307) was agreed to, as follows:

In the sixteenth whereas clause of the preamble, strike “haven” and insert “have”.

The preamble, as amended, was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, as amended, reads as follows:

S. RES. 373

Whereas dating, domestic, and sexual violence affect women regardless of their age, and teens and young women are especially vulnerable;

Whereas, approximately 1 in 3 adolescent girls in the United States is a victim of physical, emotional, or verbal abuse from a dating partner, a figure that far exceeds victimization rates for other types of violence affecting youth;

Whereas nationwide, 1 in 10 high school students (9.9 percent) has been hit, slapped, or physically hurt on purpose by a boyfriend or girlfriend;

Whereas more than 1 in 4 teenagers have been in a relationship where a partner is verbally abusive;

Whereas 20 percent of teen girls exposed to physical dating violence did not attend school because the teen girls felt unsafe either at school, or on the way to or from school, on 1 or more occasions in a 30-day period;

Whereas violent relationships in adolescence can have serious ramifications for victims by putting the victims at higher risk for substance abuse, eating disorders, risky sexual behavior, suicide, and adult revictimization;

Whereas being physically and sexually abused leaves teen girls up to 6 times more

likely to become pregnant and more than 2 times as likely to report a sexually transmitted disease;

Whereas nearly 3 in 4 children ages 11 to 14 (referred to in this preamble as “twens”), say that dating relationships usually begin at age 14 or younger and about 72 percent of eighth and ninth graders report “dating”;

Whereas 1 in 5 twens say their friends are victims of dating violence and nearly ½ of twens who are in relationships know friends who are verbally abused;

Whereas more than 3 times as many twens (20 percent) as parents of twens (6 percent) admit that parents know little or nothing about the dating relationships of twens;

Whereas teen dating abuse most often takes place in the home of 1 of the partners;

Whereas a majority of parents surveyed believe they have had a conversation with their teen about what it means to be in a healthy relationship, but the majority of teens surveyed said that they have not had a conversation about dating abuse with a parent in the past year;

Whereas digital abuse and “sexting” is becoming a new frontier for teen dating abuse;

Whereas 1 in 4 teens in a relationship say they have been called names, harassed, or put down by their partner through cellphones and texting;

Whereas 3 in 10 young people have sent or received nude pictures of other young people on their cell or online, and 61 percent who have “sexted” report being pressured to do so at least once;

Whereas targets of digital abuse are almost 3 times as likely to contemplate suicide as those who have not encountered such abuse (8 percent vs. 3 percent), and targets of digital abuse are nearly 3 times more likely to have considered dropping out of school;

Whereas the severity of violence among intimate partners has been shown to be greater in cases where the pattern of violence has been established in adolescence;

Whereas primary prevention programs are a key part of addressing teen dating violence and many successful community examples include education, community outreach, and social marketing campaigns that also understand the cultural appropriateness of programs;

Whereas skilled assessment and intervention programs are also necessary for youth victims and abusers; and

Whereas the establishment of National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month will benefit schools, communities, and families regardless of socioeconomic status, race, or sex: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the month of February 2010, as “National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month”;

(2) supports communities to empower teens to develop healthier relationships; and

(3) calls upon the people of the United States, including youth and parents, schools, law enforcement, State and local officials, and interested groups to observe National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month with appropriate programs and activities that promote awareness and prevention of the crime of teen dating violence in their communities.

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE COLORADO NATIONAL GUARD

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, on behalf of the leader, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed