

by the Estuary Partnership, including making such data and reports on such data available to the public, including on the Internet, in a timely fashion; and

“(1) collect and make available to the public, including on the Internet, publications and other forms of information relating to the environmental quality of the Lower Columbia River and Estuary.

“(2) IMPLEMENTATION METHODS.—The Administrator, acting through the Team Leader, may enter into interagency agreements, make intergovernmental personnel appointments, provide funding, make grants, and utilize other available methods in carrying out the duties under this subsection.

“(d) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date of enactment of this section, and biennially thereafter, the Administrator shall submit to Congress a report that—

“(1) summarizes the progress made in implementing the Action Plan and the Comprehensive Plan and the progress made toward achieving the identified goals and objectives described in such plans;

“(2) summarizes any modifications to the Action Plan and the Comprehensive Plan made in the period immediately preceding the report;

“(3) incorporates specific recommendations concerning the implementation of the Action Plan and the Comprehensive Plan; and

“(4) summarizes the roles and progress of each Federal agency that has jurisdiction in the Columbia River Basin toward meeting the identified goals and objectives of the Action Plan and the Comprehensive Plan.

“(e) IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTION PLAN AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator, acting through the Team Leader and in consultation with the Estuary Partnership, shall carry out projects, programs, and studies to implement the Action Plan and the Comprehensive Plan.

“(2) PRIORITY PROJECTS, PROGRAMS, AND STUDIES.—The Administrator may give special emphasis to projects, programs, and studies that are identified as priorities by the Estuary Partnership in the Action Plan and the Comprehensive Plan.

“(3) GRANTS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator, acting through the Team Leader, is authorized to make grants for projects, programs, and studies to implement the Action Plan and the Comprehensive Plan.

“(B) ALLOCATIONS.—In making grants using funds appropriated to carry out this paragraph for a fiscal year, the Administrator, acting through the Team Leader, shall use—

“(i) not less than 40 percent of the funds to make a comprehensive grant to the Estuary Partnership to manage implementation of the Comprehensive Plan;

“(ii) not less than 50 percent of the funds to make grants, as allocated by the Team Leader, for projects, programs and studies prioritized in the Action Plan throughout the Columbia River Basin, and for other coordinated projects, programs, and studies in the Middle and Upper Columbia River Basin; and

“(iii) not more than 5 percent of the funds for project management, administration, and reporting.

“(4) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of the costs for which a grant is made under this section shall be 75 percent, except that the Administrator may increase the Federal share in such circumstances as the Administrator determines appropriate.

“(f) ANNUAL BUDGET PLAN.—The President, as part of the President's annual budget submission to Congress under section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, shall submit information regarding each Federal agency in-

volved in protection and restoration of the Columbia River Basin, including—

“(1) an interagency crosscut budget that displays for each Federal agency—

“(A) the amounts obligated in the preceding fiscal year for protection and restoration projects, programs, and studies relating to the Columbia River Basin;

“(B) the estimated budget for the current fiscal year for protection and restoration projects, programs, and studies relating to the Columbia River Basin; and

“(C) the proposed budget for protection and restoration projects, programs, and studies relating to the Columbia River Basin; and

“(2) a description and assessment of the Federal role in the development and implementation of the Action Plan and the Comprehensive Plan and the specific role of each Federal agency involved in protection and restoration of the Columbia River Basin, including specific projects, programs, and studies conducted or planned to achieve the identified goals and objectives of the Action Plan and the Comprehensive Plan.

“(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Administrator to carry out this section \$40,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2011 through 2016. Such sums shall remain available until expended.”.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 419—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF “NATIONAL GUARD YOUTH CHALLENGE DAY”

Ms. LANDRIEU (for herself, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BYRD, and Mr. BENNETT) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 419

Whereas “National Guard Youth Challenge Day” will be celebrated on February 24, 2010;

Whereas high school dropouts need guidance, encouragement, and avenues toward self-sufficiency and success;

Whereas over 1,300,000 students drop out of high school each year, costing this Nation more than \$335,000,000,000 in lost wages, revenues, and productivity over the lifetimes of these individuals;

Whereas the life expectancy for a high school dropout is 9 years less than that of a high school graduate, and a high school dropout can expect to earn about \$19,000 each year, compared to approximately \$28,000 for a high school graduate;

Whereas 54 percent of high school dropouts were jobless during an average month in 2008, with 40 percent having no job for the entire year;

Whereas each annual class of high school dropouts cost this Nation over \$17,000,000,000 in publicly subsidized health care over the course of their lives;

Whereas approximately 90 percent of individuals in prisons throughout the United States are high school dropouts;

Whereas the goal of the National Guard Youth Foundation, a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, is to improve the education, life skills, and employment potential of high school dropouts in the United States through public awareness, scholarships, higher education assistance, and job development programs;

Whereas the National Guard Youth Challenge Program provides military-based

training, supervised work experience, assistance in obtaining a high school diploma or equivalent degree, and development of leadership qualities, as well as promotion of citizenship, fellowship, service to their community, life skills training, health and physical education, positive relationships with adults and peers, and career planning;

Whereas the National Guard Youth Challenge Program represents a successful joint effort between States and the Federal Government;

Whereas since 1993, the National Guard Youth Challenge Program has developed 32 programs in 27 States and Puerto Rico;

Whereas since 1993, over 92,850 young individuals have successfully graduated from the program, with 80 percent earning their high school diploma or GED certificate, 24 percent going to college, 18 percent joining the military, and 57 percent entering the workforce with career jobs;

Whereas the National Guard Youth Challenge Program has successfully helped high school dropouts in this Nation; and

Whereas the National Guard Youth Challenge Program can play a larger role in providing assistance to the youth of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of “National Guard Youth Challenge Day”; and

(2) calls upon the people of the United States to observe “National Guard Youth Challenge Day” on February 24, 2010, with appropriate ceremonies and respect.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, on behalf of myself and my colleagues Senator LINCOLN, Senator CHAMBLISS, Senator SHAHEEN, Senator MURKOWSKI, Senator BARRASSO and Senator BYRD, I rise today to submit a resolution in support of the goals and ideals of National Guard Youth Challenge Day and in support of the Youth Challenge program.

Few programs have been as effective in combating the high rate of high school dropouts as the Youth Challenge program.

Established by the National Guard in 1993 to help at-risk youth aged 16-18 who have dropped out or been expelled from school, the National Guard Youth Challenge program includes a 5-month residential program and 12-month mentoring program where participants learn life-skills, gain real-life work experience, receive on-the-job training, participate in community service and have the opportunity to earn a high school diploma or GED.

Everyone knows that high school dropouts face much greater challenges than their peers who finish school. Dropouts have an unemployment rate of 40 percent, as compared to the national average of 10 percent. Fifty-four percent of high school dropouts were jobless in an average month during 2008 alone.

One in every three teen mothers is a dropout and one in four babies is born to a high school dropout. Dropouts have a life expectancy that is nine years less than a high school graduate.

While looking for programs that keep students in school, we must also focus on programs that offer our high school dropouts a road back, and the National Guard Youth Challenge Program is one such program.

The National Guard Youth Challenge program has graduated more than 92,850 former high school dropouts from the program to date, with 99 percent of them going on to pursue higher education, a career in the military or employment, according to a recent audit.

The annual cost of graduating one child from the Youth Challenge program is \$14,000. Contrasted with the \$40,000 it costs to incarcerate that same youth, it is no surprise the program has earned the enthusiastic bipartisan support of governors nationwide.

The program currently operates only 32 programs across 27 states and Puerto Rico. Last year alone, of the 18,701 dropouts who applied to this voluntary program, more than 40 percent were turned away due to lack of funding.

Unfortunately, America has one of the highest dropout rates in the world among developed nations. Nationally, an estimated one-third of high school freshmen do not graduate from high school in four years; in the 50 largest U.S. cities, the dropout rate may be closer to 50 percent. That totals 1.2 million high school dropouts each year.

The soaring dropout rate is a national crisis that costs our economy billions of dollars each year to support dropouts who are more likely to be unemployed or underemployed, incarcerated, on public welfare, or teen parents.

The median income of a high school dropout is \$18,000, versus \$25,000 for a high school graduate, and the annual unemployment rate for dropouts is 40 percent compared with the nationwide rate of 10 percent.

This means that each dropout, over the course of his or her lifetime, contributes \$60,000 less in taxes that an individual with a high school degree.

Each class of dropouts costs States \$17 billion in publicly subsidized health care costs over the course of their lives.

Individuals lacking a high school education also make up 90 percent of our nation's prison population accounting for \$45 billion of the \$50 billion spent annually on incarceration.

The economic cost in lost productivity and earnings over the course of a high school dropout's lifetime is \$329 billion, according to the Alliance for Excellent Education.

Over the next decade, if current dropout rates persist, the economic loss to our nation will total more than \$3 trillion.

Eleven States have requested funding to start a program. Unlike most programs, the Youth Challenge program requires States to match 25 percent of the program's cost with the Federal Government providing 75 percent, and three States with existing programs are seeking funding for additional programs.

The National Guard Youth Challenge Program changes more than just the cadet; it transforms entire families and communities.

According to the parent of a recent Challenge graduate in Louisiana: "I had struggled for several years trying to give [my son] what he needed in the way of direction. He had no ambition, no direction, no goals for the future, no interest whatsoever in school, and appeared to have no grasp of how poorly his future looked if he continued on the road he was on. The successes the Youth Challenge program provided gave him a self-confidence I've never seen in him before. He realizes he can achieve anything he wants in life if he is willing to put forth the effort. Thank you for giving me my son back."

Our nation can no longer afford to lose ground educationally if we are to compete in a global, knowledge-based society. As President Obama noted in his speech, "In this country, the success of our children cannot depend more on where they live than on their potential." In order to make that sentiment a reality, we must not only address needed reforms to put our failing schools back on track, but also expand programs that reach out to those youth who dropped out of high school to ensure that they have every chance to succeed. The future of our youth—and our economy—depends on it.

Do not just take my word for it. Tomorrow morning I am hosting a panel and discussion about the Youth Challenge Program in the Russell Building, Room 485 from 10:30 to 11:45. I invite all of my colleagues to meet some of these remarkable young men and women who have made the choice to turn their lives around.

Again, I ask my colleagues to join with me to pass this resolution which shines a much needed light on a program that is truly making a difference in the lives of our greatest natural resource—our children.

This is a happy subject, and one for which I think the Presiding Officer shares my enthusiasm, and that is our support of the National Guard Youth Challenge Program. Tonight we are celebrating at the fifth gala that supports this program, and tomorrow I will be hosting, along with many of our colleagues, a panel about the success of the National Guard Youth Challenge Program.

The Presiding Officer was a Governor before she became a Senator, so she knows very well the challenges of workforce development, moving our young people through high school so they graduate on time with the requisite skills to allow them to be ready to go to college or ready to go to work. Unfortunately, that is not the case in America today with too many of our young people. So we are struggling here in Congress; Governors are looking for programs all over the country; educators are searching for what works.

I am here to tell my colleagues that there is a program that works, and I thank the Presiding Officer for her support. I also wish to thank Senator LINCOLN, Senator CHAMBLISS, Senator

SHAHEEN, Senator MURKOWSKI, Senator BARRASSO and Senator BYRD for co-sponsoring this resolution and for calling attention to the fact that tomorrow is National Guard Youth Challenge Day. But more than joining in this resolution, I hope this Congress, as this appropriations process starts for this year, when looking to find a wise way to spend a dollar, will look to the National Guard Youth Challenge Program.

This program reaches out in 27 States and Puerto Rico with over 32 programs to kids between the ages of 16 and 18 who have given up on themselves and whose families have given up on them. They haven't been arrested yet. They haven't been incarcerated yet. They haven't gotten into trouble with drugs yet, but they are on the road in that dangerous direction. This program offers them an opportunity to take a different road. It offers them an opportunity to change. I am proud to say that since this program was started here in Congress and in partnership with Governors and non-profits around the country, we have graduated thousands of children from this program with an almost 95-percent success rate, which with this group is almost unheard of. This is a 17-month program including 5 months of residential schooling followed by 12 months of mentorship. So in 17 months, kids who were headed in the wrong direction are literally turned around and headed in the right direction. That is because it is a combination of all of the best practices: getting them out of their environment and introducing them to a new set of disciplines and rules and regulations. It is not a boot camp. There are not wires around these facilities. These young people can leave any day. It is completely voluntary. But they stay because they know they need the discipline. They know they need the focus. They know our men and women of the National Guard care not just about our country as a whole but about the individual citizens who make up the country. Through our National Guard, men and women give of their time in terms of teaching and training. It is a phenomenal program.

I don't know if the Presiding Officer has attended some of the graduations, but I have, and I think perhaps she has, and many of our colleagues have. They share with me their stories. They say, Senator, I have given speeches at many of my college graduations and at many wonderful, prominent, large high schools, but the graduations that have touched me the most have been the graduations of the Youth Challenge cadets. Sometimes a program will graduate 100 cadets; sometimes smaller programs will graduate 50; but there are always lots of tears of joy in those auditoriums around the country when these cadets graduate.

I will never, ever forget standing in Alexandria, actually Camp Beauregard, right outside of Alexandria, a central Louisiana city. I had given my speech.

I thought it was pretty good, but it wasn't spectacular. It was very good. I heard a grown man behind me sobbing. I thought to myself, I hope I haven't said anything inappropriate in my remarks. He came up to me with these huge arms and hugged me from the back and said, Senator, I have never known my government to do anything good for me—I don't know if I agree with that—but, he said, Today, you have given me my son back. I will never forget that as long as I live. That is what this program means to parents. It is giving them their children back, which is the greatest gift a parent, as the Presiding Officer knows, having four children, can have. These kids are floundering in the regular high schools, not making any sense to them, because we haven't done I think what we should be doing in all cases with them in high school. This program works. Not only does it work for the individual, but it works for our economy.

I wish to read into the RECORD a few of the statistics about what it means to our country when we save one person from dropping out of high school. These are the statistics. One in every three teen mothers is a dropout from high school. One in four babies born is born to a high school dropout. The National Guard program has graduated more than 92,850 former high school dropouts with 99 percent of them going on to either pursue higher education, a career in the military, or employment, according to a recent audit. The annual cost of graduating one child from this program is \$14,000. Contrast that with the \$40,000 it costs annually for incarceration of someone who failed to graduate, got on the wrong road, got involved in drugs or in a life of crime. For a \$14,000 investment, leveraging the strength of the National Guard, leveraging the hopes and prayers of parents who want so much for their children to turn around, leveraging the power of the individual child knowing something is wrong and wanting to make it right, I couldn't think of a better program than this.

I have spoken personally to Secretary Arne Duncan about this. I have spoken personally on every occasion I can to members of the White House leadership team and the education team and the members of the Defense Appropriations team. So I am hoping we recognize the soaring dropout rate as a national crisis that costs our economy billions of dollars. There are programs that work. Not every program that government invents or frames fails. So for people who say we can't spend any more money, let's spend it on programs such as this. Let's move the money from some programs that aren't working as well to programs such as this and leverage the investments our country is making, whether it is through the National Guard or through other programs.

The median income of a high school dropout is \$18,000 versus \$25,000 for a high school graduate. Over a lifetime,

that amounts to literally millions of dollars in lost employment opportunities.

There are any number of reasons. I think I have explained them fairly well. I will submit a longer statement for the RECORD. But again, today, we wish to recognize our National Guard Youth Challenge Program. We wish to thank the National Guard. Not only are they on the front lines in Iraq and in Afghanistan and everywhere around the world, but they are on the front lines right here, helping us educate future military members, future executives, future workforce leaders, and we are very proud of the leadership of the National Guard.

I wish to thank the Presiding Officer again for her support and for the support of many of our colleagues for this very worthwhile and meritorious program.

SENATE RESOLUTION 420—HONORING THE MEMBERS OF THE ARMY NATIONAL GUARD AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA FOR THEIR SERVICE AND SACRIFICE ON BEHALF OF THE UNITED STATES SINCE SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. COBURN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services:

S. RES. 420

Whereas members of the Army National Guard and Air National Guard of the State of Oklahoma reside throughout the State and come from various communities, backgrounds, and professions;

Whereas the Army National Guard and Air National Guard of the State of Oklahoma are composed of several units, including the Joint Forces Headquarters, the 45th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, the 45th Fires Brigade, the 90th Troop Command, the 189th Regional Training Institute, Camp Gruber Joint Maneuver Training Center, the 137th Air Refueling Wing, the 138th Fighter Wing, the 205th Engineering Installation Squadron, and the 219th Engineering Installation Squadron;

Whereas, since September 11, 2001, units and members of the Army National Guard and the Air National Guard of the State of Oklahoma have been deployed, and are continuously being deployed, in support of United States military operations at home and abroad;

Whereas the 45th Infantry Brigade mobilized in 2003 for Operation Enduring Freedom and deployed more than 700 soldiers to Afghanistan to provide training to Afghan Security Forces;

Whereas the 45th Infantry Brigade Combat Team mobilized in 2007 for Operation Iraqi Freedom and deployed more than 2,700 soldiers to provide command and control and conduct security force and detainee operations, representing the largest single deployment for the Oklahoma Army National Guard since the Korean War;

Whereas the 45th Fires Brigade mobilized in 2008 for Operation Iraqi Freedom and deployed more than 1,000 soldiers to provide command and control and conduct security force operations;

Whereas 90th Troop Command units mobilized for Operation Iraqi Freedom and Oper-

ation Enduring Freedom and deployed more than 2,600 soldiers to conduct combat support and combat service support missions;

Whereas the 189th Regional Training Institute and Camp Gruber Joint Maneuver Training Center have provided professional training to military and nonmilitary personnel to enhance domestic security and prepare units for deployments abroad;

Whereas the Oklahoma Army National Guard mobilized in 2005 and deployed more than 2,500 soldiers to support relief operations in response to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, including assisting law enforcement agencies with traffic control and security, transporting and distributing food, water, and ice, conducting search and rescue and ground and air evacuations, providing generator support, and performing other missions to protect life and property;

Whereas the 137th Airlift Wing mobilized in 2003 for Operation Iraqi Freedom and deployed to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as part of the largest C-130 wing assembled in history, transporting troops, food, supplies, and equipment to United States forces in Iraq;

Whereas the 137th Airlift Wing mobilized in 2003 for Operation Enduring Freedom and deployed to Uzbekistan, providing critical airlift and logistical support for United States forces in Afghanistan;

Whereas between 2003 and 2006, the 137th Airlift Wing transported 39,368 troops and 11,170 tons of critical cargo to United States forces in Iraq and Afghanistan;

Whereas the 137th Airlift Wing mobilized in 2005 and deployed one of the first C-130 units to support relief operations in response to Hurricane Katrina, including evacuating hospital and nursing home residents to safety by air, providing critical logistical support, and airlifting 2,500 members of the Oklahoma Army National Guard to population centers to provide aid to hurricane victims;

Whereas the 138th Fighter Wing mobilized in 2005, 2007, and 2008 for Operation Iraqi Freedom and deployed to Iraq to provide close air support and engage in combat missions, during which the 138th Fighter Wing expended 109,000 pounds of combat ordnance and successfully destroyed numerous targets; and

Whereas, since September 11, 2001, the 138th Fighter Wing has flown numerous Air Sovereignty Alert missions in the United States, protecting high value domestic targets against attack and contributing to homeland defense, and in 2008 the 138th Fighter Wing was recognized as the most active alert facility in the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses its gratitude to the members of the Army National Guard and Air National Guard of the State of Oklahoma and their families for their service and sacrifice on behalf of the United States since September 11, 2001; and

(2) recognizes the citizen-soldiers and airmen of the Oklahoma National Guard as invaluable to the national security of the United States, vital to defending against threats both foreign and domestic, and essential for responding to State and national emergencies.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3324. Ms. LANDRIEU submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3310 proposed by Mr. REID to the bill H.R. 2847, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies for the