

“(II) representatives are recognized by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs under section 5902 of title 38.”.

TELEWORK ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2010

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 1722, and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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 bill (H.R. 1722) to require the head of each executive agency to establish and implement the policy under which employees shall be authorized to telework, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the substitute amendment which is at the desk be agreed to, the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and any statements relating to the measure be printed in the RECORD.

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

The committee amendment (No. 4689) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under “Text of Amendments.”)

The amendment was ordered to be engrossed and the bill to be read a third time.

The bill (H.R. 1722), as amended, was read the third time and passed.

SECURE AND RESPONSIBLE DRUG DISPOSAL ACT OF 2010

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask the Chair to lay before the Senate the House message to accompany S. 3397.

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the House:

S. 3397

Resolved, That the bill from the Senate (S. 3397) entitled “An Act to amend the Controlled Substances Act to provide for take-back disposal of controlled substances in certain instances, and for other purposes.”, do pass with an amendment.

Mr. DURBIN. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate concur in the House amendment to S. 3397 with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements be printed in the RECORD.

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

HONORING THE HUDSON RIVER SCHOOL PAINTERS

Mr. DURBIN. I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be

discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 278, and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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. 278) honoring the Hudson River School Painters for their contributions to the United States.

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

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent 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 relating to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 278) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 278

Whereas the Hudson River School was a mid-19th century American art movement led by a group of landscape painters, whose aesthetic vision was influenced by the romanticism movement;

Whereas the Hudson River School is considered the first school of American art;

Whereas the major Hudson River School painters included Thomas Cole, Frederic Edwin Church, Asher Brown Durand, Jasper Francis Cropsey, Sanford Robinson Gifford, Albert Bierstadt, John Frederick Kensett, George Inness, Worthington Whittredge, and Thomas Moran;

Whereas the Hudson River School paintings captured the striking landscape and sweeping natural beauty of the Hudson River Valley and the surrounding New York areas, including the Catskill, the Adirondack, and the White Mountains;

Whereas Hudson River School paintings served a vital role in cultivating American identity in the mid-19th century and creating a sense of awe of the American landscape that endures to this day;

Whereas the Hudson River School painters influenced the environmental conservation movement and the establishment of the National Park System under President Theodore Roosevelt;

Whereas the Hudson River School's portrayal of the Hudson River Valley is a major source of tourism in the region;

Whereas 2009 marks the 400th anniversary of the voyages of discovery made by Henry Hudson and Samuel de Champlain, recognizing the important role that the Hudson River and the Hudson Valley played in the development and growth of the United States;

Whereas the Hudson River School painters depicted the Hudson River Valley during the opening of the Erie Canal, which linked the Hudson River with the Great Lakes and created a main trade route from New York that fostered the city's central place in the American economy;

Whereas the Hudson River School painters celebrated the ideals of American democracy, individuality, and progress;

Whereas the Hudson River School painters illustrated themes such as nature, conservation, civility, unity, education, family, chivalry, and development;

Whereas the Hudson River School painters expressed the sense that every generation of Americans should seek to preserve the naturalness of the continent; and

Whereas the Hudson River School painters accentuated the cardinal values of the 19th century, which can assist contemporary Americans in the rebirth of American culture: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate recognizes and honors the Hudson River School painters for their contributions to the United States.

TO ENSURE STABILITY IN SOMALIA

Mr. DURBIN. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 588, S. Res. 573.

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 573) urging the development of a comprehensive strategy to ensure stability in Somalia, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution which had been reported from the Committee on Foreign Relations with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

S. RES. 573

Whereas Somalia has been without a functioning central government since 1991, resulting in lawlessness and an increasingly desperate humanitarian situation;

Whereas, despite the return of the internationally recognized Transitional Federal Government (TFG) to Mogadishu and ongoing diplomatic efforts through the Djibouti Peace Process, supported by the United Nations, there has been little improvement in the governance or stability of southern and central Somalia, and armed opposition groups continue to exploit this situation;

Whereas the traditional mediation role played by Somali elders has been eroded as the dynamics of conflict and the proliferation of weapons make it difficult to influence warring parties;

Whereas, since 2007, armed violence has resulted in the deaths of at least 21,000 people in Somalia and the displacement of nearly 2,000,000 people, including over 500,000 refugees in Kenya, Yemen, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Djibouti, Tanzania, and Uganda;

Whereas the United Nations estimates that 3,200,000 people, or 43 percent of the population of Somalia, are in need of humanitarian assistance and livelihood support to survive;

Whereas the United Nations reports that almost 1,000,000 displaced Somalis in need of aid cannot be reached by United Nations refugee and food agencies because of growing insecurity and the threat of kidnappings to staff;

Whereas local humanitarian organizations are trying to meet the needs of the Somali people by restoring basic social services in urban and rural communities, which places them on the front lines of the conflict and make them vulnerable targets for killings, kidnappings, or being accused of working for foreign governments;

Whereas al Shabaab, which has been designated as a foreign terrorist organization by the Department of State, and other armed groups continue to wage war against the Transitional Federal Government in Mogadishu and one another to gain control over territory in Somalia;

Whereas al Shabaab has claimed responsibility for many bombings—including suicide attacks—in Mogadishu, as well as in central and northern Somalia, typically targeting officials of the Government of Somalia and perceived allies of the TFG;

Whereas, according to Human Rights Watch, al Shabaab is subjecting inhabitants of areas under its control in southern Somalia to executions, cruel punishments, including amputations and floggings, and repressive social control;

Whereas the human rights situation in Somalia has dramatically worsened over the past several years with increased numbers of killings, torture, kidnappings, and rape;

Whereas the 2009 Department of State Country Terrorism Report notes that “Somalia’s fragile transitional Federal government, protracted state of violent instability, its long, unguarded coastline, porous borders, and proximity to the Arabian Peninsula, made the country an attractive location for international terrorists seeking a transit or launching point for operations in Somalia or elsewhere”;

Whereas the situation in southern and central Somalia, particularly the activity of al Shabaab, poses direct threats to the stability of Puntland and Somaliland regions, as well as the stability of neighboring states and the wider region;

Whereas al Shabaab leaders have stated their intent to provide recruits and support for al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula in Yemen;

Whereas the Government of Eritrea has provided military and financial support for armed opposition groups, including al Shebaab, in part as a proxy front in its continuing tensions with Ethiopia;

Whereas, according to the most recent report by the United Nations Somalia Monitoring Group, arms, ammunitions, and military or dual-use equipment continue to enter Somalia at a fairly steady rate, in violation of the general and complete arms embargo imposed in 1992;

Whereas, in July 2009, the Department of State confirmed that, in addition to other support for the TFG, it had provided cash to purchase weapons and ammunitions for the TFG’s efforts “to repel the onslaught of extremist forces which are intent on destroying the Djibouti peace process”;

Whereas, according to most recent report by the United Nations Somalia Monitoring Group, “[d]espite infusions of foreign training and assistance, government security forces remain ineffective, disorganized and corrupt — a composite of independent militias loyal to senior government officials and military officers who profit from the business of war and resist their integration under a single command”;

Whereas, on April 13, 2010, President Barack Obama issued an executive order to sanction or freeze the assets of militants who threaten, both directly and indirectly, the stability of Somalia, as well as individuals involved in piracy off Somalia’s coast;

Whereas, in March 2009, at a hearing of the Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs of the Senate, Andrew Liepman, Deputy Director of Intelligence at the National Counterterrorism Center, noted that “[s]ince 2006, a number of U.S. citizens [have] traveled to Somalia, possibly to train in extremist training camps”;

Whereas, in September 2009, at a hearing of the Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs of the Senate, the Director of the National Counterterrorism Center Michael Leiter testified that “the potential for al-Qaeda operatives in Somalia to commission Americans to return to the United States and launch attacks against the Homeland remains of significant concern”;

Whereas al Shabaab has claimed responsibility for the bombings in Kampala, Uganda on July 11, 2010, which killed 76 people, including one American, and wounded scores of other people; and

Whereas the extraordinary and ongoing crisis in Somalia has enormous humanitarian consequences and direct national security implications for the United States and our allies in the region: Now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) acknowledges the urgency of addressing the threats to United States national security in Somalia and the conditions that foster those threats;

(2) reaffirms its commitment to stand with all the people of Somalia who aspire to a future free of terrorism and violence through advancing political reconciliation and building legitimate and inclusive governance institutions;

(3) recognizes the difficult, but very important, work being done by the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) to help secure parts of Mogadishu, and reaffirms its support for the mission;

(4) calls on the Transitional Federal Government in Somalia—

(A) to cease immediately any use of child soldiers;

(B) to ensure better accountability and transparency for all received security assistance;

(C) to renew its commitment to political reconciliation; and

(D) to take necessary steps toward becoming a more legitimate and inclusive government in the eyes of the people of Somalia;

(5) calls on all actors and governments in the region, particularly the Government of Eritrea, to play a productive role in helping to bring about peace and stability to Somalia, including ceasing to provide any financial or material support to al Shabaab and other armed opposition groups in Somalia;

(6) welcomes efforts by the President to bring greater focus and resources toward understanding and monitoring the situation in Somalia;

(7) urges the President to develop a comprehensive strategy to ensure that all United States humanitarian, diplomatic, political, and counterterrorism programs in Somalia and the wider Horn of Africa are coordinated and making progress toward the long-term goal of establishing stability, respect for human rights, and functional, inclusive governance in Somalia;

(8) urges the President and Secretary of State, as part of a comprehensive strategy—

(A) to provide greater support for a range of diplomatic initiatives to engage clan leaders, business leaders, and civil society leaders in Somalia and the Somali Diaspora in political reconciliation and consensus-building;

(B) to ensure better oversight, monitoring, and transparency of all United States security assistance provided to the TFG;

(C) to increase and strengthen the United States diplomatic team working on Somalia, including the appointment of a senior envoy, and to ensure that these officials have the necessary resources, access, and mandate;

(D) to pursue opportunities for periodic, temporary United States Government travel to Somalia, consistent with any security concerns;

(E) to expand and deepen our engagement with the regional administration of Puntland and other regional administrations in order to promote good governance, effective law enforcement, respect for human rights, and stability in these regions;

(F) to provide additional humanitarian, development, and security assistance to the region of Somaliland, recognizing the positive developments in that region with respect to consolidating multi-party democracy, which was evident in the recent election there;

(G) to outline punitive measures and incentives that can be used with the Government of Eritrea to bring a halt to its financial and material support for armed opposition groups in Somalia, including steps to improve bilateral relations and to push for a resolution of Eritrea’s border dispute with Ethiopia consistent with the arbitration decision of the Ethiopia-Eritrea Border Commission;

(H) to explore, in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury, increased options for pressuring individuals, governments, and other actors who undertake economic activities that support al Shabaab and other armed opposition groups in Somalia; and

(I) to develop, in consultation with the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, creative and flexible mechanisms for delivering basic humanitarian and development assistance to the people of Somalia while minimizing the risk of significant diversion to armed opposition groups.

Mr. DURBIN. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute amendment to the resolution be agreed to; the resolution, as amended, be agreed to; the committee-reported amendment to the preamble be agreed to; the preamble, as amended, 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 committee amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The resolution (S. Res. 573), as amended, was agreed to.

The preamble, as amended, was agreed to.

NATIONAL DAY OF RECOGNITION FOR LONG-TERM CARE PHYSICIANS

Mr. DURBIN. I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to S. Con. Res. 52.

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

The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 52) expressing support for the designation of March 20 as a National Day of Recognition for Long-Term Care Physicians.

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

Mr. DURBIN. I ask unanimous consent that the technical amendment at the desk be agreed to; the resolution, as amended, be agreed to; the preamble be agreed to; and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The amendment (No. 4690) was agreed to, as follows:

On page 2, line 3, after “March 20” add “, 2010.”

The resolution (S. Con. Res. 52), as amended, was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

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

S. CON. RES. 52

Whereas a National Day of Recognition for Long-Term Care Physicians is designed to honor and recognize physicians who care for an ever-growing elderly population in different settings, including skilled nursing facilities, assisted living, hospice, continuing