

honor the role and contribution of the military family, including selfless service that ensures freedom and preserves the quality of life in the United States.

SUPPORTING GOALS OF NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY AND NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the HELP Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 647 and that 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 legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 647) expressing support for the goals of National Adoption Day and National Adoption Month by promoting national awareness of adoption and the children awaiting families, celebrating children and families involved in adoption, and encouraging Americans to secure safety, permanency, and well-being for all children.

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

Mr. REID. I further ask unanimous consent that 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. 647) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 647

Whereas there are approximately 463,000 children in the foster care system in the United States, approximately 123,000 of whom are waiting for families to adopt them;

Whereas 55 percent of the children in foster care are age 10 or younger;

Whereas the average length of time a child spends in foster care is over 2 years;

Whereas for many foster children, the wait for a loving family in which they are nurtured, comforted, and protected seems endless;

Whereas the number of youth who "age out" of foster care by reaching adulthood without being placed in a permanent home has continued to increase since 1998, and more than 29,000 foster youth age out every year;

Whereas everyday, loving and nurturing families are strengthened and expanded when committed and dedicated individuals make an important difference in the life of a child through adoption;

Whereas a 2007 survey conducted by the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption demonstrated that though "Americans overwhelmingly support the concept of adoption, and in particular foster care adoption . . . foster care adoptions have not increased significantly over the past five years";

Whereas while 4 in 10 Americans have considered adoption, a majority of Americans have misperceptions about the process of adopting children from foster care and the children who are eligible for adoption;

Whereas 71 percent of those who have considered adoption consider adopting children from foster care above other forms of adoption;

Whereas 45 percent of Americans believe that children enter the foster care system because of juvenile delinquency, when in reality the vast majority of children who have entered the foster care system were victims of neglect, abandonment, or abuse;

Whereas 46 percent of Americans believe that foster care adoption is expensive, when in reality there is no substantial cost for adopting from foster care and financial support is available to adoptive parents after the adoption is finalized;

Whereas both National Adoption Day and National Adoption Month occur in November;

Whereas National Adoption Day is a collective national effort to find permanent, loving families for children in the foster care system;

Whereas since the first National Adoption Day in 2000, more than 30,000 children have joined forever families during National Adoption Day;

Whereas in 2009, adoptions were finalized for nearly 5,000 children through 400 National Adoption Day events in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and Guam; and

Whereas the President traditionally issues an annual proclamation to declare November as National Adoption Month, and National Adoption Day is on November 20, 2010: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Adoption Day and National Adoption Month;

(2) recognizes that every child should have a permanent and loving family; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to consider adoption during the month of November and all throughout the year.

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration en bloc of the following resolutions, which were submitted earlier today: S. Res. 683, S. Res. 684, and S. Res. 685.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 683) recognizing the recent accomplishments of the people and Government of Moldova, and expressing support for free and transparent parliamentary elections on November 28, 2010.

A resolution (S. Res. 684) recognizing the 35th anniversary of the enactment of the Education for All Handicapped Children Act of 1975.

A resolution (S. Res. 685) commemorating the 100th anniversary of the discovery of sickle cell disease by Dr. James B. Herrick.

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc, with no intervening action or debate, and any statements relating to the resolutions be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolutions (S. Res. 683, 684, and 685) were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

The resolutions, with their preambles, read as follows:

S. RES. 683

Whereas, since independence 19 years ago, the people of Moldova have made extraordinary progress in transitioning from authoritarian government and a closed market to a democratic government and market economy;

Whereas, for 19 years, the constitution of Moldova has guaranteed its citizens freedom to emigrate confirmed by years of successive Presidential waivers concerning the Jackson-Vanik amendment;

Whereas, on January 12, 2010, the Government of Moldova initiated negotiations with the European Union on an Association Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Moldova, an important step towards European Union accession;

Whereas, in order to comply with the criteria of the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), the Government of Moldova implemented far-reaching legal reforms to curb corruption, introduce budgetary transparency, and strengthen the capacity of civil society and the media, resulting in the successful conclusion of negotiations and the signing of an MCC Compact on January 22, 2010;

Whereas the Government of Moldova initiated a visa dialogue between the Republic of Moldova and the European Union aiming at visa liberalization on June 15, 2010;

Whereas, on August 26, 2010, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton praised progress in Moldova in "advancing transparent governance, human rights, and economic reform";

Whereas, on October 20, 2010, Reporters Without Borders reported an improvement in the freedom of press in Moldova, with Moldova rising from the 114th position in 2009 to the 75th position in 2010;

Whereas, in November 2010, the Government of Moldova concluded a treaty with Romania important to the assertion of its sovereignty and its future development;

Whereas Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs Philip H. Gordon noted in testimony before the Subcommittee on Europe of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives on June 16, 2009, "We will continue to work for a negotiated settlement of the separatist conflict in the Transnistria region that provides for a whole and democratic Moldova and the withdrawal of Russian forces."; and

Whereas the Republic of Moldova has made commitments to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) to conduct elections according to international standards: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the development of an enduring democratic political system and free market economy in Moldova and a parliamentary election process on November 28, 2010, that comports with international standards of fairness and transparency;

(2) recognizes that the commitment of the Government of Moldova to economic and political reforms since 2009 has resulted in tangible progress towards integration into European institutions;

(3) acknowledges that continued reform and commitment to a free and fair election process will remain necessary for Moldova's full integration into the Western community of nations;

(4) notes that continued reforms in Moldova could provide for an additional basis for the repeal of the Jackson-Vanik trade restrictions;

(5) encourages ongoing negotiations between the European Union and the Republic of Moldova concerning visa liberalization and an Association Agreement;

(6) urges fulfillment by the Government of Moldova of commitments it has made to the OSCE with respect to the free and fair conduct of its upcoming parliamentary elections; and

(7) expresses the belief that the free and fair conduct of parliamentary elections in Moldova will contribute to a strong and stable government that is responsive to the vital needs of its people.

S. RES. 684

Whereas the Education for All Handicapped Children Act of 1975 (Public Law 94-142) was signed into law 35 years ago on November 29;

Whereas the Education for All Handicapped Children Act of 1975 established the Federal policy of ensuring that all children, regardless of the nature or severity of their disability, have available to them a free appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment;

Whereas the Education of the Handicapped Act (Public Law 91-230), as amended by the Education for All Handicapped Children Act of 1975, was further amended by the Education of the Handicapped Act Amendments of 1986 (Public Law 99-457) to create a preschool grant program for children with disabilities 3 to 5 years of age and an early intervention program for infants and toddlers with disabilities from birth through age 2;

Whereas the Education of the Handicapped Act Amendments of 1990 (Public Law 101-476) renamed the Education of the Handicapped Act as the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.);

Whereas IDEA was amended by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Amendments of 1997 (Public Law 105-17) to ensure that children with disabilities have equal access to, and make progress in, the general education curriculum and are included in all general State and district-wide assessment programs;

Whereas IDEA was amended by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 (Public Law 108-446) to ensure that all children with disabilities have available to them a free appropriate public education that emphasizes special education and related services designed to meet their individual needs and prepare them for further education, employment, and independent living;

Whereas IDEA currently serves an estimated 342,000 infants and toddlers, 709,000 preschoolers, and 5,890,000 children 6 to 21 years of age;

Whereas IDEA has opened neighborhood schools to students with disabilities and increased the number of children living in their communities instead of institutions;

Whereas the academic achievement of students with disabilities has significantly increased since the enactment of IDEA;

Whereas the number of children with disabilities who complete high school with a standard diploma has grown significantly since the enactment of IDEA;

Whereas the number of children with disabilities who enroll in institutions of higher education has more than tripled since the enactment of IDEA;

Whereas IDEA requires partnership among parents of children with disabilities and education professionals in the design and implementation of the educational services provided to children with disabilities;

Whereas the achievement of students with disabilities is integrally linked with the suc-

cessful alignment of special and general education systems;

Whereas IDEA has increased the quality of research in effective teaching practices for students with disabilities; and

Whereas IDEA continues to serve as the framework to marshal the resources of this Nation to implement the promise of full participation in society of children with disabilities: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the 35th anniversary of the enactment of the Education for All Handicapped Children Act of 1975 (Public Law 94-142);

(2) acknowledges the many and varied contributions of children with disabilities and their parents, teachers, related services personnel, and administrators; and

(3) reaffirms its support for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act so that all children with disabilities have access to a free appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment and the opportunity to benefit from the general education curriculum and be prepared for further education, employment, and independent living.

S. RES. 685

Whereas sickle cell disease is an inherited disorder that affects red blood cells leading to significant morbidity and mortality in nearly 80,000 people in the United States;

Whereas sickle cell disease causes blockage of small blood vessels which can lead to tissue damage resulting in severe pain, infection, or stroke;

Whereas scientific breakthroughs over the past century have improved the lives of millions of people suffering from sickle cell disease;

Whereas scientific advances in treatment for sickle cell disease began with Dr. James B. Herrick, an attending physician at Presbyterian Hospital and professor of medicine at Rush Medical College in Chicago, Illinois, who discovered sickle cell disease and published the first recorded case in Western medical literature in November of 1910 in the journal *Annals of Internal Medicine*;

Whereas the hemoglobin mutation responsible for sickle cell disease was discovered by Linus Pauling in 1950;

Whereas penicillin was proven to be effective as a preventative strategy against pneumococcal infection in 1986, sparing patients with sickle cell disease from contracting this particularly dangerous infection;

Whereas in 1995, the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute reported the first effective drug treatment for adults with severe sickle cell disease;

Whereas the anticancer drug hydroxyurea was found to reduce the frequency of painful crises of sickle cell disease and patients taking the drug needed fewer blood transfusions;

Whereas in 1996, bone marrow transplantation was discovered to improve the course of sickle cell disease for select patients;

Whereas in 1997, blood transfusions were found to help prevent stroke in patients with sickle cell disease;

Whereas the introduction of pneumococcal vaccine in 2000 revolutionized the prevention of lethal infections in children and adults with sickle cell disease;

Whereas the first mouse model demonstrating the usefulness of genetic therapy for sickle cell disease was developed in 2001;

Whereas in 2007, scientists from the University of Alabama at Birmingham and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology developed an animal model for curing sickle cell disease;

Whereas improvements in treatments have substantially improved quality of life for patients with sickle cell disease and led to an increase in overall life expectancy from 14

years in 1973 to the mid to late 40s in 2010; and

Whereas the National Institutes of Health sponsored a symposium on November 16 and 17, 2010, to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Dr. James Herrick's initial description of sickle cell disease: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the contributions of the biomedical research community to the improvement in diagnosis and treatment of sickle cell disease; and

(2) commemorates the 100th anniversary of the discovery of sickle cell disease in November 1910.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 3975

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I am told there is a bill at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3975) to permanently extend the 2001 and 2003 tax relief provisions, and to permanently repeal the estate tax, and to provide permanent alternative minimum tax relief, and for other purposes.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I now ask for its second reading, and in order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard. The bill will be read the second time on the next legislative day.

PROVIDING FOR A CONDITIONAL ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND A CONDITIONAL RECESS OR ADJOURNMENT OF THE SENATE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that we now proceed to H. Con. Res. 332, which is an adjournment resolution, which was received from the House and is at the desk.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 332) providing for a conditional adjournment of the House of Representatives and a conditional recess or adjournment of the Senate.

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, first I would like to express my appreciation to the Presiding Officer for his patience.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Absolutely.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 332) was agreed to, as follows:

H. CON. RES. 332

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That when the House adjourns on the legislative day of Thursday,