

a hearing entitled, "Problems in Mortgage Servicing from Modifications to Foreclosure, Part II."

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

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND
TRANSPORTATION

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on December 1, 2010, at 10:30 a.m., in room 253 of the Russell Senate Office Building. The Committee will hold a hearing entitled, "Transition and Implementation: The NASA Authorization Act of 2010."

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

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND
TRANSPORTATION

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on December 1, 2010, at 2:30 p.m., in room 253 of the Russell Senate Office Building. The Committee will hold a hearing entitled, "Are Mini Med Policies Really Health Insurance?"

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on December 1, 2010, at 2:30 p.m., to hold a hearing entitled, "Latin America in 2010: Opportunities, Challenges and the Future of U.S. Policy in the Hemisphere."

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

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR,
AND PENSIONS

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on December 1, 2010, at 9:45 a.m., in SD-430.

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

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR,
AND PENSIONS

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to meet, during the session of the Senate, to conduct a hearing entitled "Is Stronger Management and Oversight Needed?" on December 1, 2010. The hearing will commence at 10:15 a.m. in room 430 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, on December 1, 2010, at 10 a.m., in SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office

Building, to conduct an executive business meeting.

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

EXTENDING THE CHILD SAFETY
PILOT PROGRAM

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 3998, which was introduced earlier today.

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

The assistant editor of the Daily Digest read as follows:

A bill (S. 3998) to extend the Child Safety Pilot Program.

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

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I ask the bill be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and any statements be printed in the RECORD.

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

The bill (S. 3998) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 3998

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 2010".

SEC. 2. EXTENSION.

Section 108(a)(3)(A) of the PROTECT Act (42 U.S.C. 5119a note) is amended by striking "92-month" and inserting "104-month".

INTERNATIONAL PROTECTING
GIRLS BY PREVENTING CHILD
MARRIAGE ACT OF 2010

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 637, S. 987.

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

The assistant editor of the Daily Digest read as follows:

A bill (S. 987) to protect girls in developing countries through the prevention of child marriage and for other purposes.

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "International Protecting Girls by Preventing Child Marriage Act of 2010".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Child marriage, also known as "forced marriage" or "early marriage", is a harmful traditional practice that deprives girls of their dignity and human rights.

(2) Child marriage as a traditional practice, as well as through coercion or force, is a violation

of article 16 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which states, "Marriage shall be entered into only with the free and full consent of intending spouses".

(3) According to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), an estimated 60,000,000 girls in developing countries now ages 20 through 24 were married under the age of 18, and if present trends continue more than 100,000,000 more girls in developing countries will be married as children over the next decade, according to the Population Council.

(4) Between 1/2 and 3/4 of all girls are married before the age of 18 in Niger, Chad, Mali, Bangladesh, Guinea, the Central African Republic, Mozambique, Burkina Faso, and Nepal, according to Demographic Health Survey data.

(5) Factors perpetuating child marriage include poverty, a lack of educational or employment opportunities for girls, parental concerns to ensure sexual relations within marriage, the dowry system, and the perceived lack of value of girls.

(6) Child marriage has negative effects on the health of girls, including significantly increased risk of maternal death and morbidity, infant mortality and morbidity, obstetric fistula, and sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS.

(7) According to the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), increasing the age at first birth for a woman will increase her chances of survival. Currently, pregnancy and childbirth complications are the leading cause of death for women 15 to 19 years old in developing countries.

(8) Most countries with high rates of child marriage have a legally established minimum age of marriage, yet child marriage persists due to strong traditional norms and the failure to enforce existing laws.

(9) Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has stated that "child marriage is a clear and unacceptable violation of human rights, and that the Department of State denounces all cases of child marriage as child abuse".

(10) According to an International Center for Research on Women analysis of Demographic and Health Survey data, areas or regions in developing countries in which 40 percent or more of girls under the age of 18 are married are considered high-prevalence areas for child marriage.

(11) Investments in girls' schooling, creating safe community spaces for girls, and programs for skills building for out-of-school girls are all effective and demonstrated strategies for preventing child marriage and creating a pathway to empower girls by addressing conditions of poverty, low status, and norms that contribute to child marriage.

SEC. 3. CHILD MARRIAGE DEFINED.

In this Act, the term "child marriage" means the marriage of a girl or boy, not yet the minimum age for marriage stipulated in law in the country in which the girl or boy is a resident.

SEC. 4. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) child marriage is a violation of human rights, and the prevention and elimination of child marriage should be a foreign policy goal of the United States;

(2) the practice of child marriage undermines United States investments in foreign assistance to promote education and skills building for girls, reduce maternal and child mortality, reduce maternal illness, halt the transmission of HIV/AIDS, prevent gender-based violence, and reduce poverty; and

(3) expanding educational opportunities for girls, economic opportunities for women, and reducing maternal and child mortality are critical to achieving the Millennium Development Goals and the global health and development objectives of the United States, including efforts to prevent HIV/AIDS.

SEC. 5. STRATEGY TO PREVENT CHILD MARRIAGE IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

(a) ASSISTANCE AUTHORIZED.—

(1) *IN GENERAL.*—The President is authorized to provide assistance, including through multilateral, nongovernmental, and faith-based organizations, to prevent the incidence of child marriage in developing countries through the promotion of educational, health, economic, social, and legal empowerment of girls and women.

(2) *PRIORITY.*—In providing assistance authorized under paragraph (1), the President shall give priority to—

(A) areas or regions in developing countries in which 40 percent or more of girls under the age of 18 are married; and

(B) activities to—

(i) expand and replicate existing community-based programs that are successful in preventing the incidence of child marriage;

(ii) establish pilot projects to prevent child marriage; and

(iii) share evaluations of successful programs, program designs, experiences, and lessons.

(b) *STRATEGY REQUIRED.*—

(1) *IN GENERAL.*—The President shall establish a multi-year strategy to prevent child marriage and promote the empowerment of girls at risk of child marriage in developing countries, and should include addressing the unique needs, vulnerabilities, and potential of girls under age 18 in developing countries.

(2) *CONSULTATION.*—In establishing the strategy required by paragraph (1), the President shall consult with relevant stakeholders.

(3) *ELEMENTS.*—The strategy required by paragraph (1) shall—

(A) focus on areas in developing countries with high prevalence of child marriage;

(B) encompass diplomatic initiatives between the United States and governments of developing countries, with attention to human rights, legal reforms and the rule of law, and programmatic initiatives in the areas of education, health, income generation, changing social norms, human rights, and democracy building; and

(C) be implemented not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) *REPORT.*—Not later than three years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit to Congress a report that includes—

(1) a description of the implementation of the strategy required by subsection (b);

(2) examples of best practices or programs to prevent child marriage in developing countries that could be replicated; and

(3) an assessment, including data disaggregated by age and sex to the extent possible, of current United States funded efforts to specifically prevent child marriage in developing countries.

(d) *COORDINATION.*—Assistance authorized under subsection (a) shall be integrated with existing United States programs for advancing appropriate age and grade-level basic and secondary education through adolescence, ensure school enrollment and completion for girls, health, income generation, agriculture development, legal rights, democracy building, and human rights, including—

(1) support for community-based activities that encourage community members to address beliefs or practices that promote child marriage and to educate parents, community leaders, religious leaders, and adolescents of the health risks associated with child marriage and the benefits for adolescents, especially girls, of access to education, health care, livelihood skills, microfinance, and savings programs;

(2) support for activities to educate girls in primary and secondary school at the appropriate age and keeping them in age-appropriate grade levels through adolescence;

(3) support for activities to reduce education fees and enhance safe and supportive conditions in primary and secondary schools to meet the needs of girls, including—

(A) access to water and suitable hygiene facilities, including separate lavatories and latrines for girls;

(B) assignment of female teachers;

(C) safe routes to and from school; and

(D) eliminating sexual harassment and other forms of violence and coercion;

(4) support for activities that allow adolescent girls to access health care services and proper nutrition, which is essential to both their school performance and their economic productivity;

(5) assistance to train adolescent girls and their parents in financial literacy and access economic opportunities, including livelihood skills, savings, microfinance, and small-enterprise development;

(6) support for education, including through community and faith-based organizations and youth programs, that helps remove gender stereotypes and the bias against girls used to justify child marriage, especially efforts targeted at men and boys, promotes zero tolerance for violence, and promotes gender equality, which in turn help to increase the perceived value of girls;

(7) assistance to create peer support and female mentoring networks and safe social spaces specifically for girls; and

(8) support for local advocacy work to provide legal literacy programs at the community level to ensure that governments and law enforcement officials are meeting their obligations to prevent child and forced marriage.

SEC. 6. RESEARCH AND DATA.

It is the sense of the Senate that the President and all relevant agencies should work through the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development and any other relevant agencies of the Department of State, and in conjunction with relevant executive branch agencies as part of their ongoing research and data collection activities, to—

(1) collect and make available data on the incidence of child marriage in countries that receive foreign or development assistance from the United States where the practice of child marriage is prevalent; and

(2) collect and make available data on the impact of the incidence of child marriage and the age at marriage on progress in meeting key development goals.

SEC. 7. DEPARTMENT OF STATE'S COUNTRY REPORTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICES.

The Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 is amended—

(1) in section 116 (22 U.S.C. 2151n), by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(g) The report required by subsection (d) shall include for each country in which child marriage is prevalent at rates at or above 40 percent in at least one subnational region, a description of the status of the practice of child marriage in such country. In this subsection, the term ‘child marriage’ means the marriage of a girl or boy, not yet the minimum age for marriage stipulated in law or under the age of 18 if no such law exists, in the country in which such girl or boy is a resident.”; and

(2) in section 502B (22 U.S.C. 2304), by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(i) The report required by subsection (b) shall include for each country in which child marriage is prevalent at rates at or above 40 percent in at least one subnational region, a description of the status of the practice of child marriage in such country. In this subsection, the term ‘child marriage’ means the marriage of a girl or boy, not yet the minimum age for marriage stipulated in law or under the age of 18 if no such law exists, in the country in which such girl or boy is a resident.”.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today, with the passage of the International Protecting Girls by Preventing Child Marriage Act, the Senate takes a step toward ending child marriage.

Child marriage is often carried out through force or coercion. It deprives

young girls, and sometimes boys, of their dignity and human rights. And it poses grave health risks. In some countries, it is not uncommon for girls as young as 7 or 8 years old to be married.

Child marriage also undermines U.S. foreign assistance to developing countries. We invest in education and skills-building for girls, improving maternal and child health, ending the transmission of HIV/AIDS, preventing gender-based violence, and reducing poverty. But where the girls targeted for assistance are married, these development strategies only go so far.

UNICEF estimates that 60 million girls in developing countries now ages 20 to 24 were married under the age of 18. The Population Council estimates that the number will increase by 100 million over the next decade if trends continue.

The International Protecting Girls by Preventing Child Marriage Act seeks to reverse those trends. Thanks to Senator OLYMPIA SNOWE and 41 other cosponsors from both sides of the aisle, the leadership of Senators JOHN KERRY and RICHARD LUGAR on the Foreign Relations Committee, and Representatives BETTY MCCOLLUM and ANDER CRENSHAW in the House for supporting the legislation to make ending child marriage a priority in foreign affairs.

I would also like to thank The Elders, a group of world leaders including Nelson Mandela, Desmond Tutu, and President Jimmy Carter, who work together to address major causes of human suffering around the globe. Their help and persistence on the legislation have been invaluable.

The human rights community has rightly identified the practice of child marriage as a major concern that treats young girls as property and traps them in a life of servitude. It denies girls educational and economic opportunities, sustaining a cycle of poverty in some of the world's poorest countries.

Many child brides live their lives in crushing hopelessness. Some are driven to attempt suicide to escape their misery.

A recent New York Times article entitled, “For Afghan Wives, a Desperate, Fiery Way Out,” shared the story of Farzana, engaged at 8 and married by 12. By the age of 17, she had endured years of verbal and physical abuse from her husband and his family.

She thought of ways to get out. She thought of running away but worried it would offend her family's sense of honor.

Finally, seeing no other way out and desperate, Farzana doused herself in cooking fuel and lit herself on fire.

Before this hell, Farzana had dreamed of becoming a teacher. Now, after 57 days in the hospital and multiple skin grafts, she has recovered from burns that covered more than half of her body.

Today she says, “Five years I spent in his house with those people. My

marriage was for other people. They should never have given me in a child marriage." Unfortunately, in many parts of the world, stories like these are common. Except, unlike Farzana, many succeed in killing themselves. Young girls in the developing world should not be made to face the choice between life as a child bride without hope or dying at their own hands to escape their torment.

In addition to denying tens of millions of women and girls their dignity, child marriage also endangers their health. Marriage at an early age puts girls at greater risk of dying as a result of childbirth. Pregnancy and childbirth complications are the leading cause of death for women 15 to 19 years old in developing countries. Their children also face higher mortality rates.

In September 2009, a highly publicized example of this occurred in Yemen. A 12-year-old girl died of severe bleeding after three agonizing days in labor. Her child died as well. She was married to a 24-year old man. Child brides are also at an increased risk of contracting a sexually transmitted disease, including HIV and AIDS.

The bill we passed today would require our government to develop an integrated, strategic approach to combating child marriage with the goal of eliminating this scourge worldwide. It authorizes assistance to prevent child marriage in developing countries and to promote the educational, health, economic, social and legal empowerment of girls and women. It would require priority for regions in developing countries with a high prevalence of child marriage.

The bill also would require the Federal Government to do a better job of tracking child marriage prevalence overseas.

In the Senate today, we take a big step toward helping children we will never meet in places we will never visit. There are some issues we must look at through the shared experience of humanity. Ensuring that children throughout the world do not have their childhoods robbed of them is one such issue.

The United States has always tried to be a leader in international human rights. By passing this bill, the Senate shows its determination to keep the United States at the forefront of human rights protection around the world.

I urge my colleagues in the House to work with Representatives MCCOLLUM and CRENSHAW and House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman HOWARD BERMAN and Ranking Member ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN and Speaker PELOSI to do the same.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I ask unanimous consent that the Durbin amendment be agreed to; the committee-reported substitute, as amended, be agreed to; the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed with no intervening action or debate; and that any statements be printed in the RECORD.

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

The amendment (No. 4725) was agreed to.

(The text of the amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Text of Amendments.")

The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended, was agreed to.

The bill (S. 987), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

THE CALENDAR

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed en bloc to the following Federal naming bills, Calendar Nos. 658 through 661: H.R. 4387, H.R. 5651, H.R. 5706, and H.R. 5773.

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

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bills be read a third time and passed en bloc, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc with no intervening action or debate, and any statements be printed in the RECORD.

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

WINSTON E. ARNOW FEDERAL BUILDING

The bill (H.R. 4387) to designate the Federal Building located at 100 North Palafox Street in Pensacola, Florida, as the "Winston E. Arnow Federal Building," was ordered to a third reading, read the third time, and passed.

ANDREW W. BOGUE FEDERAL BUILDING AND UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE

The bill (H.R. 5651) to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 515 9th Street in Rapid City, South Dakota, as the "Andrew W. Bogue Federal Building and United States Courthouse," was ordered to a third reading, read the third time, and passed.

FRANK EVANS GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE BUILDING

The bill (H.R. 5706) to designate the building occupied by the Government Printing Office located at 31451 East United Avenue in Pueblo, Colorado, as the "Frank Evans Government Printing Office Building," was ordered to a third reading, read the third time, and passed.

ROBERT M. BALL FEDERAL BUILDING

The bill (H.R. 5773) to designate the Federal building located at 6401 Security Boulevard in Baltimore, Maryland, commonly known as the Social Secu-

rity Administration Operations Building, as the "Robert M. Ball Federal Building," was ordered to a third reading, read the third time, and passed.

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 686.

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

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant editor of the Daily Digest read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 686) designating December 11, 2010, as "Wreaths Across America Day."

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

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, in honor of the hard work and generosity of all those involved in the Wreaths Across America project, U.S. Senators OLYMPIA J. SNOWE and I have submitted a resolution in the Senate that would designate Saturday, December 11, as "Wreaths Across America Day."

On Saturday, December 11, a convoy of Mainers will arrive at Arlington National Cemetery to honor our Nation's fallen heroes. At each of the thousands of gravesites at our country's most hallowed resting place, citizens from Maine will lay Maine-made balsam wreaths at each gravesite that identifies one of our Nation's fallen veterans. Joining them will be the Patriot Guard Riders, an organization made up of men and women who have volunteered a portion of their lives to consecrating the sacrifice of the service men and women who gave their all for our country. Together, they will continue their tradition of escorting and driving tractor-trailers filled with donated wreaths on the journey from Harrington, ME, to Arlington National Cemetery. This is the 19th consecutive year that Morrill Worcester, owner of Worcester Wreath Company in Harrington, has made this generous donation. And once again, more than 100,000 wreaths will be placed in more than 400 locations, including Arlington National Cemetery and at veterans cemeteries in America and abroad.

The holiday season is one that many Americans enjoy by spending time in the comfort and company of their family and close friends. Many families who have lost loved ones serving their country will not share the same comfort and joy during this holiday season. The men and women behind the Wreaths Across America project work hard to honor these families and their lost love ones. Our resolution is a modest way for the U.S. Senate to honor these men and women, as well as the veterans and families who sacrifice so much in order to make it possible for us to celebrate this holiday season in freedom.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be