

continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared with respect to the risk of nuclear proliferation created by the accumulation of a large volume of weapons-usable fissile material in the territory of the Russian Federation and maintain in force these emergency authorities to respond to this threat.

BARACK OBAMA,
THE WHITE HOUSE, June 17, 2011.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-2193. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the annual audit of the American Red Cross; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2194. A communication from the Deputy to the Chairman, Legal Office, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Securities of Nonmember Insured Banks" (RIN3064-AD67) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 15, 2011; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2195. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Taking and Importing Marine Mammals: U.S. Navy Training in the Virginia Capes Range Complex and Jacksonville Range Complex" (RIN0648-BB03) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 15, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2196. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Groundfish Retention Standard; Emergency Rule Extension" (RIN0648-BA29) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 15, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2197. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Fisheries" (RIN0648-XA393) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 15, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2198. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Reef Fish Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico; Gag Grouper Management Measures" (RIN0648-BA94) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 15, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2199. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Operations, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department

of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery; Closure of the Nantucket Lightship Access Area" (RIN0648-BB05) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 15, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2200. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Energy Priorities and Allocations System Regulations" (RIN1901-AB28) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 16, 2011; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-2201. A communication from the Acting Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Services, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Race to the Top Fund" (RIN1810-AB10) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 16, 2011; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-2202. A communication from the Director of Regulations and Policy Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Division of Freedom of Information; Change of Office Name, Address, Telephone Number, and Fax Number; Technical Amendments" (Docket No. FDA-2011-N-0318) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 15, 2011; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-2203. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a petition to add workers from the Linde Ceramics Plant in Tonawanda, New York, to the Special Exposure Cohort; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-2204. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a petition to add workers from the Wah Chang facility in Albany, Oregon, to the Special Exposure Cohort; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-2205. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to imported foods; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-2206. A communication from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "General Services Administration Acquisition Regulation; Implementation of Information Technology Security Provision" (RIN3090-AJ15) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 15, 2011; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-37. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the Legislature of the State of Texas memorializing its support for the conservation of Castner Range; to the Committee on Armed Services.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 306

Whereas, the Castner Range in El Paso is one of the most rugged pristine landscapes in

Texas, encompassing 7,000 acres of undeveloped desert and foothills; and

Whereas, the land was previously known as the Castner Range Complex at Fort Bliss and was used as a United States Army artillery range, but the Department of Defense ceased operations there in 1971; unexploded ordnance remained behind, rendering the land unsuitable for development, and under the stewardship of the army, it has been allowed to rest in its natural state; and

Whereas, since 1995, the army has been clearing old artillery rounds from the surface of the land; surface clearance, as opposed to subsurface clearance, was found to offer the best risk-reduction-to-cost ratio and is most compatible with a minimal-disturbance future land use, such as passive recreation on protected parkland; and

Whereas, although the Castner Range is off-limits to the public, El Pasoans have long cherished the area for its surpassing beauty; bordering Franklin Mountains State Park on the west, the range contains some of the most geologically complex and visually striking parts of the Franklins and is prized for its Mexican gold poppy, which carpets the lower slopes in brilliant color in the spring; and

Whereas, also remarkable for its biodiversity, Castner Range provides a number of distinctive animal habitats, and its unique soils and location combine to make this the only known site in Texas where several rare plants can be found; moreover, the range holds the greatest concentration of springs in the Franklins, supporting unexpectedly lush pockets of vegetation; and

Whereas, Castner Range is further distinguished by military history and archaeological sites; and

Whereas, in 1981, the Texas Legislature provided for the adjustment of the boundaries of Franklin Mountains State Park in anticipation of the future addition of Castner Range lands, an idea strongly favored by area residents; both the El Paso City Council and the El Paso County Commissioners Court unanimously passed resolutions in recent years advocating that the Castner Range be left undeveloped and be conserved for recreational use; furthermore, the Franklin Mountains State Park management plan takes the range into account, envisioning a network of trails in the canyons and lower elevations, and the U.S. Department of Defense recently made a \$300,000 grant to the Frontera Land Alliance to collect data concerning a conservation conveyance for the area; and

Whereas, the Castner Range is one of the Lone Star State's unequalled treasures, and its conservation will provide enormous benefits to future generations of Texans; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas Legislature hereby express its support for the conservation of Castner Range; and, be it further

Resolved, That the chief clerk of the Texas House of Representatives forward official copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, to the commanding general of Fort Bliss, to the secretary of the U.S. Department of Defense, to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States Congress, and to all the members of the Texas delegation to Congress with the request that this resolution be entered in the Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.

POM-38. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the Legislature of the State of Texas congratulating President Obama on his proven and successful policies in the war on terrorism and in homeland security; to the Committee on Armed Services.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 1694

Whereas, on September 11, 2001, Osama bin Laden, a sworn enemy of the United States of America, coordinated a series of monstrous and cowardly terrorist attacks that resulted in the tragic loss of 2,977 innocent lives, leading to an engagement in a war on terrorism across many fronts; and

Whereas, on May 1, 2011, after nearly 10 years of bin Laden's evasion of military and intelligence forces seeking his capture, President Barack Obama declared to the nation and the world that bin Laden had finally been killed, and that "Justice has been done."; and

Whereas, the president's patience, leadership, wisdom, and determination have led directly to the demise of the most wanted man in the world and have hardened this nation's resolve to defeat the forces of malevolent fanaticism, and by destroying the mastermind behind the worst terrorist attack on American soil he has struck a significant and historic blow against Al Qaeda; and

Whereas, following the death of the perpetrator of the attacks, the family members and friends of those who lost their lives in the attacks on September 11 are able to achieve a greater sense of closure; and

Whereas, after months of meetings of the National Security Council, led by President Obama, who directed intelligence officials to zero in on bin Laden's whereabouts, intelligence officials devised and carefully carried out a clandestine operation, which had frequently been rehearsed in an effort to minimize casualties, both civilian and military; and

Whereas, as commander-in-chief of our great nation, he boldly gave the final authorization to commence the operation to brave and highly trained members of our nation's armed services; and

Whereas, upon hearing the news of bin Laden's elimination, in an impressive show of unity and in defiance of the fanatics who still today seek to destroy our free way of life, jubilant citizens expressed pride in our nation and our president by spontaneously celebrating the news in cities across the country, singing "The Star Spangled Banner" and loudly chanting "U-S-A." and former presidents Bill Clinton and George W. Bush have offered him their congratulations; and

Whereas, domestically, he has acted with both initiative and organizational acumen toward the precautionary defense of our citizens and has successfully prevented a terrorist attack on American soil during his service to our nation as president; and

Whereas, internationally, he has wisely exercised the use of diplomacy to nurture collaborative relationships with other nations, which has helped improve the freedom and safety of the world's people; and

Whereas, President George W. Bush had the near universal support of the freedom-loving peoples and countries of the world after the attacks on September 11, 2001, when he famously pledged to defend freedom against fear, saying "We will not tire, we will not falter, and we will not fail," and President Obama had the strength and wherewithal to see that pledge through to fulfillment; and

Whereas, legislators in Texas reaffirm the solemn creed that we are one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all, who stand strongly behind the president with respect to these several issues as he confronts the grave problems of national and international security; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Legislature of the State of Texas hereby congratulate President Obama on his proven and successful policies in the

war on terrorism and in homeland security; and, be it further

Resolved, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Legislature of the State of Texas hereby commend the intelligence personnel who diligently and quietly toiled for years to uncover the whereabouts of bin Laden and whose achievement, while historic, may never be fully known to the public; and, be it further

Resolved, That the House of Representatives of the Legislature of the State of Texas hereby commend the members of the 82nd armed forces who successfully and heroically carried out an incredibly sensitive mission with no military losses and with a minimal loss of civilian lives; and, be it further

Resolved, That the chief clerk of the Texas House of Representatives forward official copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to the speaker of the House of Representatives and the president of the Senate of the United States Congress, to the governor of Texas, and to all the members of the Texas delegation to Congress with the request that this resolution be officially entered in the Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.

POM-39. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the Legislature of the State of Texas urging Congress to fully support the vital operations and joint force structure at Ellington Field Joint Reserve Base; to the Committee on Armed Services.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 784

Whereas, Ellington Field plays an important role in the Houston-area economy while contributing to the defense of our nation; and

Whereas, Ellington Field was constructed in 1917 and served as a training base for military air personnel during World War I and World War II and as a navigator training school in the 1950s; NASA became a tenant there in 1962, and in 1984, Ellington Field was taken over by the City of Houston; today, it continues to provide support for military reserve and guard units even as it serves as a base for a variety of commercial operations; and

Whereas, featuring commands from all five Department of Defense and Department of Homeland Security military services, Ellington Field Joint Reserve Base has grown to include more than 6,000 active, reserve, and guard members; it is home to the 147th Reconnaissance Wing, which is at the forefront of the trend toward unmanned aircraft that is transforming the Air Force and Air Guard; and

Whereas, the region served by the Ellington Field JRB is vital to national security and the only one in the country containing all 17 national asset categories identified by the Department of Homeland Security as prime potential targets for global terrorism; a \$100 million expansion now in progress is vastly increasing the defense capabilities of the base and will have an enormous economic impact on surrounding communities, with estimates ranging to nearly \$700 million; and

Whereas, Ellington Field Joint Reserve Base provides a strong stimulus to the Houston-area economy and is poised to take on an ever-greater role in the defense of the Lone Star State, the Gulf Coast region, and the nation; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas Legislature hereby respectfully urge the Congress of the United States to fully support the vital operations and joint force structure at Ellington Field Joint Reserve Base; and, be it further

Resolved, That the chief clerk forward official copies of this resolution to the President

of the United States, to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States Congress, to the Secretary of Defense, to the Secretary of Homeland Security, to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and to all the members of the Texas delegation to Congress with the request that this resolution be entered in the Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.

POM-40. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the Legislature of the State of Texas expressing opposition to H.R. 3424 and to any other proposal that would limit the use of reinsurance by non-U.S.-based insurance companies; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 243

Whereas, the insurance business greatly depends on affiliated reinsurance for managing and spreading risk; and

Whereas, purchasing reinsurance from affiliates is a means for large insurers to manage capital and also serves an important risk-transfer purpose, providing significant additional primary insurance capacity, particularly for crop, windstorm, general liability, products liability, and aircraft insurance; and

Whereas, non-U.S.-based insurance companies with U.S. affiliates purchase reinsurance from parent and sister companies domiciled abroad, but a bill introduced in the United States Congress would penalize them for doing so, even though U.S. and foreign-based insurance groups currently pay functionally equivalent taxes on reinsurance transactions; given the average tax burden of 25 percent in European countries, such legislation would render most offshore reinsurance transactions prohibitively expensive, and the U.S. market would see a capacity shortfall and increases in premiums for consumers; and

Whereas, a major study by the Brattle Group, an economic research and consulting firm, concluded that the proposed policy would result in a 20 percent reduction in the supply of reinsurance for consumers in the United States, in turn leading to annual cost increases of \$10 to \$12 billion; in addition, a broad coalition of industry and consumer groups have spoken out against the proposal; and

Whereas, taxation proposed in H.R. 3424, 111th Cong. (2009), discriminates against the use of offshore affiliated reinsurance by foreign-based companies and, if enacted, will severely undermine the risk management practices at the heart of international reinsurance markets; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas Legislature hereby express its opposition to H.R. 3424 and to any other proposal that would limit the use of reinsurance by non-U.S.-based insurance companies; and, be it further

Resolved, That the chief clerk of the Texas House of Representatives forward official copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States Congress, and to all the members of the Texas delegation to Congress with the request that this resolution be entered in the Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.

POM-41. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the Legislature of the State of Texas urging Congress and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to withdraw its proposal to list the dunes sagebrush lizard under the Endangered Species Act of 1973; to

the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 1955

Whereas, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service has proposed granting endangered species status to the dunes sagebrush lizard, a measure that would have a significant negative impact on the Lone Star State; and

Whereas, the business climate in Texas has been consistently ranked as the nation's best, and the oil and gas sector is crucial to its continued vitality; Texas is the nation's leading producer of oil and natural gas, and it holds 30 percent of the nation's natural gas reserves and almost a quarter of its oil reserves; the oil and gas industry contributes \$30 billion annually to the Texas economy and employs more than 315,000 Texans at some of the highest salaries in the state; and

Whereas, despite its resilience, the Texas economy has not been immune to the global economic recession; there have been significant job losses over the past two years, and recently high gas prices have posed new challenges; the Fish and Wildlife Service failed to take these factors into account in its proposal to grant endangered species status to the dunes sagebrush lizard in southeastern New Mexico and adjacent oil-producing areas of West Texas; and

Whereas, in addition, the service has failed to consider that approximately 75,000 acres identified as habitat for the lizard are owned and managed by The University of Texas for the benefit of higher education; university officials have estimated that the listing could stop the drilling of approximately 1,000 oil and gas wells and eliminate the production of seven million barrels of oil equivalent annually; and

Whereas, the Texas Legislature and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department have traditionally recognized the private landowner as the primary steward of our state's natural resources, but the Fish and Wildlife Service has not adequately consulted with the State of Texas, Texas landowners, or other stakeholders; moreover, the service has failed to fully consider issues unique to species protection and habitat conservation in Texas; and

Whereas, listing the dunes sagebrush lizard as an endangered species would inflict severe economic damage, harm property owners, and undermine higher education in the Lone Star State; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas Legislature hereby respectfully urge the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to withdraw its proposal to list the dunes sagebrush lizard under the Endangered Species Act of 1973; and, be it further

Resolved, That the House of Representatives direct the agencies of the State of Texas to cooperate with the efforts of the Texas Endangered Species Task Force to investigate the scientific basis of the proposed listing and the potential burdens on private property rights and economic development in the state; and, be it further

Resolved, That the chief clerk of the Texas House of Representatives forward official copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, the acting director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States Congress, and all the members of the Texas delegation to Congress with the request that this resolution be entered in the Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.

POM-42. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the Legislature of the

State of Texas expressing support for the inclusion of Taiwan in the United States Visa Waiver Program; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 1483

Whereas, Taiwan and the United States enjoy a friendly and mutually beneficial relationship, and solid commercial, educational, and cultural ties can be further strengthened by the inclusion of Taiwan in the U.S. Visa Waiver Program; and

Whereas, a full-fledged, stable democracy, Taiwan shares with the United States a commitment to democracy, human rights, the rule of law, and a market-based economy; moreover, Taiwan is our ninth-largest trading partner and a key export market in almost every major sector; trade in commercial goods between Taiwan and the United States totaled nearly \$62 billion in 2010; and

Whereas, the two nations have long maintained close and productive cooperation in science and technology, and since 1979, they have signed more than 190 science and technology agreements under the framework of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office and the American Institute in Taiwan; Taiwan has worked very closely with the United States in the field of education, and in 2010, more than 26,000 Taiwanese studied in our colleges and universities; and

Whereas, these important relationships generate significant interpersonal contact and travel, and in 2009, people from Taiwan paid more than 500,000 visits to the United States; if admitted to the Visa Waiver Program, holders of Taiwan passports could travel to the United States without the expense and time-consuming process of obtaining a visa, which is expected to boost the number of visits for both sightseeing and business purposes; Taiwanese travel to the United Kingdom and New Zealand spiked by 35 to 40 percent after those countries waived visa obligations, and it is estimated that waiving visa requirements for Taiwanese travelers in the United States could increase tourism revenue by as much as \$1.8 billion; and

Whereas, in order to gain entry into the Visa Waiver Program, a country must have a visa refusal rate below 3 percent, and only 2.2 percent of Taiwanese visa applications were rejected by the United States in fiscal year 2010; about 100 countries, including Japan and members of the European Union, offer Taiwan visa exemptions on the basis of reciprocity and out of confidence that citizens of Taiwan are law-abiding and unlikely to overstay; and

Whereas, Taiwan has already exempted U.S. passport holders from visa requirements for visits up to 30 days; by extending similar privileges, the United States can facilitate people-to-people contacts, enhance cultural links, and expand business opportunities and tourism; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas Legislature hereby endorse the inclusion of Taiwan in the United States Visa Waiver Program; and, be it further

Resolved, That the chief clerk forward official copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States Congress, and to all the members of the Texas delegation to Congress with the request that this resolution be entered in the Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.

POM-43. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana memorializing Congress to review the Gov-

ernment Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision Social Security benefit reductions and to consider eliminating or reducing them by enacting the Social Security Fairness Act of 2011, the Public Servant Retirement Protection Act of 2011, or a similar instrument; to the Committee on Finance.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 94

Whereas, the Congress of the United States has enacted both the Government Pension Offset (GPO), reducing the spousal and survivor Social Security benefit, and the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP), reducing the earned Social Security benefit for any person who also receives a public pension benefit; and

Whereas, the intent of congress in enacting the GPO and the WEP provisions was to address concerns that a public employee who had worked primarily in federal, state, or local government employment might receive a public pension in addition to the same Social Security benefit as a person who had worked only in employment covered by Social Security throughout his career; and

Whereas, the purpose of congress in enacting these reduction provisions was to provide a disincentive for public employees to receive two pensions; and

Whereas, the GPO negatively affects a spouse or survivor receiving a federal, state, or local government retirement or pension benefit who would also be entitled to a Social Security benefit earned by a spouse; and

Whereas, the GPO formula reduces the spousal or survivor Social Security benefit by two-thirds of the amount of the federal, state, or local government retirement or pension benefit received by the spouse or survivor, in many cases completely eliminating the Social Security benefit; and

Whereas, nine out of ten public employees affected by the GPO lose their entire spousal benefits, even though their spouses paid Social Security taxes for many years; and

Whereas, the GPO often reduces spousal benefits so significantly it can make the difference between self-sufficiency and poverty; and

Whereas, the GPO has a harsh effect on thousands of citizens and undermines the original purpose of the Social Security dependent/survivor benefit; and

Whereas, the GPO negatively impacts approximately twenty-seven thousand one hundred forty-four Louisianians; and

Whereas, the WEP applies to those persons who have earned federal, state, or local government retirement or pension benefits, in addition to working in employment covered under Social Security and paying into the Social Security system; and

Whereas, the WEP reduces the earned Social Security benefit using an averaged indexed monthly earnings formula and may reduce Social Security benefits for affected persons by as much as one-half of the retirement benefit earned as a public servant in employment not covered under Social Security; and

Whereas, the WEP causes hard-working individuals to lose a significant portion of the social security benefits that they earn themselves; and

Whereas, the WEP negatively impacts approximately twenty-five thousand three hundred twenty-two Louisianians; and

Whereas, because of these calculation characteristics, the GPO and the WEP have a disproportionately negative effect on employees working in lower-wage government jobs, like policemen, firefighters, teachers, and state employees; and

Whereas, many workers rely on Social Security Administration Annual Statements that fail to take into account the GPO and WEP when projecting benefits; and

Whereas, because the Social Security benefit statements do not calculate the GPO and the WEP, many public employees in Louisiana are unaware that their expected Social Security benefits shown on such statements will be significantly lower or non-existent due to the service in public employment; and

Whereas, these provisions also have a greater adverse effect on women than on men because of the gender differences in salary that continue to plague our nation and because of the longer life expectancy of women; and

Whereas, Louisiana is making every effort to improve the quality of life of its citizens and to encourage them to live here lifelong, yet the current GPO and WEP provisions compromise that quality of life; and

Whereas, retired individuals negatively affected by GPO and WEP have significantly less money to support their basic needs and sometimes have to turn to government assistance programs; and

Whereas, the GPO and the WEP penalize individuals who have dedicated their lives to public service by taking away benefits they have earned; and

Whereas, our nation should respect, not penalize, public servants; and

Whereas, the number of people affected by GPO and WEP is growing every day as more and more people reach retirement age; and

Whereas, the GPO and WEP are established in federal law, and repeal of the GPO and the WEP can only be enacted by the United States Congress; Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the Congress of the United States to review the Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision Social Security benefit reductions and to consider eliminating or reducing them by enacting the Social Security Fairness Act of 2011 (H.R. 1332), the Public Servant Retirement Protection Act of 2011 (S. 113), or a similar instrument; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted to the secretary of the United States Senate and the clerk of the United States House of Representatives and to each member of the Louisiana delegation to the United States Congress.

POM-44. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana memorializing Congress to review the Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision Social Security benefit reductions and to consider eliminating or reducing them by enacting the Social Security Fairness Act of 2011, the Public Servant Retirement Protection Act of 2011, or a similar instrument; to the Committee on Finance.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 93

Whereas, the Congress of the United States has enacted both the Government Pension Offset (GPO), reducing the spousal and survivor Social Security benefit, and the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP), reducing the earned Social Security benefit for any person who also receives a public pension benefit; and

Whereas, the intent of congress in enacting the GPO and the WEP provisions was to address concerns that a public employee who had worked primarily in federal, state, or local government employment might receive a public pension in addition to the same Social Security benefit as a person who had worked only in employment covered by Social Security throughout his career; and

Whereas, the purpose of congress in enacting these reduction provisions was to provide a disincentive for public employees to receive two pensions; and

Whereas, the GPO negatively affects a spouse or survivor receiving a federal, state, or local government retirement or pension benefit who would also be entitled to a Social Security benefit earned by a spouse; and

Whereas, the GPO formula reduces the spousal or survivor Social Security benefit by two-thirds of the amount of the federal, state, or local government retirement or pension benefit received by the spouse or survivor, in many cases completely eliminating the Social Security benefit; and

Whereas, nine out of ten public employees affected by the GPO lose their entire spousal benefits, even though their spouses paid Social Security taxes for many years; and

Whereas, the GPO often reduces spousal benefits so significantly it can make the difference between self-sufficiency and poverty; and

Whereas, the GPO has a harsh effect on thousands of citizens and undermines the original purpose of the Social Security dependent/survivor benefit; and

Whereas, the GPO negatively impacts approximately 27,144 Louisianans; and

Whereas, the WEP applies to those persons who have earned federal, state, or local government retirement or pension benefits, in addition to working in employment covered under Social Security and paying into the Social Security system; and

Whereas, the WEP reduces the earned Social Security benefit using an averaged indexed monthly earnings formula and may reduce Social Security benefits for affected persons by as much as one-half of the retirement benefit earned as a public servant in employment not covered under Social Security; and

Whereas, the WEP causes hard-working individuals to lose a significant portion of the Social Security benefits that they earn themselves; and

Whereas, the WEP negatively impacts approximately 25,322 Louisianans; and

Whereas, because of these calculation characteristics, the GPO and the WEP have a disproportionately negative effect on employees working in lower-wage government jobs, like policemen, firefighters, teachers, and state employees; and

Whereas, many workers rely on Social Security Administration Annual Statements that fail to take into account the GPO and WEP when projecting benefits; and

Whereas, because the Social Security benefit statements do not calculate the GPO and the WEP, many public employees in Louisiana are unaware that their expected Social Security benefits shown on such statements will be significantly lower or non-existent due to the service in public employment; and

Whereas, these provisions also have a greater adverse effect on women than on men because of the gender differences in salary that continue to plague our nation and because of the longer life expectancy of women; and

Whereas, Louisiana is making every effort to improve the quality of life of its citizens and to encourage them to live here lifelong, yet the current GPO and WEP provisions compromise that quality of life; and

Whereas, retired individuals negatively affected by GPO and WEP have significantly less money to support their basic needs and sometimes have to turn to government assistance programs; and

Whereas, the GPO and the WEP penalize individuals who have dedicated their lives to public service by taking away benefits they have earned; and

Whereas, our nation should respect, not penalize, public servants; and

Whereas, the number of people affected by GPO and WEP is growing every day as more and more people reach retirement age; and

Whereas, the GPO and WEP are established in federal law, and repeal of the GPO and the WEP can only be enacted by the United States Congress; Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the Congress of the United States to review the Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision Social Security benefit reductions and to consider eliminating or reducing them by enacting the Social Security Fairness Act of 2011 (H.R. 1332), the Public Servant Retirement Protection Act of 2011 (S. 113), or a similar instrument; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted to the secretary of the United States Senate and the clerk of the United States House of Representatives and to each member of the Louisiana delegation to the United States Congress.

POM-45. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the Legislature of the State of Iowa memorializing its support of the positive impact of the CSBG program in Iowa and its opposition to federal action to reduce CSBG funding disproportionately compared to the rest of the federal domestic discretionary budget; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 44

Whereas, in state fiscal year 2010, 365,752 Iowans in 140,333 households were helped in their fight against poverty through services funded by the federal Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) program; and

Whereas, more than 96 percent of the families receiving services were at or below 175 percent of the federal poverty level or \$35,427 annual family income; and

Whereas, more than 76 percent of the individuals served by the 18 community action agencies were working or received social security as their source of income; and

Whereas, those 18 community action agencies have 127 service centers throughout all 99 Iowa counties; and

Whereas, each community action agency is governed by a community-based volunteer board of directors consisting of elected officials, private sector representatives, and low-income Iowans; and

Whereas, Iowa's 18 community action agencies employ 3,350 Iowans; and

Whereas, CSBG funding for the 18 community action agencies brought in \$2.3 million in local funding, \$13.6 million in private funding, \$13.9 million in state funding, and \$222.9 million in federal funding to Iowa's local communities; and

Whereas, CSBG funding for Iowa's 18 community action agencies helped generate \$17.7 million in in-kind goods and services and donated items; and

Whereas, the 18 community action agencies received \$7,154,281 in CSBG funding enabling the community action agencies to operate their service centers and to administer state and federally funded programs; and

Whereas, President Obama has proposed a 50 percent reduction in CSBG funding and making the allocation of the remaining funds competitive instead of continuing the current allocation formula that brings stability to Iowa's community and economic development initiatives; and

Whereas, the Iowa House of Representatives supports efforts of the United States Congress to effectively reduce the federal deficit while promoting the current and future economic security of all Iowans; Now therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the House of Representatives supports the positive impact of the CSBG program in Iowa and opposes federal action to reduce

CSBG funding disproportionately compared to the rest of the federal domestic discretionary budget; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be sent to the President of the United States, the President and Secretary of the United States Senate, the Speaker and Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, and each member of the Iowa congressional delegation.

POM-46. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the Legislature of the State of Texas memorializing the legacy of public service to the community of Campbellton Post Office; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 523

Whereas, the Campbellton Post Office in southern Atascosa County, Texas, has played an essential role in the lives of area residents for more than 130 years, but the United States Postal Service has placed it on a list of facilities to be closed in 2011; and

Whereas, John Campbell established the post office in his general store in 1874, and five years later, moved them both to the new town of Campbellton; Mr. Campbell was officially appointed the first postmaster and was succeeded over the years by a number of his descendants, including William Campbell, Edward Campbell, Louise Campbell, and Alyce Campbell; and

Whereas, its present postmaster, Lydia Rodriguez Castillo, began her long tenure in 1971; a postal service hiring freeze prevents her position from being filled when she retires, yet the postal service has targeted the branch for closure in part because it lacks a permanent postmaster; and

Whereas, residents of the rural area and hamlets served by the Campbellton Post Office rely on it for business communications as well as for their personal mail, and the post office is particularly important to the elderly; if it should close, customers would have to travel some 20 miles to send packages, check post office boxes, or mail important documents; accordingly, patrons and civic leaders have formed a committee and started a petition to support the preservation of this integral institution; and

Whereas, throughout the history of Campbellton, the post office has been part of the fabric of the community, and its closing would deprive citizens of ready access to vital services and diminish their quality of life; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas Legislature hereby honor the legacy of public service to the community of the Campbellton Post Office; and, be it further

Resolved, That the House of Representatives hereby respectfully urge the United States Congress to direct the U.S. Postal Service to continue operating the Campbellton Post Office in Atascosa County, Texas; and, be it further

Resolved, That the chief clerk forward official copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States Congress, to the United States postmaster general, and to all the members of the Texas delegation to Congress with the request that this resolution be entered in the Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. LEAHY, from the Committee on the Judiciary, without amendment:

S. 978. A bill to amend the criminal penalty provision for criminal infringement of a copyright, and for other purposes.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself and Mr. PORTMAN):

S. 1231. A bill to reauthorize the Second Chance Act of 2007; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. AYOTTE (for herself, Ms. SNOWE, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts, and Ms. LANDRIEU):

S. 1232. A bill to modify the definition of fiduciary under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to exclude appraisers of employee stock ownership plans; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. STABENOW:

S. 1233. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a credit against income tax to facilitate the accelerated development and deployment of advanced safety systems for commercial motor vehicles; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. GRASSLEY:

S. 1234. A bill to amend part B of title IV of the Social Security Act to reauthorize grants to assist children affected by methamphetamine or other substance abuse under the promoting safe and stable families program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. RUBIO:

S. 1235. A bill to recognize the memorial to the Navy UDT-SEAL Museum in Fort Pierce, Florida, as the official national memorial of Navy SEALs and their predecessors; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. KYL, Ms. LANDRIEU, and Mrs. MCCASKILL):

S. 1236. A bill to reduce the trafficking of drugs and to prevent human smuggling across the Southwest Border by deterring the construction and use of border tunnels; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 277

At the request of Mr. BURR, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 277, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to furnish hospital care, medical services, and nursing home care to veterans who were stationed at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, while the water was contaminated at Camp Lejeune, and for other purposes.

S. 362

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the names of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 362, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for a Pancreatic Cancer Initiative, and for other purposes.

S. 385

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Massachu-

setts (Mr. KERRY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 385, a bill to include non-profit and volunteer ground and air ambulance crew members and first responders for certain benefits.

S. 418

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 418, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the World War II members of the Civil Air Patrol.

S. 506

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 506, a bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to address and take action to prevent bullying and harassment of students.

S. 528

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 528, a bill to provide driver safety grants to States with graduated driver licensing laws that meet certain minimum requirements.

S. 672

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) were added as cosponsors of S. 672, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend and modify the railroad track maintenance credit.

S. 685

At the request of Mr. LUGAR, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. COATS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 685, a bill to repeal the Federal sugar program.

S. 740

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 740, a bill to revise and extend provisions under the Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act.

S. 851

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. HAGAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 851, a bill to establish expanded learning time initiatives, and for other purposes.

S. 866

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 866, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to modify the per-fiscal year calculation of days of certain active duty or active service used to reduce the minimum age at which a member of a reserve component of the uniformed services may retire for non-regular service.

S. 951

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) and the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 951, a bill to improve the