

Victims know and trust their health care providers. Almost 3/4 of survivors say that they would like their health care providers to ask them about violence and abuse.

Multiple clinical studies have shown that short interventions in the medical environment protect the health and safety of women. These interventions are short between 2 and 10 minutes, and effective. In repeated clinical trials, violence decreased and health status improved following simple assessment and referral protocols. Integrating these effective protocols into our health care system will save lives.

This is why routine assessments for intimate partner violence have been recommended for health care settings by the American Medical Association, American Psychological Association, American Nurses Association, American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, American Academy of Pediatrics, and the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Health Care Organizations.

Since its passage in 1994, the Violence Against Women Act, VAWA, has transformed our criminal justice system and social service system, helping to prevent and respond to domestic violence. The last reauthorization of VAWA, set to expire this year, included a new title authorizing three programs that support the health system's efforts to help victims, preventing further abuse and improving the health status of women. The bill I am introducing today will continue those important efforts.

This bill would consolidate the three existing health programs into one program, while increasing evaluation and accountability. Specifically, this bill would foster public health responses to intimate partner violence and sexual violence; provide training and education of health professionals to respond to violence and abuse; and support research on effective public health approaches to end violence against women.

I urge my colleagues to join us in supporting this important bill.

By Mr. BEGICH (for himself, Mr. CASEY, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LEAHY, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. PRYOR, Ms. SNOWE and Mr. TESTER):

S. 1768. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to authorize space-available travel on military aircraft for members of the reserve components, a member or former member of a reserve component who is eligible for retired pay but for age, widows and widowers of retired members, and dependents; to the Committee on Armed Services.

Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, today I am pleased to introduce an amended version of S. 542, the National Guard, Reserve, "Gray Area" Retiree, and Surviving Spouse Space-available Travel Equity Act.

The original legislation, S. 542, has been modified slightly. The modification will ensure the Department of Defense retains the authority to issue regulations to implement the bill.

The underlying intent of the legislation has not changed. The bill will provide reserve component members and retired reserve component members the ability to travel overseas and travel with their dependents when there is space-available on a military aircraft. Additionally, the bill will ensure surviving spouses of retired members or members killed in the line of duty to retain space-available travel privileges after the death of their loved one.

Members and retirees of the National Guard and Reserve, their families, and surviving military spouses make great sacrifices for our Nation. However, too often these individuals do not receive the benefits they have earned for their service.

I urge my colleagues to join me in giving parity to our reserve component members, reserve component retirees and surviving military spouses. The no-cost legislation is endorsed by the National Guard Association of the United States.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1768

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 "National Guard, Reserve, 'Gray Area' Retiree, and Surviving Spouses Space-available Travel Equity Act of 2011".

SEC. 2. ELIGIBILITY OF RESERVE MEMBERS, GRAY-AREA RETIREES, WIDOWS AND WIDOWERS OF RETIRED MEMBERS, AND DEPENDENTS FOR SPACE-AVAILABLE TRAVEL ON MILITARY AIRCRAFT.

(a) ELIGIBILITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 157 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 2641b the following new section:

"§ 2641c. Space-available travel on Department of Defense aircraft: reserve members, reserve members eligible for retired pay but for age; widows and widowers of retired members; and dependents

"(a) RESERVE MEMBERS.—A member of a reserve component holding a valid Uniformed Services Identification and Privilege Card shall be provided transportation on Department of Defense aircraft, on a space-available basis.

"(b) RESERVE RETIREES UNDER APPLICABLE ELIGIBILITY AGE.—A member or former member of a reserve component who, but for being under the eligibility age applicable to the member under section 12731 of this title, otherwise would be eligible for retired pay under chapter 1223 of this title shall be provided transportation on Department of Defense aircraft, on a space-available basis.

"(c) WIDOWS AND WIDOWERS OF RETIRED MEMBERS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—An unmarried widow or widower of a member of the armed forces described in paragraph (2) shall be provided transportation on Department of Defense aircraft, on a space-available basis.

"(2) MEMBERS COVERED.—A member of the armed forces referred to in paragraph (1) is a member who—

"(A) is entitled to retired pay;

"(B) is described in subsection (b);

"(C) dies in the line of duty while on active duty and is not eligible for retired pay; or

"(D) in the case of a member of a reserve component, dies as a result of a line of duty condition and is not eligible for retired pay.

"(d) DEPENDENTS.—A dependent of a member or former member described in subsection (a) or (b) or of an unmarried widow or widower described in subsection (c) holding a valid Uniformed Services Identification and Privilege Card shall be provided transportation on Department of Defense aircraft, on a space-available basis, if the dependent is accompanying the member.

"(e) SCOPE.—Space-available travel required by this section includes travel to and from locations within and outside the continental United States.

"(f) DEFINITION OF DEPENDENT.—In this section, the term 'dependent' has the meaning given that term in section 1072 of this title."

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 2641b the following new item:

"2641c. Space-available travel on Department of Defense aircraft: reserve members, reserve members eligible for retired pay but for age; widows and widowers of retired members; and dependents."

(b) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary of Defense shall prescribe regulations to implement section 2641c of title 10, United States Code, as added by subsection (a).

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 919. Mr. ROBERTS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 872, to amend the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to clarify Congressional intent regarding the regulation of the use of pesticides in or near navigable waters, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 920. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2112, making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 919. Mr. ROBERTS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 872, to amend the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to clarify Congressional intent regarding the regulation of the use of pesticides in or near navigable waters, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. DELAY OF PERMIT IMPLEMENTATION.

During the 2-year period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, or a State in the case of a permit

program under section 402 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1342), shall not require a permit for the discharge of a pesticide, including pesticide residue, that is lawfully registered for sale, distribution, or use.

SA 920. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2112, making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table as follows:

At the end, add the following:

DIVISION D—INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

SEC. 4001. SHORT TITLE.

This division may be cited as the “United States Commission on International Religious Freedom Reform and Reauthorization Act of 2011”.

SEC. 4002. ESTABLISHMENT AND COMPOSITION.

(a) **MEMBERSHIP.**—Section 201(b)(1)(B) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6431(b)(1)(B)) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking “Nine” and inserting “five”;

(2) in clause (i), by striking “Three members” and inserting “One member”;

(3) in clause (ii)—

(A) by striking “Three members” and inserting “Two members”;

(B) by striking “two of the members” and inserting “one member”;

(C) by striking “one of the members” and inserting “the other member”;

(4) in clause (iii)—

(A) by striking “Three members” and inserting “Two members”;

(B) by striking “two of the members” and inserting “one member”;

(C) by striking “one of the members” and inserting “the other member”.

(b) **TERMS.**—Section 201(c) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6431(c)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking the last sentence and inserting the following: “An individual is not eligible to serve more than two consecutive terms as a member of the Commission. Each member serving on the Commission on the date of enactment of the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom Reform and Reauthorization Act of 2011 may be reappointed to not more than one additional consecutive term.”;

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “May 15, 2003, through May 14, 2005” and inserting “May 15, 2012, through May 14, 2014”;

(B) in subparagraph (B) to read as follows: “(B) **PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENTS.**—The member of the Commission appointed by the President under subsection (b)(1)(B)(i) shall be appointed to a 1-year term.”;

(C) in subparagraph (C)—

(i) by striking “three members” and inserting “two members”;

(ii) by striking “the other two appointments” and inserting “the other appointment”;

(iii) by striking “2-year terms” and inserting “to a 2-year term”;

(D) in subparagraph (D)—

(i) by striking “three members” and inserting “two members”;

(ii) by striking “the other two appointments” and inserting “the other appointment”;

(iii) by striking “2-year terms” and inserting “to a 2-year term”;

(E) in subparagraph (E), by striking “May 15, 2003, and shall end on May 14, 2004” and

inserting “May 15, 2012, and shall end on May 14, 2013”;

(3) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(3) **INELIGIBILITY FOR REAPPOINTMENT.**—If a member of the Commission attends, by being physically present or by conference call, less than 75 percent of the meetings of the Commission during one of that member’s terms on the Commission, the member shall not be eligible for reappointment to the Commission.”.

(c) **ELECTION OF CHAIR.**—Section 201(d) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6431(d)) is amended by inserting at the end the following: “No member of the Commission is eligible to be elected as Chair of the Commission for a second, consecutive term.”.

(d) **QUORUM.**—Section 201(e) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6431(e)) is amended by striking “Six” and inserting “Four”.

(e) **APPLICABILITY.**—A member of the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom who is serving on the Commission on the date of enactment of this Act shall continue to serve on the Commission until the expiration of the current term of the member under the terms and conditions for membership on the Commission as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 4003. APPLICATION OF ANTIDISCRIMINATION LAWS.

Section 204 of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6432b) is amended by inserting after subsection (f) the following new subsection:

“(g) **APPLICATION OF ANTIDISCRIMINATION LAWS.**—For purposes of providing remedies and procedures to address alleged violations of rights and protections that pertain to employment discrimination, family and medical leave, fair labor standards, employee polygraph protection, worker adjustment and retraining, veterans’ employment and reemployment, intimidation or reprisal, protections under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, occupational safety and health, labor-management relations, and rights and protections that apply to employees whose pay is disbursed by the Secretary of the Senate or the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives, all employees of the Commission shall be treated as employees whose pay is disbursed by the Secretary of the Senate or the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives.”.

SEC. 4004. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 207(a) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6435(a)) is amended by striking “for the fiscal year 2003” and inserting “for each of the fiscal years 2012 and 2013”.

SEC. 4005. STANDARDS OF CONDUCT AND DISCLOSURE.

Section 208 of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6435a) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)(1), by striking “\$100,000” and inserting “\$250,000”;

(2) in subsection (e), by striking “International Relations” and inserting “Foreign Affairs”.

SEC. 4006. TERMINATION.

Section 209 of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6436) is amended by striking “September 30, 2011” and inserting “September 30, 2013”.

SEC. 4007. REPORT ON EFFECTIVENESS OF PROGRAMS TO PROMOTE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act,

the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the implementation of this division and the amendments made by this division.

(b) **CONSULTATION.**—The Comptroller General shall consult with the appropriate congressional committees and nongovernmental organizations for purposes of preparing the report.

(c) **MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.**—The report shall include the following:

(1) A review of the effectiveness of all United States Government programs to promote international religious freedom, including their goals and objectives.

(2) An assessment of the roles and functions of the Office on International Religious Freedom established in section 101(a) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6411(a)) and the relationship of the Office to other offices in the Department of State.

(3) A review of the role of the Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom appointed under section 101(b) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6411(b)) and the placement of such position within the Department of State.

(4) A review and assessment of the goals and objectives of the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom established under section 201(a) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6431(a)).

(5) A comparative analysis of the structure of the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom as an independent non-partisan entity in relation to other United States advisory commissions, whether or not such commissions are under the direct authority of Congress.

(6) A review of the relationship between the Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom and the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, and possible reforms that would improve the ability of both to reach their goals and objectives.

(d) **DEFINITION.**—In this section, the term “appropriate congressional committees” has the meaning given the term in section 3 of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6402).

NOTICE OF HEARING

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a hearing has been scheduled before the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. The hearing will be held on Tuesday, November 8, 2011, at 10:00 a.m., in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The purpose of the hearing is to consider market developments for U.S. natural gas, including the approval process and potential for liquefied natural gas exports.

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record may do so by sending it to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510-6150, or by e-mail to Allison Seyferth@energy.senate.gov

For further information, please contact Deborah Estes at (202) 224-5360 or