

S. RES. 98

Whereas participants in the school breakfast program established by section 4 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1773) include public, private, elementary, middle, and high schools, as well as rural, suburban, and urban schools;

Whereas in each of the school years beginning July 1, 2008, and July 1, 2009, 86.3 percent of schools that participated in the school lunch program established under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.) also participated in the school breakfast program;

Whereas in each of the school years beginning July 1, 2008, and July 1, 2009, approximately 10,800,000 students in more than 86,000 schools participated in the school breakfast program on a typical day;

Whereas in fiscal year 2009, approximately 9,100,000 low-income children in the United States consumed free or reduced price school breakfasts on an average school day;

Whereas for every 100 children receiving free and reduced price lunches, approximately 47 children receive free and reduced price breakfasts;

Whereas in each of the school years beginning July 1, 2008, and July 1, 2009, less than half of eligible low-income children received breakfasts at school each day;

Whereas in fiscal year 2009, 62 percent of school lunches served, and 81 percent of school breakfasts served, were served to students who qualified for free or reduced priced meals;

Whereas the current economic situation (including the increase in families living below the poverty line) is causing more families to struggle to feed their children and to turn to schools for assistance;

Whereas implementing or improving classroom breakfast programs has been shown to increase the participation of eligible students in breakfast consumption dramatically, doubling, and in some cases tripling, numbers, as evidenced by research conducted in the States of Minnesota, New York, and Wisconsin;

Whereas making breakfast widely available through different venues or combinations, such as in the classroom, obtained as students exit a school bus, or outside the classroom, has been shown to lessen the stigma of receiving free or reduced price breakfasts, which often deters eligible students from obtaining traditional breakfasts in the cafeteria;

Whereas providing free universal breakfasts, especially in the classroom, has been shown to significantly increase school breakfast participation rates and decrease absences and tardiness;

Whereas studies have shown that access to nutritious meals under the school lunch program and the school breakfast program helps to create a strong learning environment for children and helps to improve the concentration of children in the classroom;

Whereas providing breakfast in the classroom has been shown in several instances to improve attentiveness and academic performance, while reducing tardiness and disciplinary referrals;

Whereas students who eat a complete breakfast have been shown to make fewer mistakes and work faster in math exercises than students who eat a partial breakfast;

Whereas studies suggest that eating breakfast closer to classroom and test-taking time improves student performance on standardized tests relative to students who skip breakfasts;

Whereas studies show that students who skip breakfasts are more likely to have difficulty distinguishing among similar images, show increased errors, and have slower memory recall;

Whereas children who live in families that experience hunger have been shown to be more likely to have lower math scores, face an increased likelihood of repeating a grade, and receive more special education services;

Whereas studies suggest that children who eat breakfasts have more adequate nutrition and intake of nutrients, such as calcium, fiber, protein, and vitamins A, E, D, and B-6;

Whereas studies show that children who participate in school breakfast programs eat more fruits, drink more milk, and consume less saturated fat than children who do not eat breakfast;

Whereas children who fail to eat breakfasts, whether in school or at home, are more likely to be overweight than children who eat a healthy breakfast on a daily basis; and

Whereas March 7 through March 11, 2011, is National School Breakfast Week: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the importance of the school breakfast program established by section 4 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1773) and the overall positive impact of the program on the lives of low-income children and families, as well as the effect of the program on helping to improve the overall classroom performance of a child;

(2) expresses support for States that have successfully implemented school breakfast programs in order to improve the test scores and grades of participating students;

(3) encourages States—

(A) to strengthen school breakfast programs by improving access for students;

(B) to promote improvements in the nutritional quality of breakfasts served; and

(C) to inform students and parents of healthy nutritional and lifestyle choices;

(4) recognizes that the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-296) and amendments made by that Act provide low-income children with greater access to a nutritious breakfast nationwide;

(5) recognizes the impact of nonprofit and community organizations that work to increase awareness of, and access to, breakfast programs for low-income children; and

(6) recognizes that National School Breakfast Week celebrated from March 7 through March 11, 2011, helps draw attention to the need for, and success of, the school breakfast program.

SENATE RESOLUTION 99—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE PRIMARY SAFEGUARD FOR THE WELL-BEING AND PROTECTION OF CHILDREN IS THE FAMILY, AND THAT THE PRIMARY SAFEGUARDS FOR THE LEGAL RIGHTS OF CHILDREN IN THE UNITED STATES ARE THE CONSTITUTIONS OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE SEVERAL STATES, AND THAT, BECAUSE THE USE OF INTERNATIONAL TREATIES TO GOVERN POLICY IN THE UNITED STATES ON FAMILIES AND CHILDREN IS CONTRARY TO PRINCIPLES OF SELF-GOVERNMENT AND FEDERALISM, AND THAT, BECAUSE THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD UNDERMINES TRADITIONAL PRINCIPLES OF LAW IN THE UNITED STATES REGARDING PARENTS AND CHILDREN, THE PRESIDENT SHOULD NOT TRANSMIT THE CONVENTION TO THE SENATE FOR ITS ADVICE AND CONSENT

Mr. DEMINT (for himself, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BURR, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. COBURN, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. ENSIGN, ENZI, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HATCH, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JOHANNIS, Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin, Mr. KYL, Mr. LEE, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. MORAN, Mr. PAUL, Mr. RISCH, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. VITTER, and Mr. WICKER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 99

Whereas the Senate affirms the commitment of the people and the Government of the United States to the well-being, protection, and advancement of children, and the protection of the inalienable rights of all persons of all ages;

Whereas the Constitution and laws of the United States and those of the several States are the best guarantees against mistreatment of children in this Nation;

Whereas the Constitution, laws, and traditions of the United States affirm the rights of parents to raise their children and to impart their values and religious beliefs;

Whereas the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, adopted at New York November 20, 1989, and entered into force September 2, 1990, if ratified, would become a part of the supreme law of the land, taking precedence over all State laws and constitutions;

Whereas the United States, and not the several States, would be held responsible for compliance with this Convention if ratified, and as a consequence, the United States would create an incredible expansion of subject matter jurisdiction over all matters concerning children, seriously undermining the constitutional balance between the Federal Government and the governments of the several States;

Whereas Professor Geraldine Van Bueren, the author of the principal textbook on the international rights of the child, and a participant in the drafting of the Convention, has described the “best interest of the child

standard" in the treaty as "provid[ing] decision and policy makers with the authority to substitute their own decisions for either the child's or the parents'";

Whereas the Scottish Government has issued a pamphlet to children of that country explaining their rights under the Convention, which declares that children have the right to decide their own religion and that parents can only provide advice;

Whereas the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child has repeatedly interpreted the Convention to ban common disciplinary measures utilized by parents;

Whereas the Government of the United Kingdom was found to be in violation of the Convention by the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child for allowing parents to exercise a right to opt their children out of sex education courses in the public schools without a prior government review of the wishes of the child;

Whereas the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child has held that the Governments of Indonesia and Egypt were out of compliance with the Convention because military expenditures were given inappropriate priority over children's programs;

Whereas these and many other interpretations of the Convention by those charged with its implementation and by other authoritative supporters demonstrates that the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child are utterly contrary to the principles of law in the United States and the inherent principles of freedom;

Whereas the decisions and interpretations of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child would be considered by the Committee to be binding and authoritative upon the United States should the United States Government ratify the Convention, such that the Convention poses a threat to the sovereign rights of the United States and the several States to make final determinations regarding domestic law; and

Whereas the proposition that the United States should be governed by international legal standards in its domestic policy is tantamount to proclaiming that the Congress of the United States and the legislatures of the several States are incompetent to draft domestic laws that are necessary for the proper protection of children, an assertion that is not only an affront to self-government but an inappropriate attack on the capability of legislators in the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, adopted at New York November 20, 1989, and entered into force September 2, 1990, is incompatible with the Constitution, the laws, and the traditions of the United States;

(2) the Convention would undermine proper presumptions of freedom and independence for families in the United States, supplanting those principles with a presumption in favor of governmental intervention without the necessity for proving harm or wrongdoing;

(3) the Convention would interfere with the principles of sovereignty, independence, and self-government in the United States that preclude the necessity or propriety of adopting international law to govern domestic matters; and

(4) the President should not transmit the Convention to the Senate for its advice and consent.

SENATE RESOLUTION 100—DESIGNATING MARCH 11, 2011, AS "WORLD PLUMBING DAY"

Mr. BENNET (for himself, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mr. MERKLEY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 100

Whereas the industry of plumbing plays an important role in safeguarding the public health of the people of the United States and the world;

Whereas 884,000,000 people around the world do not have access to safe drinking water;

Whereas 2,600,000,000 people around the world live without adequate sanitation facilities;

Whereas the lack of sanitation is the largest cause of infection in the world;

Whereas in the developing world, 24,000 children under the age of 5 die every day from preventable causes, such as diarrhea contracted from unclean water;

Whereas safe and efficient plumbing helps save money and reduces future water supply costs and infrastructure costs;

Whereas the installation of modern plumbing systems must be accomplished in a specific, safe manner by trained professionals in order to prevent widespread disease, which can be crippling and deadly to the community;

Whereas the people of the United States rely on plumbing professionals to maintain, repair, and rebuild the aging water infrastructure of the United States; and

Whereas Congress and plumbing professionals across the United States and the world are committed to safeguarding public health: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate designates March 11, 2011, as "World Plumbing Day".

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, I am proud to rise today to submit a resolution designating March 11 as World Plumbing Day.

Water is our planet's most precious resource, and it is also a resource the developed world often takes for granted. When we stop at a drinking fountain, or when we prepare dinner for our families, we are confident that the water emerging from the tap is free of harmful and dangerous contaminants.

Yet a reliable supply of water needed to maintain life is not readily available to nearly one billion people around the world. In fact, the ravages of water insecurity and inadequate sanitation claim 6,000 lives every day. The majority of these casualties are children. Nearly one in five child deaths worldwide is due to waterborne illness.

Modern plumbing technologies can prevent deaths and combat sickness. By supporting access to safe drinking water and proper sanitation through sound plumbing infrastructure and minimum plumbing codes, we can significantly raise quality of life and help to eliminate a historic cause of human suffering.

Today I stand in gratitude to our skilled, licensed plumbers and pipe fitters who work hard every day to ensure that the plumbing systems and infrastructure in our homes, places of business, and communities continue to function properly and provide us with water safe for consumption.

I would like to thank the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials, IAPMO, for raising awareness of this important issue. These individuals work diligently to create and maintain the Uniform Plumbing Code, which serves as the foundation for all plumbing installation and inspection activities for over half the world's population.

IAPMO is the only model code developer in America utilizing an open consensus process accredited by the American National Standards Institute, ANSI, for plumbing and mechanical codes. Worldwide, IAPMO and its members are on the front lines of public health and safety in assisting cities, counties, states, and countries with developing plumbing codes and providing training that protects our communities and saves lives.

I submit this resolution in recognition of the importance of clean water and the important contribution to America being made every single day by those men and women who maintain our plumbing infrastructure.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 10, 2011, at 9:30 a.m.

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

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 10, 2011, at 9:30 a.m. to conduct a hearing entitled "The Fiscal Year 2012 Budget for the Sec."

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

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. SANDERS. 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 March 10, 2011, at 10 a.m. in room 253 of the Russell Senate Office Building.

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

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 10, 2011, at 9:30 a.m., in room 366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

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

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to