

If an investment deviates more than 40 percent, the TechStat session would get bumped up to the OMB level, to be run by the Federal Chief Information Officer. In addition to information about how to improve the performance of the project, OMB would be required to provide to Congress a recommendation of whether the project should be pared back or cancelled if it cannot be overhauled.

On top of this aggressive oversight ramp-up, the bill would require agencies to identify and heighten the planning and management for a handful of top priority, most expensive projects. For these “core” investments, agencies would submit additional data on performance, key milestones, and lifecycle costs.

Because of their scope and importance to agency missions, these core projects would have lower thresholds for oversight triggers and would get bumped up to OMB TechStat review with a deviation of 20 percent. The “get-well” plan would then be sent to Congress and published on the Dashboard for maximum accountability. This early intervention at the highest level would ensure that these critical projects are either saved or scrapped long before they can threaten to waste billions of dollars or endanger agency missions.

If an agency fails to comply with the requirements in the bill for any given project, that would be the end of taxpayer support for the project until it is brought into compliance.

If this bill had been law during the past decade, early warning signs would have alerted Congress and possibly saved some of the billions wasted on so many IT projects currently crowding various high-risk lists.

I urge every Senator to support this much-needed and bipartisan bill.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 140—COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BAY OF PIGS OPERATION AND COMMENDING THE MEMBERS OF BRIGADA DE ASALTO 2506 (ASSAULT BRIGADE 2506)

Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. MCCAIN, and Mr. LIEBERMAN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 140

Whereas April 17, 2011, marks the 50th anniversary of the Bay of Pigs operation, an event held in the hearts of all who long for the return of freedom to Cuba;

Whereas the Communist Government imposed in Cuba since January 1959 has systematically denied the most basic human freedoms to the Cuban people;

Whereas on April 17, 1961, men and women from the United States and from Cuba selflessly volunteered to help the Cuban people free themselves from communist tyranny;

Whereas during the next few days and in the course of a battle against a military force superior in manpower and firepower, nearly 100 men lost their lives, including 4 pilots from the United States;

Whereas, in September 1961, the Cuban Government executed 5 soldiers that had been captured alive;

Whereas the greater part of the remaining assaulting forces were captured, imprisoned in deplorable conditions for close to 18 months, sentenced without due process to 30 years of imprisonment, and finally returned to the United States by the Cuban Government;

Whereas the Cuban soldiers who returned from the operation have made valuable contributions to the United States, while never forgetting their beloved native country;

Whereas on December 29, 1962, President John Fitzgerald Kennedy was presented with the Brigade 2506 banner that had reached Cuban shores during the invasion and the president pledged, “I can assure you that this flag will be returned to this brigade in a free Havana”;

Whereas on April 24, 1986, a joint resolution was passed (Public Law 99-279) “Commemorating the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Bay of Pigs invasion to liberate Cuba from Communist tyranny”;

Whereas the Cuban people continue to struggle and demand respect for their civil liberties: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes and pays tribute to the brave service of all members of Brigada de Asalto 2506 (Assault Brigade 2506), both living and deceased; and

(2) calls on the United States to continue policies that promote respect for the fundamental principles of freedom, democracy, and human rights in Cuba, in a manner consistent with the aspirations of the people of Cuba.

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, on April 17, 1961, 1,500 individuals from the United States and Cuba valiantly volunteered in the Bay of Pigs mission to liberate Cuba from Fidel Castro’s grip. They were a diverse group from all backgrounds of Cuban society, all united by the ideal that freedom is a God-given, inalienable right.

Having lost their country a couple of years earlier, these brave men took up arms on the beaches of Playa Giron. Over the course of 4 days and facing daunting odds against a better-armed and trained Cuban military, nearly 100 members of the Brigada de Asalto 2506, Assault Brigade 2506, lost their lives, including 4 American pilots. Five others were captured and executed. The majority were captured and imprisoned for many months and years in inhumane conditions.

Many of the captured men were fortunate to be eventually released and exiled to the United States, where they restarted their lives, raised families and made it their life’s ambition to give their children the opportunities they would not have.

I am proud to join my colleagues in the U.S. Senate in paying tribute to the survivors of that mission—several of whom made the journey to Washington this week—and honoring the memories of the deceased.

As the son of Cuban exiles, I am proud to represent an entire community of people who lost everything to

an accident of history, but came to cherish the freedoms they found in America. The story of the Brigade 2506 veterans, in particular, is worthy of special recognition.

To some, the Bay of Pigs battle is just one episode in the long annals of the cold war. But to those involved, the mission was a defining moment in their lives that, for others, illuminated the righteousness of the cause to free Cuba. It is a heartbreaking story of men who fought so valiantly for their beloved homeland’s freedom, only to come up short. But it is also an inspiring story—one that says as much about their resilience as it does about America.

Having endured a traumatic life experience 50 years ago at the Bay of Pigs, many of them came back to the U.S. with nothing—not a penny and often without any English skills. They went to work and embraced America’s blessings, but they never forgot their beloved homeland.

Some made it their life’s work to promote the cause of a free Cuba. Others went to work on other endeavors to provide for their families, but dedicated countless hours as faithful volunteers of the cause. In doing so, they served as teachers to an entire community. Today in Miami, for example, a Brigade 2506 monument and museum now exist as much to commemorate these heroes as it does to educate others.

Like so many Cuban exiles, their stories taught us that human rights and liberty are not conditional on where someone is born, but are instead the birthrights of every single one of God’s children. They taught us why the Cuban condition, like everywhere else in the world where human rights are trampled, is inhumane and unnatural. They instilled in us a deep sense of why the Cuban government, and others like it, is fundamentally defective and illegitimate, as it is sustained by violence against its people and operates without the consent of the governed.

Over the past 50 years, these lessons have given us moral clarity about the rights of man and reminded us of our responsibility to defend the persecuted among us.

Far from being forgotten, their example has inspired others to carry on their work. Their legacy lives on among those of us who have followed in their footsteps by making their cause of a free Cuba our cause.

Today, the torch they lit 50 years ago on a Cuban beach, is now carried not only by their children and grandchildren, but also by a new and growing generation of Cubans on the island. Every day, thousands of courageous patriots are demanding their freedoms and steadily chipping away at the farce of the Castro regime. Together, we are all united by the moral responsibility to highlight the Cuban regime’s continued abuses, to apply change-inducing pressure, and to support the Cuban people’s right to freely shape their destinies.

Courageous and principled leaders like these give us hope that a free Cuba is an inevitable destiny. They also give us hope that soon we will be able to achieve President John F. Kennedy's December 1962 promise to surviving Bay of Pigs veterans that their battle flag "will be returned to this brigade in a free Havana."

SENATE RESOLUTION 141—RECOGNIZING THE EFFORTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE GOD'S CHILD PROJECT AND CONGRATULATING THE GOD'S CHILD PROJECT ON ITS 20TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. CONRAD (for himself and Mr. HOEVEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 141

Whereas international educator, human rights leader, and native of the State of North Dakota Patrick Atkinson, deeply concerned about the plight of poor and exploited children around the globe, established the nonprofit GOD'S CHILD Project in 1991 with the mission of breaking the bitter chains of poverty through education and information;

Whereas the GOD'S CHILD Project has a global presence, serving the most vulnerable women and children on 3 continents, with operations in El Salvador, Guatemala, India, Malawi, and the United States;

Whereas the international GOD'S CHILD Project, true to its roots, maintains its global headquarters in Bismarck, North Dakota, the hometown of Patrick Atkinson;

Whereas more than 5,000 orphaned, abandoned, and impoverished children and nearly 8,700 widowed, abandoned, and single mothers and their dependents receive care from, and are educated by, the GOD'S CHILD Project;

Whereas since the GOD'S CHILD Project was founded, more than 18,000 parentless children and thousands more women have been given hope by the GOD'S CHILD Project;

Whereas the GOD'S CHILD Project, taking a comprehensive view of helping the destitute and exploited break free from poverty and oppression, operates schools, a family clinic, social work department, psychology clinic, domestic violence program, legal aid department, and a center for malnourished children;

Whereas in response to the transnational problem of human trafficking, the GOD'S CHILD Project established the Institute for Trafficked, Exploited, and Missing Persons in 2001 to address the issues of human trafficking and exploitation, which are particularly severe in Central America;

Whereas the GOD'S CHILD Project is often 1 of the first organizations to respond to devastating natural disasters, including Tropical Storm Agatha, which ravaged Central America in 2010, taking nearly 180 lives and destroying the homes of thousands;

Whereas each year, approximately 2,500 volunteers and 45 homebuilding groups from around the world join with the GOD'S CHILD Project staff to compassionately serve their brothers and sisters in need; and

Whereas the GOD'S CHILD Project and Patrick Atkinson have received numerous accolades recognizing their service to the poor from United States and foreign organizations, including the Guatemalan Congressional Medal of Honor, Guatemala's Goodwill Ambassador For Peace, and the 2010 Humanitarian Award from the Bismarck City Human Rights Commission: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the GOD'S CHILD Project on its 20th anniversary;

(2) commends the GOD'S CHILD Project for its charitable service to the poor and its efforts to help thousands break the bonds of poverty and exploitation; and

(3) recognizes those individuals who have served impoverished children and women throughout the world under the auspices of the GOD'S CHILD Project, including the volunteers, staff, and founder and executive director, Patrick Atkinson, of the GOD'S CHILD Project.

SENATE RESOLUTION 142—CONGRATULATING THE LADY AGGIES OF TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY ON WINNING THE 2011 NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION DIVISION I WOMEN'S BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

Mrs. HUTCHISON (for herself and Mr. CORNYN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 142

Whereas the Texas A&M University women's basketball team, the Lady Aggies, won its first National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I Women's Basketball Championship (referred to in this preamble as the "national championship") by defeating Notre Dame by a score of 76 to 70, becoming the first team to win the national championship title on its initial try since 2005;

Whereas the Lady Aggies finished the 2010-2011 season with an impressive record of 33 wins and 5 losses;

Whereas Coach Gary Blair brought the Lady Aggies to their first NCAA National Women's Basketball Championship with a starting lineup that included Danielle Adams, Sydney Carter, Sydney Colson, Adaora Elonu, and Tyra White;

Whereas Tyra White led the Lady Aggies to victory with a 3-point shot with only 65 seconds remaining on the clock and was named to the all-tournament team;

Whereas All-American Danielle Adams scored 30 points, the second-highest number of points ever scored in a national championship game, and finished the 2010-2011 season with more than 800 points;

Whereas the Lady Aggies should all be commended for their teamwork;

Whereas Texas A&M University joins the ranks of the University of Texas, Baylor, and Texas Tech as women's basketball national champions, demonstrating the excellence of Texas A&M University in both athletics and academics;

Whereas the Lady Aggies have significantly advanced the sport of women's basketball by demonstrating hard work and sportsmanship;

Whereas the Lady Aggies overcame intense competition and defied expectations in a very exciting final game;

Whereas the accomplishment of the Lady Aggies is another testament to the strength of women across the State of Texas; and

Whereas the Lady Aggies are the pride of their loyal fans, current and former students, and the rest of the Lone Star State: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate congratulates the Lady Aggies of Texas A&M University on—

(1) winning the 2011 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I Women's Basketball Championship; and

(2) completing the 2010-2011 women's basketball season with a record of 33 wins and 5 losses.

SENATE RESOLUTION 143—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL SAFE DIGGING MONTH

Mr. LAUTENBERG (for himself and Mr. THUNE) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 143

Whereas each year, the underground utility infrastructure of the United States, including pipelines, electric, gas, telecommunications, water, sewer, and cable television lines, is jeopardized by unintentional damage caused by those who fail to have underground lines located prior to digging;

Whereas some utility lines are buried only a few inches underground, making the lines easy to strike, even during shallow digging projects;

Whereas digging prior to locating underground utility lines often results in unintended consequences, such as service interruption, environmental damage, personal injury, and even death;

Whereas the month of April marks the beginning of the peak period during which excavation projects are carried out around the United States;

Whereas in 2002, Congress required the Department of Transportation and the Federal Communications Commission to establish a 3-digit, nationwide, toll-free number to be used by State "One Call" systems to provide information on underground utility lines;

Whereas in 2005, the Federal Communications Commission designated "811" as the nationwide "One Call" number for homeowners and excavators to use to obtain information on underground utility lines before conducting excavation activities;

Whereas "811" has helped reduce the amount of digging damage caused by a failure to call before digging from 57 percent in 2004 to 37.5 percent in 2009;

Whereas the 1,400 members of the Common Ground Alliance, who are dedicated to ensuring public safety, environmental protection, and the integrity of services, promote the national "Call Before You Dig" campaign to increase public awareness about the importance of homeowners and excavators calling 811 to find out the exact location of underground lines; and

Whereas the Common Ground Alliance has designated April as "National Safe Digging Month" to increase awareness of safe digging practices across the United States and to celebrate the anniversary of 811, the national "Call Before You Dig" number: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Safe Digging Month; and

(2) encourages all homeowners and excavators throughout the United States to call 811 before digging.