

A bill (H.R. 1383) to temporarily preserve higher rates for tuition and fees for programs of education at non-public institutions of higher learning pursued by individuals enrolled in the Post-9/11 Educational Assistance Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs before the enactment of the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Improvements Act of 2010, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a Murray amendment, which is at the desk, be agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be read the third time and passed; that the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate; and that any statements related to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

The amendment (No. 580) was agreed to, as follows:

On page 3, strike lines 10 and 11 and insert the following:

Code, who, since January 4, 2011, has been enrolled in the same non-public institution of higher learning in a State in

Beginning on page 4, strike line 12 and all that follows through page 5, line 3, and insert the following:

(a) EXTENSION.—Section 3729(b)(2)(B) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in clause (i)—

(A) by striking “January 1, 2004” and inserting “October 1, 2011”; and

(B) by striking “3.00” both places it appears and inserting “3.30”;

(2) in clause (ii)—

(A) by striking “January 1, 2004, and before October 1, 2011” and inserting “October 1, 2011, and before October 1, 2012”; and

(B) by striking “3.30” both places it appears and inserting “2.80”; and

(3) in clause (iii), by striking “October 1, 2011” and inserting “October 1, 2012”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall take effect on the later of October 1, 2011, or the date of the enactment of this Act.

The amendment was ordered to be engrossed and the bill to be read a third time.

The bill (H.R. 1383), as amended, was read the third time and passed, as follows:

H.R. 1383

Resolved, That the bill from the House of Representatives (H.R. 1383) entitled “An Act to temporarily preserve higher rates for tuition and fees for programs of education at non-public institutions of higher learning pursued by individuals enrolled in the Post-9/11 Educational Assistance Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs before the enactment of the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Improvements Act of 2010, and for other purposes.”, do pass with the following amendments:

(1) On page 3, strike lines 10 and 11 and insert the following:

Code, who, since January 4, 2011, has been enrolled in the same non-public institution of higher learning in a State in

(2) Beginning on page 4, strike line 12 and all that follows through page 5, line 3, and insert the following:

(a) EXTENSION.—Section 3729(b)(2)(B) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in clause (i)—

(A) by striking “January 1, 2004” and inserting “October 1, 2011”; and

(B) by striking “3.00” both places it appears and inserting “3.30”;

(2) in clause (ii)—

(A) by striking “January 1, 2004, and before October 1, 2011” and inserting “October 1, 2011, and before October 1, 2012”; and

(B) by striking “3.30” both places it appears and inserting “2.80”; and

(3) in clause (iii), by striking “October 1, 2011” and inserting “October 1, 2012”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall take effect on the later of October 1, 2011, or the date of the enactment of this Act.

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF COOPERATIVES

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 87, and the Senate proceed to its consideration.

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

The clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 87) designating the year of 2012 as the “International Year of Cooperatives.”

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

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the preamble be agreed to; that the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate; that any statements related to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 87) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 87

Whereas in the United States, there are more than 29,000 cooperatives with 120,000,000 members;

Whereas cooperatives in the United States generate 2,000,000 jobs and make a substantial contribution to the economy of the United States with annual sales of \$652,000,000,000 and assets of \$3,000,000,000,000;

Whereas the cooperative business model has empowered people around the world to improve their lives through economic and social progress;

Whereas cooperatives are a major economic force in developed countries and a powerful business model in developing countries, employing approximately 100,000,000 people;

Whereas there are millions of cooperatives, which are owned and governed by more than 1,000,000,000 members, operating in every nation of the world;

Whereas the economic activity of the largest 300 cooperatives in the world is equal to that of the 10th largest national economy;

Whereas United Nations Resolution 64/136, adopted by the General Assembly on December 18, 2009, designates the year 2012 as the “International Year of Cooperatives”;

Whereas the theme of the International Year of Cooperatives is “Cooperative Enterprise Builds a Better World”; and

Whereas cooperatives are the businesses of the people, and for more than a century,

have been a vital part of the world economy: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the year 2012 as the “International Year of Cooperatives”;

(2) congratulates cooperatives and members of cooperatives in the United States and around the world on the recognition of the United Nations of 2012 as the “International Year of Cooperatives”;

(3) recognizes the vital role cooperatives play in the economic and social well-being of the United States;

(4) urges the establishment of a National Committee for the 2012 International Year of Cooperatives to be comprised of representatives from each Federal agency, all cooperative sectors, and key stakeholders;

(5) recognizes the importance of raising the profile of cooperatives and demonstrating the manner by which cooperatives build local wealth, generate employment, and provide competition in the marketplace; and

(6) encourages highlighting the positive impact of cooperatives and developing new programs for domestic and international cooperative development.

RELATIVE TO THE DEATH OF WILLIAM F. HILDENBRAND, FORMER SECRETARY OF THE SENATE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 234, which was introduced earlier today.

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

The bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 234) relative to the death of William F. Hildenbrand, former Secretary of the Senate.

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

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I further ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and any statements relating to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 234) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 234

Whereas William F. Hildenbrand began his service to the United States Senate in 1961 as an assistant to Senator J. Caleb Boggs;

Whereas William F. Hildenbrand served as Administrative Assistant to Senator Hugh Scott from 1969 until 1974;

Whereas William F. Hildenbrand served as Secretary for the Minority of the Senate from 1974 until 1981;

Whereas William F. Hildenbrand served as Secretary of the Senate from 1981 until 1985;

Whereas William F. Hildenbrand served as an employee of the Senate of the United States and ably and faithfully upheld the high standards and traditions of the staff of the Senate from 1961 until 1985;

Whereas William F. Hildenbrand discharged the difficult duties and responsibilities of a wide variety of important and demanding positions in public life with honesty, integrity, loyalty and humility; and

Whereas William F. Hildenbrand's clear understanding and appreciation of the challenges facing the Nation has left his mark on those many areas of public life: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate has heard with profound sorrow and deep regret the announcement of the death of William F. Hildenbrand.

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate communicate these resolutions to the House of Representatives and transmit an enrolled copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

Resolved, That when the Senate adjourns today, it stand adjourned as a further mark of respect to the memory of William F. Hildenbrand.

DESIGNATING 2011 AS "THE YEAR OF THE FAMILY CAREGIVER"

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 235, submitted earlier today.

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

The bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 235) designating 2011 as "The Year of the Family Caregiver."

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

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I rise today in support of this resolution recognizing 2011 as the 11-year anniversary of the National Family Caregiver Support Program and declaring 2011 The Year of the Family Caregiver. This year, caregivers across the country and the Administration on Aging are celebrating family caregivers and working to improve the support family caregivers receive.

Today's resolution recognizes the 65 million Americans who serve as family caregivers for their family members, friends, and other loved ones living with a disability, chronic illness, or other condition associated with old age. Family caregivers are the backbone of our Nation's long-term care system, accounting for 80 percent of all long-term services provided in the United States. They provide high-quality services that improve the lives of the people they care for and benefit our society.

I created the National Family Caregiver Support Program in 2000 to strengthen the Older Americans Act so it may meet the day-to-day needs of our older Americans and their caregivers. The program is a partnership between States and Area Agencies on Aging. The National Family Caregiver Support Program provides counseling, training, respite care, adult daycare, and other support services to 600,000 caregivers so that families can get the resources they need to care for their loved one. The program helps American families take care of older parents while raising children of their own and pursuing a career. It also helps grandparents who are taking care of grandchildren. The National Family Caregiver Support Program helps families provide care longer and delays the need for costly nursing home care.

Family caregiving continues to place a lot of stress on families in terms of time, energy, and finances, but American families are up to this challenge. I ask my colleagues today to join me in applauding the work of family caregivers and those who support them every day.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and any statements related to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 235) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 235

Whereas there are more than 65,000,000 people in the United States serving as family caregivers for a family member or friend with a disability, chronic illness, or the frailties associated with old age;

Whereas family caregivers in the United States are family, friends, partners, and neighbors who choose to provide care out of feelings of love or a sense of duty;

Whereas family caregivers deal with significant medical and psycho-social issues that require complex care management and coordination with numerous medical providers;

Whereas family caregivers provide 80 percent of all long-term care services in the United States;

Whereas despite the physical, psychological, and financial hardship that caregivers endure, these individuals provide high-quality services that bring countless benefits to their care recipients and to society; and

Whereas the people of the United States should acknowledge the vital role of family caregivers, enable such caregivers to live healthier, less stressful lives, and enhance the ability of family caregivers to improve the health and well-being of those that they care for: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the year 2011 as the 11-year anniversary of the National Family Caregiver Support Program;

(2) applauds the Administration on Aging and national and community based organizations that support family caregivers;

(3) applauds the family, friends, partners, and neighbors who provide long-term care services; and

(4) designates 2011 as "The Year of the Family Caregiver".

DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 2011 AS "NATIONAL SPINAL CORD INJURY AWARENESS MONTH"

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 236, which was submitted earlier today.

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

The bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 236) designating September 2011 as "National Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Month."

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

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 236) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 236

Whereas the estimated 1,275,000 people in the United States who live with a spinal cord injury cost society billions of dollars in health care costs and lost wages;

Whereas an estimated 100,000 of those individuals living with a spinal cord injury are veterans who suffered the spinal cord injury while serving as members of the United States Armed Forces;

Whereas accidents are the leading cause of spinal cord injuries;

Whereas motor vehicle crashes are the second leading cause of spinal cord and traumatic brain injuries;

Whereas 70 percent of all spinal cord injuries that occur in children under the age of 18 are a result of motor vehicle accidents;

Whereas every 48 seconds a person will become paralyzed, underscoring the urgent need to develop new neuroprotection, pharmacological, and regeneration treatments to reduce, prevent, and reverse paralysis; and

Whereas increased education and investment in research are key factors in improving outcomes for victims of spinal cord injuries, improving the quality of life of victims, and ultimately curing paralysis: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates September 2011 as Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Month;

(2) supports the goals and ideals of Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Month;

(3) continues to support research to find better treatments, therapies, and a cure for paralysis;

(4) supports clinical trials for new therapies that offer promise and hope to those persons living with paralysis; and

(5) commends the dedication of local, regional, and national organizations, researchers, doctors, volunteers, and people across the United States that are working to improve the quality of life of persons living with paralysis and their families.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—H.R. 2553

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I understand that H.R. 2553 has been received from the House and is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the first time.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2553) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, to amend title 49, United States Code, to extend the airport improvement program, and for other purposes.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I ask for a second reading and object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard. The bill will be read for the second time on the next legislative day.