

"Covenant for Arab Reform," resulting in the adoption of the "Tunis Declaration" at the May 2004 Arab Summit, which declared, among other things, a "firm determination" to "pursue reform and modernization" by "widening women's participation in the political, economic, social, cultural and educational fields";

Whereas these declarations were reaffirmed at the Arab Summit in Algiers on March 23, 2005, and at the Riyadh Summit held in Saudi Arabia on March 28, 2007;

Whereas, in April 2009, Saudi Arabia ratified the Arab Charter on Human Rights, which states in article 24(3), "Every citizen has the right . . . to stand for election or choose his representatives in free and impartial elections, in conditions of equality among all citizens that guarantee the free expression of his will.";

Whereas, on June 10, 2009, the Government of Saudi Arabia accepted the majority of the recommendations put forward by the United Nations Human Rights Council's Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review including to "[a]bolish all legislation, measures and practices that discriminate against women . . . In particular, to abolish legislation and practices which prevent women from participating fully in society on an equal basis with men," and to "end the strict system of male guardianship and give full legal identity to Saudi women";

Whereas the Government of Saudi Arabia has indicated that it is supportive of the human rights of women;

Whereas, in November 2010, Saudi Arabia was elected to the Executive Board of UN Women, emphasizing the commitment of the Government of Saudi Arabia to the rights of women;

Whereas 'Abd al-Rahman Dahmash, the president of the general committee for the election of municipal council members, has stated that Saudi women will be granted the right to vote in the next municipal elections scheduled to be held in 2015; and

Whereas while the United States Government acknowledges the deep cultural and religious traditions and sentiments within Saudi society, without the right to vote on par with men, women in Saudi Arabia are denied not only a fundamental human right but also the ability to contribute fully to the economic development, modernization, and prosperity of their own country: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) urges the Government of Saudi Arabia to allow women to fully participate, both as voters and candidates for elective office, in the September 2011 elections;

(2) supports the women of Saudi Arabia as they endeavor to exercise their human rights and participate equally in society; and

(3) believes that it is in the interest of Saudi Arabia and all nations to permit women to run for office, receive civic education, and vote in all elections.

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration en bloc of the following resolutions, which were submitted earlier today: S. Res. 242, S. Res. 243, S. Res. 244.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles be agreed to, the motions to re-

consider be laid upon the table en bloc, without any intervening action or debate, and any statements be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolutions were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

The resolutions, with their preambles, read as follows:

S. RES. 242

Supporting the goals and ideals of National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month

Whereas ovarian cancer is the deadliest of all gynecologic cancers;

Whereas ovarian cancer is the 5th leading cause of cancer deaths among women in the United States;

Whereas almost 21,000 women will be diagnosed with ovarian cancer in 2011, and 15,000 will die from the disease;

Whereas these deaths are those of our mothers, sisters, daughters, family members, and community leaders;

Whereas the mortality rate for ovarian cancer has not significantly decreased since the "War on Cancer" was declared 40 years ago;

Whereas all women are at risk for ovarian cancer, and 90 percent of women diagnosed with ovarian cancer do not have a family history that puts them at a higher risk;

Whereas some women, such as those with a family history of breast or ovarian cancer, are at a higher risk for the disease;

Whereas the pap test is sensitive and specific to the early detection of cervical cancer, but not ovarian cancer;

Whereas there is currently no reliable early detection test for ovarian cancer;

Whereas many people are unaware that the symptoms of ovarian cancer often include bloating, pelvic or abdominal pain, difficulty eating or feeling full quickly, urinary symptoms, and several other symptoms that are easily confused with other diseases;

Whereas in June 2007, the first national consensus statement on ovarian cancer symptoms was developed to provide consistency in describing symptoms to make it easier for women to learn and remember the symptoms;

Whereas there are known methods to reduce the risk of ovarian cancer, including prophylactic surgery, oral contraceptives, and breast-feeding;

Whereas, due to the lack of a reliable early detection test, 75 percent of cases of ovarian cancer are detected at an advanced stage, making the overall 5-year survival rate only 45 percent;

Whereas there are factors that are known to reduce the risk for ovarian cancer and that play an important role in the prevention of the disease;

Whereas awareness of the symptoms of ovarian cancer by women and health care providers can lead to a quicker diagnosis;

Whereas, each year during the month of September, the Ovarian Cancer National Alliance and its partner members hold a number of events to increase public awareness of ovarian cancer; and

Whereas September 2011 should be designated as "National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month" to increase public awareness of ovarian cancer: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate supports the goals and ideals of National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month.

S. RES. 243

Promoting increased awareness, diagnosis, and treatment of atrial fibrillation to address the high morbidity and mortality rates and to prevent avoidable hospitalizations associated with the disease

Whereas atrial fibrillation is a cardiac condition that results when the usual coordinated electrical activity in the atria of the heart becomes disorganized and chaotic, hampering the ability of the atria to fill the ventricles with blood, and allowing blood to pool in the atria and form clots;

Whereas an estimated 2,500,000 people in the United States are living with atrial fibrillation, the most common "serious" heart rhythm abnormality that occurs in people older than 65 years of age;

Whereas atrial fibrillation is associated with an increased long-term risk of stroke, heart failure, and all-cause mortality, especially among women;

Whereas people older than 40 years of age have a 1-in-4 risk of developing atrial fibrillation in their lifetime;

Whereas an estimated 15 percent of strokes are the result of untreated atrial fibrillation, a condition that dramatically increases the risk of stroke to approximately 5 times more than the general population;

Whereas atrial fibrillation accounts for approximately 529,000 hospital discharges annually;

Whereas atrial fibrillation costs an estimated \$3,600 per patient for a total cost burden in the United States of \$15,700,000,000;

Whereas better patient and health care provider education is needed for the timely recognition of atrial fibrillation symptoms;

Whereas an electrocardiogram is an effective and risk-free screen for heart rhythm irregularities and can be part of a routine preventive exam;

Whereas there is a dearth of outcome performance measures that focus on the management of atrial fibrillation; and

Whereas evidence-based care guidelines improve patient outcomes and prevent unnecessary hospitalizations for individuals with undiagnosed atrial fibrillation and for patients once atrial fibrillation is detected: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that the Secretary of Health and Human Services should work with leaders in the medical community to explore ways to improve medical research, screening and prevention methods, and surveillance efforts in order to prevent and appropriately manage atrial fibrillation, including by—

(1) advancing the development of process and outcome measures for the management of atrial fibrillation by national developers;

(2) facilitating the adoption of evidence-based guidelines by the medical community to improve patient outcomes;

(3) advancing atrial fibrillation research and education by—

(A) encouraging basic science research to determine the causes and optimal treatments for atrial fibrillation;

(B) exploring development of screening tools and protocols to determine the risk of developing atrial fibrillation; and

(C) enhancing current surveillance and tracking systems to include atrial fibrillation; and

(4) improving access to appropriate medical care for patients suffering from atrial fibrillation by encouraging education programs that promote collaboration among the Federal health agencies and that increase public and clinician awareness of atrial fibrillation, including risk assessment, screening, treatment, and appropriate clinical management.

S. RES. 244

Congratulating Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. for 100 years of service to communities throughout the United States and the world, and commending Omega Psi Phi for upholding its cardinal principles of manhood, scholarship, perseverance, and uplift

Whereas Omega Psi Phi is the first international fraternal organization to be founded on the campus of a historically black college;

Whereas Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. was founded at Howard University in Washington, District of Columbia, on November 17, 1911, by undergraduates Oscar James Cooper, M.D., Frank Coleman, Ph.D., and Edgar Amos Love, D.D., and their faculty advisor Ernest Everett Just, Ph.D.;

Whereas, on November 17, 2011, Omega Psi Phi will celebrate 100 years of service to communities throughout the United States and the world in many diverse fields of endeavor;

Whereas, in 2011, Omega Psi Phi has more than 700 chapters throughout the United States, Bermuda, the Bahamas, the Virgin Islands, South Korea, Japan, Liberia, Germany, and Kuwait;

Whereas Omega Psi Phi has maintained a commitment to the betterment of mankind, the enhancement of the community, and the enrichment of collegiate men through dedication to its cardinal principles of manhood, scholarship, perseverance, and uplift;

Whereas Omega Psi Phi chapters participate in activities that uplift their communities, including voter registration, illiteracy awareness, Habitat for Humanity, health awareness programs, and youth mentoring;

Whereas the men of Omega Psi Phi have distinguished themselves in the field of science, including Dr. Ernest Everett Just, an internationally known biologist, Dr. Charles Drew, who perfected the use of blood plasma, Dr. Ronald E. McNair, an astronaut and member of the flight team aboard the Space Shuttle Challenger, Charles Bolden, an astronaut and the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and Dr. Fred Drew Gregory, an astronaut and graduate of the United States Air Force Academy;

Whereas the men of Omega Psi Phi have distinguished themselves in the field of sports, including Dr. Robert M. Screen, the tennis coach at Hampton University and the coach with the most wins in the history of the National Collegiate Athletic Association, Michael Jordan, who was inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in 2009, Charlie Ward, the winner of the Heisman Trophy in 1993 and a former guard with the New York Knicks of the National Basketball Association, Dr. LeRoy Walker, a former president of the United States Olympic Committee, and Terrance Trammell, a world champion hurdler;

Whereas the men of Omega Psi Phi have distinguished themselves in the field of government, including William Hastie, the first Governor of the Virgin Islands, Lawrence Douglas Wilder, the first black Governor of Virginia, Togo West, a former Secretary of the Army, James E. Clyburn, a Member of the House of Representatives from South Carolina and the 26th Majority Whip of the House of Representatives, Jesse Jackson, Jr., a Member of the House of Representatives from Illinois, and Hank Johnson, a Member of the House of Representatives from Georgia;

Whereas the men of Omega Psi Phi have distinguished themselves in the field of the arts, including Langston Hughes, the poet laureate who excelled as a poet, playwright, novelist, lyricist, and humorist, and William

“Count” Basie, an internationally known pianist, composer, arranger, and band leader; and

Whereas Omega Psi Phi will commemorate its history and promote its continued success at its centennial celebration to be held July 27 through July 31, 2011, in Washington, District of Columbia: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. for 100 years of service to communities throughout the United States and the world; and

(2) commends Omega Psi Phi for upholding its cardinal principles of manhood, scholarship, perseverance, and uplift.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. HOEVEN. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

THE DEBT CEILING

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I rise once again to urge my colleagues to come together and address this debt ceiling to reduce our deficit and debt. We are at the 12th hour, and it is vitally important to the American people we move forward. I believe there is opportunity to do that. I think it is important we move forward in a way that makes sure we address the root of the problem. The problem is, we have a deficit and a debt that is out of control. As we work together to reach agreement on this very important debt ceiling issue, we need to be mindful that we have taken a big step forward in reducing the deficit and debt that our country faces.

Let's start by taking just a minute to look at the numbers. Today this country has total revenues coming into the Federal Government at about \$2.2 trillion. At the same time, we have expenses of \$3.7 trillion, leaving an annual deficit of more than \$1.5 trillion. Our debt is now in the range of \$14.5 trillion. It is hard to even imagine what \$1 trillion is, let alone \$14.5 trillion. We are borrowing 40 cents of every dollar we spend, and our debt is growing \$4 billion a day—\$4 billion a day. The unemployment is 9.2 percent, and the latest GDP growth came out for the second quarter for this year. It was an anemic 1.3 percent.

We need to get our economy growing. We need to get people back to work. We need to get people working, and at the same time we have to control our spending. It is time to act.

We are faced with two different pieces of legislation at this point. One is the Boehner plan, or the Budget Control Act of 2011, that the House will be voting on very soon, I believe. Also, there is another plan, the Reid plan, in the Senate. Although they have some similarities, as configured now they are different plans and different approaches.

One, very importantly, gets us on the road to recovery. The other one doesn't. Let's take just a minute to talk about each of those respective plans to make sure we understand them. As they vote on them in the House, and as we face those important votes this evening or tomorrow or, hopefully, very soon, we can understand the differences between these approaches so we can find a way to come together on an approach that we can pass in this Chamber and also in the House, and, of course, that truly moves our country forward.

Under the Boehner proposal there is \$917 billion in savings that must be provided in order to raise the debt ceiling, and that allows the first tranche of increase in the debt ceiling in the amount of \$900 billion. Those savings have to be identified first—in fact, more than the amount of the debt ceiling increase.

Then the second tranche to increase the debt ceiling beyond that \$900 billion, an additional \$1.8 trillion in savings, has to be identified and provided—\$1.8 trillion in savings. That is \$2.7 trillion in savings to get this country back on the road to financial health in order to raise the debt ceiling. That is fundamentally important because that is the fundamental issue. It doesn't fully solve the problem, but it gets us on the right path, and we have to get going on the right path.

The second tranche of savings is done by a committee of six Members of the Senate—three Democrat, three Republican—and six Members of the House—three Republican, three Democrat—in a bipartisan committee. I think that committee offers us real opportunity. Here is why: The committee has to come up with recommendations for real savings by November. It is bipartisan, and it is a straight up-or-down vote in the House or the Senate to put those savings in place, and those savings must be identified before we raise the debt ceiling further. So it is something we have to do.

Let's think about that committee for a minute. That is a committee that can bring in the ideas of the Gang of 6. That is the committee that can bring in the Simpson-Bowles concept. That is a committee that can bring in tax reform. That is a committee that can bring in entitlement reform. These are the things we are going to need to address to get this economy going and get control of our spending. I know we have put together many pieces of legislation that have been bipartisan and have been very important for this country, and I think this committee truly offers us that opportunity. I hope it is something we in the Senate can find a way to come together on and that we can get our colleagues in the House to join us.

In my view, I do think we need to engage in tax reform. I think the right kind of progrowth tax reform—some of the concepts brought forth by the Gang of 6—can truly help us to stimulate