

S. 2160

At the request of Mrs. HUTCHISON, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2160, a bill to improve the examination of depository institutions, and for other purposes.

S. 2165

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) were added as cosponsors of S. 2165, a bill to enhance strategic cooperation between the United States and Israel, and for other purposes.

S. 2185

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. COATS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2185, a bill to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services acting through the Administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration, to award grants on a competitive basis to public and private entities to provide qualified sexual risk avoidance education to youth and their parents.

S. 2255

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2255, a bill to amend chapter 1 of title 36, United States Code, to add Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day as a patriotic and National observance.

S. 2295

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2295, a bill to permit manufacturers of generic drugs to provide additional warnings with respect to such drugs in the same manner that the Food and Drug Administration allows brand names to do so.

S. 2296

At the request of Mrs. HAGAN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2296, a bill to amend the Higher Education Opportunity Act to restrict institutions of higher education from using revenues derived from Federal educational assistance funds for advertising, marketing, or recruiting purposes.

S. RES. 380

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 380, a resolution to express the sense of the Senate regarding the importance of preventing the Government of Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons capability.

S. RES. 400

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. AKAKA) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 400, a resolution supporting the goals and ideals of Professional Social Work Month and World Social Work Day.

AMENDMENT NO. 1975

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from North Da-

kota (Mr. CONRAD) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1975 intended to be proposed to S. 1789, a bill to improve, sustain, and transform the United States Postal Service.

AMENDMENT NO. 2031

At the request of Mrs. MCCASKILL, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN), the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) and the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 2031 intended to be proposed to S. 1789, a bill to improve, sustain, and transform the United States Postal Service.

AMENDMENT NO. 2034

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 2034 intended to be proposed to S. 1789, a bill to improve, sustain, and transform the United States Postal Service.

AMENDMENT NO. 2036

At the request of Mr. PRYOR, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. BAUCUS) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2036 intended to be proposed to S. 1789, a bill to improve, sustain, and transform the United States Postal Service.

AMENDMENT NO. 2041

At the request of Mr. MANCHIN, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2041 intended to be proposed to S. 1789, a bill to improve, sustain, and transform the United States Postal Service.

AMENDMENT NO. 2042

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 2042 intended to be proposed to S. 1789, a bill to improve, sustain, and transform the United States Postal Service.

AMENDMENT NO. 2043

At the request of Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY), the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 2043 intended to be proposed to S. 1789, a bill to improve, sustain, and transform the United States Postal Service.

AMENDMENT NO. 2050

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2050 intended to be proposed to S. 1789, a bill to improve, sustain, and transform the United States Postal Service.

AMENDMENT NO. 2056

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the names of the Senator from Vermont

(Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CONRAD) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 2056 intended to be proposed to S. 1789, a bill to improve, sustain, and transform the United States Postal Service.

AMENDMENT NO. 2060

At the request of Mr. COBURN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2060 intended to be proposed to S. 1789, a bill to improve, sustain, and transform the United States Postal Service.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. ISAKSON):

S. 2301. A bill to help prevent the occurrence of cancer resulting from the use of ultraviolet tanning lamps by providing sufficient information to consumers regarding the health risks associated with the use of such devices; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, today I am pleased to be joined by Senator ISAKSON in introducing the Tanning Transparency and Notification Act, or the TAN Act.

This legislation is a continuation of an initiative that we worked on together five years ago during the Food and Drug Administration Amendments Act, FDAAA, of 2007. That initiative required the Food and Drug Administration, FDA, to issue a report to Congress on whether the labeling requirements for indoor tanning devices provide sufficient information to consumers regarding the risks that the use of such devices pose for the development of irreversible damage to the eyes and skin, including skin cancer.

We called for this report in 2007 because the FDA had not updated its warnings on tanning beds since 1979. The FDA still has not acted and we believe that users of indoor tanning beds deserve to be fully informed. While the American Academy of Dermatology, the FDA, the National Institutes of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the World Health Organization, WHO, continue to discourage the use of indoor tanning beds, this message and up-to-date information about the risks of indoor tanning are still not being adequately provided to consumers.

Not surprisingly, the FDA found in its report to Congress that updating current labeling requirements for tanning beds would better protect consumers from irreversible skin damage. This is an excerpt from the FDA's own report:

Based on its analysis of the results of the consumer study required by section 230 of FDAAA, FDA has determined that there are warnings that are capable of adequately communicating the risks of indoor tanning,

and that a modified warning statement label may more effectively convey these risks than the current labeling requirements. FDA has also determined that changes to the positioning requirements for the warning statement label may communicate such risks more effectively.

Unfortunately, the FDA has not heeded its own advice. Tanning bed labels remain unchanged and skin cancer rates continue to rise. This year, approximately 131,810 new cases of melanoma will be diagnosed in the United States, and nearly 9,180 people will die from melanoma. Some of these cases result from the use of tanning beds.

Two million Americans, approximately 70 percent of whom are girls and women, visit a tanning salon each day. The WHO reports that the risk of cutaneous melanoma increases by 75 percent when use of tanning devices starts before 30 years of age.

Better informing these individuals about the incidence of melanoma, and increasing transparency and improving notification about the risks of indoor tanning are all ways to reduce skin cancer rates. The Tanning Transparency and Notification Act would require the FDA to carry out the recommendations in its report and update the labeling requirements for tanning beds.

Initiatives like this can make a difference in the health of Americans. Indeed, just last year, the FDA finalized critical regulations—at my and others' urging—that were 30 years in the making regarding sunscreen labeling. Providing consumers with critical information about the risks of indoor and outdoor tanning can help better protect them against skin cancer. I look forward to working with my colleagues on improving the labeling of indoor tanning beds and continuing efforts to combat skin cancer.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. KIRK):

S. 2303. A bill to require rulemaking by the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to address considerations in evaluating the need for public and individual disaster assistance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today I am introducing the Fairness in Federal Disaster Declaration Act. I am introducing it on behalf of myself and my colleague, Senator MARK KIRK. What we are trying to achieve is fairness in FEMA's consideration of whether a community will be granted Federal assistance after a disaster. I think this legislation is essential because of what just happened in my State.

From 2007 to 2011, Illinois was denied Federal assistance three times. Texas was denied nine times. The damage was caused by everything from wildfires to tropical storms. California was denied five times during that 5-year period. Florida was denied four times, including for damage from Hurricane Ike. And unfortunately, as I mentioned, in

my home State of Illinois, the communities of Harrisburg and Ridgway were denied.

This is the damage I saw when I went down to Harrisburg, IL, after a recent tornado. This was a shopping mall, but it was virtually collapsed by winds of 175 miles-per-hour intensity. That is the second highest intensity of recorded winds in a tornado. This property damage, of course, is just a minor part of what actually happened. The major part was the loss of life. Seven people were killed as a result of the tornado damage.

I grew up in the Midwest. I have seen tornadoes all my life. I lived waiting to hear the air raid sirens and head toward the basement. But I never saw anything quite as devastating as what I saw in Harrisburg. And then when I went over to Ridgway, IL, about 25 miles away, I saw that the local Catholic church, which had been standing for I think a century, collapsed when the winds hit it.

It was clear to me and to the Governor and many others as we toured the site that this was going to be a Federal disaster area.

That 175 mile-an-hour wind literally lifted homes off of their slab foundations and tossed them on top of other homes. In one neighborhood in Harrisburg, I happened to see some people leaving in a truck, and I stopped them and they said that the lady in the front seat actually lived in one of the houses that had been destroyed. She pointed it out to me. She got up early enough so that she heard the air raid siren and had the good sense to hit the floor in the bathroom right before the tornado hit her home. Of course, after it hit, and another home collapsed on top of it, the ceiling of her bathroom collapsed on her, but there was enough room for her to survive. They started hearing shortly thereafter the rescuers coming in. She made it with a few scratches and bruises. Just across the street, in one of the homes that was tossed was a 22-year-old local nurse who died as a result.

There were great efforts by first responders, terrific humanitarian gestures. The local coal miners a few miles away, when they heard about the disaster, in full gear, came out of the coal mines and rushed into Harrisburg to pull people out of their homes after they had collapsed.

We went ahead and made our application for Federal disaster aid in Harrisburg, IL, and we were denied. In the President's home State, we were denied. We thought, something is wrong here. We thought, with all of this damage from a tornado of this intensity, it must be wrong. So Governor Quinn sat down with local and State officials and redrafted our application for Federal assistance. It was sent to Washington, and it was denied a second time. I was stunned by it. I couldn't believe it, after having seen it, that this happened.

We went to FEMA and said, What did we miss here? People died, over 100

homes were destroyed, and it ripped its way through Harrisburg and into Ridgway, IL. What was missing here? Well, they said, we have to do a calculation under the law, and one of the elements in the calculation is the population of your State. Well, this is how it turned out. The damage that happened in southern Illinois, if it had happened across the river in Indiana or in Kentucky or in Missouri, would have been a Federal disaster. But because we have about 12 million people, we weren't declared a Federal disaster. What is the thinking behind that? If you are from a big State, you must have a lot of resources to take care of your own problems. Not so. Unfortunately, the State budget of Illinois is virtually bankrupt.

So we decided it was time to put a bill in that took into consideration a lot of factors and did not allow this disqualification for a large State. The bill Senator MARK KIRK and I are introducing today assigns a value to each of the six factors that are to be considered in a disaster declaration analysis. When it comes to individual assistance, help for people to rebuild their homes and pay for temporary housing, we use the same consistent factors no matter where the disaster strikes. The population of the State is worth 5 percent of the consideration. The consideration of the concentration of damages is worth 20 percent; the amount of trauma to the disaster area, 20 percent; the number of special populations such as the elderly or unemployed, 20 percent of the analysis; the amount of voluntary assistance in the area, 10 percent; and the amount of insurance coverage for the type of damage incurred, 20 percent.

Our bill also adds a seventh consideration to FEMA's metrics: the economics of the area. It turns out that southern Illinois is hard-pressed. There are a lot of unemployed people, a struggling economy. So we take a look at the local tax base, the median income as it compares to that of the State, and the poverty rate in the area that has been hard hit. It is reasonable that FEMA should take into consideration the size of a State; I don't argue with that, but it shouldn't loom large and disqualify situations which clearly deserve to be considered Federal disasters. Assigning values to the factors will ensure that damage to a specific community weighs more than just the State's population.

After the tornadoes hit Harrisburg and Ridgway, the head of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency, Jonathon Monken, worked with locals and people from the FEMA regional office to determine if the State could apply for public assistance—money to help local Mayor Gregg in Harrisburg and others pay for overtime accrued by all the people working around the clock to help the community dig out of the destruction. What Director Monken and others discovered was that it would have been a waste of the State's

time and resources to even consider applying for it. We didn't meet FEMA's threshold.

Currently, FEMA multiplies the number of people in a State by \$1.35 to determine the threshold of the amount of damage a State would have to incur to qualify for public assistance. In Illinois, that figure is \$17 million. Well, Harrisburg, Ridgway, and the surrounding communities had about \$5.5 million in public assistance damage. That is a lot of loss for rural areas and small towns, but not enough to qualify for Federal assistance.

So we put together in this bill a standard for public assistance—money that would go to local units of government. Per capita consideration, 10 percent; localized impact of the disaster, 40 percent; the estimated cost of assistance needed, 10 percent; insurance coverage, 10 percent; the number of recent multiple disasters, 10 percent; and an analysis of other Federal assistance in the area, 10 percent. The bill would also add a seventh consideration just as it did under individual assistance, and that is the economic circumstances of the affected area. I mentioned earlier the elements that were brought into consideration there. I think this is a more honest and realistic approach.

Today, in order to introduce this bill, I am talking about a disaster which visited our State a few weeks ago. Tomorrow it could be the State of one of my colleagues. My colleagues could find out that a devastating natural disaster does not qualify for Federal disaster assistance simply because of the population of their State. I don't think that is a fair metric to use. I think our approach is fairer.

I commend this bill to my colleagues. As I say in closing, over this last few months it was Illinois. Tomorrow, it may be a colleague's State. Please take the time and look at this approach. I think it is fair to taxpayers. It is certainly fair to families across America.

Those of us who have been in the Senate and the Congress for a while have stepped up time and again when our colleagues were affected by a natural disaster. I hope my colleagues will take the time to consider this legislation from Senator KIRK and myself.

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

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

S. 2303

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 "Fairness in Federal Disaster Declarations Act of 2012".

SEC. 2. REGULATORY ACTION REQUIRED.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (in this Act referred to as the "Administrator" and "FEMA", respectively) shall amend the rules of the Ad-

ministrator under section 206.48 of title 44, Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act, in accordance with the provisions of this Act.

(b) NEW CRITERIA REQUIRED.—The amended rules issued under subsection (a) shall provide for the following:

(1) PUBLIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.—Such rules shall provide that, with respect to the evaluation of the need for public assistance—

(A) specific weighted valuations shall be assigned to each criterion, as follows—

- (i) estimated cost of the assistance, 10 percent;
- (ii) localized impacts, 40 percent;
- (iii) insurance coverage in force, 10 percent;
- (iv) hazard mitigation, 10 percent;
- (v) recent multiple disasters, 10 percent;
- (vi) programs of other Federal assistance, 10 percent; and
- (vii) economic circumstances described in subparagraph (B), 10 percent; and

(B) FEMA shall consider the economic circumstances of—

(i) the local economy of the affected area, including factors such as the local assessable tax base and local sales tax, the median income as it compares to that of the State, and the poverty rate as it compares to that of the State; and

(ii) the economy of the State, including factors such as the unemployment rate of the State, as compared to the national unemployment rate.

(2) INDIVIDUAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.—Such rules shall provide that, with respect to the evaluation of the severity, magnitude, and impact of the disaster and the evaluation of the need for assistance to individuals—

(A) specific weighted valuations shall be assigned to each criterion, as follows—

- (i) concentration of damages, 20 percent;
- (ii) trauma, 20 percent;
- (iii) special populations, 20 percent;
- (iv) voluntary agency assistance, 10 percent;
- (v) insurance, 20 percent;
- (vi) average amount of individual assistance by State, 5 percent; and
- (vii) economic considerations described in subparagraph (B), 5 percent; and

(B) FEMA shall consider the economic circumstances of the affected area, including factors such as the local assessable tax base and local sales tax, the median income as it compares to that of the State, and the poverty rate as it compares to that of the State.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts, Mr. AKAKA, and Mr. CARPER):

S. 2316. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to direct the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to modernize the integrated public alert and warning system of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, today, I rise to introduce the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System, IPAWS, Modernization Act of 2012. I am pleased to be joined by Senators LIEBERMAN, SCOTT BROWN, AKAKA, and CARPER in introducing this bill. It will ensure that more people receive life-saving information in more parts of America, more of the time, through current and future technologies.

Effective communication with the public before, during, and after a dis-

aster is vitally important and can literally mean the difference between life and death. Since the 1950's, the U.S. Government has had a system in place to ensure that citizens can be warned in times of crisis. This system can also be used for local authorities to warn citizens of impending severe weather or other hazards to public safety.

Most people know the Emergency Alert System, EAS, as the crawling text on their television screens, and although this system remains the backbone of our national alerting capability, times have changed, and so must the way we communicate with the public during times of crisis.

This bill will strengthen the IPAWS system and ensure that as many Americans as possible receive these alerts in a timely and useful manner. The bill ensures that the integrated public alert and warning system incorporates multiple communications technologies, including new technologies such as smart phones and social networking sites;

The bill is designed to adapt to and incorporate future technologies;

The bill is designed to provide alerts to the largest portion of the affected population, including remote areas;

The bill promotes local and regional public and private partnerships; and

The bill provides redundant alert mechanisms in order to reach the greatest number of people possible.

The bill also requires the FEMA Administrator to ensure the inclusion of those with disabilities in the alert and warning system; ensure that the system is included in future exercises conducted through DHS's National Exercise Program, including the annual National Level Exercises; and requires FEMA to coordinate with DHS's National Terrorism Advisory System office. The bill provides for periodic nationwide tests of the system, and establishes a training program to instruct federal, state, tribal and local government officials in system use.

The bill also establishes an IPAWS Advisory Committee composed of federal, State and local representatives, as well as members who represent relevant industry groups and a consumer/privacy advocate. The committee would meet at least once a year and issue a yearly report on improvements to IPAWS. The bill also states that the administrator may not transmit a message from the President that does not relate to a natural disaster, act of terrorism, other man-made disaster, or other hazard to public safety.

This bill has been endorsed by the National Emergency Management Association, NEMA, the National Association of Broadcasters, NAB, the National Federation of the Blind, and the Hearing Loss Association of America. Additionally, we have received a letter of support from the CEOs of all 50 State broadcast trade associations.

I look forward to working with all of my colleagues to pass this bill and have it signed into law.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that letters of support be printed in the RECORD.

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

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
BROADCASTERS,
Washington, DC, April 16, 2012.

Hon. SUSAN COLLINS, Ranking Member,
Committee on Homeland Security and Govern-
mental Affairs, Dirksen Senate Office Build-
ing, Washington, DC.

DEAR RANKING MEMBER COLLINS: I write in support of your bill, the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) Modernization Act of 2012, which will modernize the public alert and warning system of the United States to ensure that the president, under all conditions, can effectively alert and warn citizens during times of disaster. America's broadcasters strongly support this legislation.

Broadcasters serve our local communities during emergencies by providing life-saving information, important news and weather reports. We have proudly worked with local and federal governments for more than six decades, airing alerts issued by the Emergency Alert System (EAS), and continue to do so today. Working hand in hand with law enforcement, broadcasters have helped to successfully recover more than 540 abducted children to date through the use of AMBER Alerts.

The IPAWS Modernization Act of 2012 is an important step towards expanding the nation's public warning system by integrating multiple communications systems and future technologies. This legislation promotes local and regional public and private partnerships and provides redundant alert mechanisms to reach the largest number of people during an emergency.

Additionally, this legislation establishes a training program to instruct federal, state, tribal and local government officials in system use. Broadcasters are very supportive of such a training program and view this as a critical component to successful alerting. Strengthening coordination among the different levels of government, the legislation will set up an IPAWS Modernization Select Advisory Committee composed of federal, state and local representatives as well as members from various industry groups. We look forward to participating in this Advisory Committee and continuing our partnership with the federal government.

Sincerely,

GORDON H. SMITH,
President and CEO.

HEARING LOSS ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICA,
Bethesda, MD, April 12, 2012.

Hon. SUSAN COLLINS,
U.S. Senate, Dirksen Senate Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR COLLINS: The Hearing Loss Association of America is pleased to endorse the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System Modernization Act of 2012. We applaud your efforts to update the integrated public alert and warning system, and are particularly pleased to see that this legislation would require specific steps to ensure individuals with disabilities are not forgotten.

One of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) core responsibilities is to keep Americans informed about threats to public safety, and yet the current public alert and warning system is not always accessible to people with hearing loss. In fact, the November 9, 2011 testing of EAS proved to be problematic: some cable stations did not provide the needed text to properly inform people with hearing loss that it was only a test; some did not provide the needed

audible alerts; others did not provide the emergency alert at all.

The Integrated Public Alert and Warning System Modernization Act of 2012 updates the system to incorporate multiple communication technologies and adapt to emerging technology, and it requires the system to reach people with hearing loss and other disabled people. The bill also ensures that organizations representing people with hearing loss will sit on an advisory committee that will make recommendations on modernization of the system, keeping people with hearing loss engaged with Federal agencies during this process.

By requiring the system to incorporate new technologies but still reaching people with hearing loss and other people with disabilities, FEMA will be supporting technology that is accessible to all. The modernization will also ensure that people with hearing loss are provided with the same critical information at the same time as the rest of the country, allowing everyone to make independent, educated decisions during emergencies. On behalf of Americans with hearing loss, we thank you again for taking the initiative in this matter and sponsoring this important legislation.

Sincerely,

BRENDA BATTAT,
Executive Director.

NATIONAL EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION,
Washington, DC, March 7, 2012.

Hon. SUSAN COLLINS,
Ranking Member, Homeland Security and Govern-
mental Affairs Committee, U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR COLLINS: On behalf of the National Emergency Management Association (NEMA) representing the emergency management director of all 50 states, Territories, and the District of Columbia, we are pleased to endorse The Integrated Public Alert and Warning System Modernization Act of 2012.

The Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) was designed to bring together different and emerging communication technologies into a fully coordinated network so comprehensive communication may occur in the event of an emergency or disaster. Created by a 2006 Executive order, IPAWS represents a step forward from outdated systems which relied on radio and television alone to reach the population at-large when there is an incident.

Since the 2006 Executive Order, IPAWS has languished without a true direction, appropriate authorization, or codified organization. Your legislation brings about all these needed aspects to the program that we have supported in recent years. In 2008, NEMA unanimously approved a position paper regarding IPAWS. One aspect of the program in which we felt needed improvement was greater coordination with state and local governments. Since last year, outreach to state officials has certainly improved, but we believe your recommendation of the IPAWS Advisory Committee will help bring about even more coordination with the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Alert systems represent critical components of local and state emergency operations plans, so it remains essential the IPAWS system is integrated, coordinated, and comprehensive. We must remain careful, however, that these components do not come at the expense of already stressed state budgets.

We greatly appreciate your leadership on this issue and look forward to working together with you, Chairman Lieberman, and the rest of the committee to ensure passage of this bill. Please feel free to utilize our

membership as a resource as The Integrated Public Alert and Warning System Modernization Act of 2012 moves through the legislative process. You may also call upon our Director of Government Relations, Matt Cowles any time.

Sincerely,

JIM MULLEN,
NEMA President, Di-
rector, Washington
Military Department
Division of Emer-
gency Management.

NATIONAL FEDERATION
OF THE BLIND,
Baltimore, MD, April 18, 2012.

Hon. SUSAN COLLINS,
U.S. Senate, Dirksen Senate Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR COLLINS: The National Federation of the Blind (NFB), the nation's largest and oldest organization of blind people, endorses the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System Modernization Act of 2012. We thank you for sponsoring a bill that updates the integrated public alert and warning system to require inclusion of individuals with disabilities, and we encourage the U.S. Senate to pass this legislation promptly.

One of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) core responsibilities is to keep Americans informed about threats to public safety, and yet many aspects of the current public alert and warning system are not accessible to blind people. This inaccessibility is perpetuated by misconceptions about blindness and the ever-growing popularity of inaccessible digital technology. As a result, blind people are regularly denied access to critical public information. The Integrated Public Alert and Warning System Modernization Act of 2012 updates the system to incorporate multiple communication technologies and adapt to emerging technology, and it requires the system to reach blind and other disabled people. The bill also ensures that a representative from a blindness advocacy group will sit on an advisory committee that will make recommendations on the modernization, keeping the blind engaged with Federal agencies during this process.

By requiring the system to incorporate new technologies but still reach blind and other disabled people, FEMA will be encouraging manufacturers and carriers to make their communication technologies accessible by nonvisual means. The modernization will also ensure that blind people are provided with the same critical information at the same time as the rest of the country, allowing blind people to make independent, educated decisions during emergencies. On behalf of blind Americans, we thank you again for taking the initiative in this matter and sponsoring this legislation.

Sincerely,

JOHN G. PARÉ, Jr.,
Executive Director for Strategic Initiatives.

NATIONAL ALLIANCE OF STATE
BROADCASTERS ASSOCIATIONS,
April 16, 2012.

Hon. SUSAN M. COLLINS,
U.S. Senator,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR COLLINS: The undersigned, who are the chief executive officers of the named State Broadcasters Associations, are pleased to offer our support and endorsement for your proposed bill authorizing the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS).

If passed, this bill will ensure that more people receive life saving information in more parts of America, more of the time,

through current and future alert and warning technologies, while strengthening broadcasters' role as the backbone of America's public alerting system.

Many of us serve as chairs or members of our respective State Emergency Communications Committees, which are charged with managing the Emergency Alert System (EAS) in our states. We have all worked tirelessly over the years to ensure that a robust, reliable alerting system is available when it is needed.

We have observed over the years that the system needs a higher level of coordination among the various federal, state and local public safety and emergency management agencies as "message originators," on the one hand, and the broadcast, cable and satellite "message relayers" on the other hand; and that the absence of any formal, on-going training of state and local public safety and emergency management personnel on the use of EAS has hampered state and local officials' willingness and ability to use it efficiently in times of emergency, thus putting lives and property at risk.

Your bill will address these problems and will make giant strides toward improvement of alert and warning capability in our states and across our nation. We look forward to working with you toward successful passage of this important measure.

Very truly yours,

The Undersigned CEOs of the Fifty State Broadcast Trade Associations.

Alabama Broadcasters Association, Sharon Tinsley; Alaska Broadcasters Association, Darlene Simon; Arizona Broadcasters Association, Art Brooks; Arkansas Broadcasters Association, Doug Krile; California Broadcasters Association, Stan Statham; Colorado Broadcasters Association, Byron Grandy; Connecticut Broadcasters Association, Mike Rice; Florida Association of Broadcasters, Pat Roberts; Georgia Association of Broadcasters, Jere Pigue; Hawaii Association of Broadcasters, Jamie Hartnett; Idaho State Broadcasters Association, Connie Searles; Illinois Broadcasters Association, Dennis Lyle; Indiana Broadcasters Association, Linda Compton; Iowa Broadcasters Association, Sue Toma; Kansas Association of Broadcasters, Kent Cornish; Kentucky Broadcasters Association, Gary White; Louisiana Association of Broadcasters, Lou Munson; Maine Association of Broadcasters, Suzanne Goucher; Maryland/D.C./Delaware (MDCD) Broadcasters Association, Lisa Reynolds; Massachusetts Broadcasters Association, Jordan Walton; Michigan Association of Broadcasters, Karole L. White; Minnesota Broadcasters Association, Jim du Bois; Mississippi Association of Broadcasters, Jackie Lett; Missouri Broadcasters Association, Donald Hicks; Montana Broadcasters Association, Greg MacDonald; Nebraska Broadcasters Association, Marty Riemenschneider; Nevada Broadcasters Association, Robert Fisher; New Hampshire Association of Broadcasters, Jordan Walton; New Jersey Broadcasters Association, Paul Rotella; New Mexico Broadcasters Association, Paula Maes; New York State Broadcasters Association, David Donovan; North Carolina Association of Broadcasters, Wade Hargrove, Esq.; North Dakota Broadcasters Association, Beth Helfrich; Ohio Association of Broadcasters, Chris Merritt; Oklahoma Association of Broadcasters, Vance Harrison; Oregon Association of Broadcasters, Bill Johnstone; Pennsylvania Association of Broadcasters, Rich Wyckoff; Radio Broadcasters Association of Puerto Rico, Jose A. Ribas Dominici; Rhode Island Broadcasters Association, Lori Needham; South Carolina Broadcasters Association, Shani White; South Dakota Broadcasters Association, Steve Willard; Tennessee Association of

Broadcasters, Whit Adamson; Texas Association of Broadcasters, Ann Arnold; Utah Broadcasters Association, Dale Zabriskie; Vermont Association of Broadcasters, Jim Condon; Virginia Association of Broadcasters, Doug Easter; Washington State Association of Broadcasters, Mark Allen; West Virginia Broadcasters Association, Michele Crist; Wisconsin Broadcasters Association, Michelle Vetterkind; Wyoming Association of Broadcasters, Laura Grott.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 427—TO PREVENT THE CREATION OF DUPLICATIVE AND OVERLAPPING FEDERAL PROGRAMS

Mr. COBURN (for himself and Mr. UDALL of Colorado) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. RES. 427

Resolved,
SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This resolution may be cited as the "Preventing Duplicative and Overlapping Government Programs Resolution".

SEC. 2. REPORTED LEGISLATION.

Paragraph 11 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (c), by striking "and (b)" and inserting "(b), and (c)";

(2) by redesignating subparagraph (c) and subparagraph (d); and

(3) by inserting after subparagraph (b) the following:

"(c) The report accompanying each bill or joint resolution of a public character reported by any committee (including the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on the Budget) shall contain—

"(1) an analysis by the Congressional Research Service to determine if the bill or joint resolution creates any new Federal program, office, or initiative that would duplicate or overlap any existing Federal program, office, or initiative with similar mission, purpose, goals, or activities along with a listing of all of the overlapping or duplicative Federal program or programs, office or offices, or initiative or initiatives; and

"(2) an explanation provided by the committee as to why the creation of each new program, office, or initiative is necessary if a similar program or programs, office or offices, or initiative or initiatives already exist.".

SEC. 3. CONSIDERATION OF LEGISLATION.

Rule XVII of the Standing Rules of the Senate is amended by inserting at the end thereof the following:

"6. (a) It shall not be in order in the Senate to proceed to any bill or joint resolution unless the committee of jurisdiction has prepared and posted on the committee website an overlapping and duplicative programs analysis and explanation for the bill or joint resolution as described in subparagraph (b) prior to proceeding.

"(b) The analysis and explanation required by this subparagraph shall contain—

"(1) an analysis by the Congressional Research Service to determine if the bill or joint resolution creates any new Federal program, office, or initiative that would duplicate or overlap any existing Federal program, office, or initiative with similar mission, purpose, goals, or activities along with a listing of all of the overlapping or duplicative Federal program or programs, office or offices, or initiative or initiatives; and

"(2) an explanation provided by the committee as to why the creation of each new program, office, or initiative is necessary if a similar program or programs, office or offices, or initiative or initiatives already exist.

"(c) This paragraph may be waived by joint agreement of the Majority Leader and the Minority Leader of the Senate upon their certification that such waiver is necessary as a result of—

"(1) a significant disruption to Senate facilities or to the availability of the Internet; or

"(2) an emergency as determined by the leaders.".

SENATE RESOLUTION 428—CONDEMNING THE GOVERNMENT OF SYRIA FOR CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. GRAHAM, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. KIRK, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COATS, Mr. MCCAIN, and Mr. CARDIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 428

Whereas, on December 22, 2010, the Senate passed S. Con. Res. 71 (111th Congress), a bipartisan resolution recognizing that it is in the national interest of the United States to prevent and mitigate acts of genocide and other mass atrocities against civilians;

Whereas, since the uprisings in Syria began in January 2011, the Government of Syria has manifestly failed in its responsibility to protect its people;

Whereas, on August 4, 2011, President Barack Obama issued Presidential Study Directive/PSD-10, stating, "Preventing mass atrocities and genocide is a core national security interest and a core moral responsibility of the United States.";

Whereas, on November 23, 2011, the United Nations-appointed Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic expressed grave concern that "crimes against humanity of murder, torture, rape or other forms of sexual violence of comparable gravity, imprisonment or other severe deprivation of liberty, enforced disappearances of persons and other inhumane acts of a similar character have occurred in different locations in Syria since March 2011" and that "the Syrian Arab Republic bears responsibility for these crimes and violations";

Whereas, on February 3, 2012, Syria security forces began using indiscriminate sniper fire and shelling of the densely populated neighborhoods of Homs with heavy weaponry;

Whereas, on February 4, 2012, President Obama stated that President Assad "has no right to lead Syria and has lost all legitimacy with his people and the international community";

Whereas, on February 4, 2012, the United States co-sponsored a draft United Nations Security Council resolution condemning "the continued widespread and gross violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms by the Syrian authorities such as the use of force against civilians, arbitrary executions, killing and persecution of protestors and members of the media, arbitrary detention, enforced disappearances, interference with access to medical treatment, torture, sexual violence, and ill-treatment, including against children";

Whereas, on February 17, 2012, the Senate passed S. Res. 379 (112th Congress), stating