

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

that the “gross human rights violations perpetuated by the Government of Syria against the people of Syria represent a grave risk to regional peace and stability”;

Whereas, on February 22, 2012, the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic found in a subsequent report that “[a] reliable body of evidence exists that, consistent with other verified circumstances, provides reasonable grounds to believe that particular individuals, including commanding officers and officials at the highest levels of Government, bear responsibility for crimes against humanity and other gross human rights violations” and that “children continue to be arbitrarily arrested and tortured while in detention”;

Whereas, on February 28, 2012, the United Nations Security Council was informed that over 7500 people in Syria have been killed, an estimated 100 more are killed each day in attacks directed against the civilian population, and there are between 100,000 and 200,000 internally displaced persons in Syria;

Whereas, on February 28, 2012, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton testified before the Subcommittee on the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate concerning President Assad, stating that “based on the definitions of war criminal and crimes against humanity, there would be an argument to be made that he would fit into that category”;

Whereas, on March 1, 2012, Assistant Secretary of State for Near East Affairs Jeffrey Feltman testified before the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate that “large numbers of Syrians are living every day under siege, deprived of basic necessities including food, clean water and medical supplies, and women and children are wounded and dying for lack of treatment”;

Whereas, on March 8, 2012 Ambassador Susan Rice, the United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations, stated that the United States “remain[s] determined to hasten the day when the brave people of Syria can shake off the yoke of bondage and tyranny”;

Whereas, on March 27, 2012, United States Ambassador to Syria Robert Ford, in testimony before the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission, cited massive human rights violations that, “may amount to crimes against humanity”;

Whereas, with the intent and knowledge of the highest level of the Government of Syria, including commanding officers of the Syria security forces and the President of the Syrian Arab Republic, Bashar Assad, members of the Syria security forces have reportedly committed a widespread and systematic pattern of gross human rights violations, including use of force against civilians, torture, extra judicial killings, arbitrary executions, sexual violence, the execution of defectors, and interference with medical treatment and other humanitarian assistance: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) condemns the Government of Syria, Syria security forces, and the President of the Syrian Arab Republic for widespread and systematic attacks against the civilian population of Syria;

(2) commends the President for the vote of the United States at the United Nations Security Council to condemn the continued widespread and gross violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms by the authorities in Syria;

(3) urges the President to use his authority to collect information on incidents in Syria that may constitute crimes against humanity under section 2113 of the ADVANCE Democracy Act of 2007 (title XXI of Public Law

110-53; 22 U.S.C. 8213) and take action to ensure that the Government of Syria, its leaders, and senior officials who are responsible for crimes against humanity are brought to account for such crimes in an appropriately constituted tribunal;

(4) urges the President to formally establish the Atrocities Prevention Board established by Presidential Study Directive-10 in August 2011, and for the Board to provide recommendations to the President concerning the prevention of mass atrocities in Syria;

(5) urges the international community, working with the people of Syria to review legal processes available to hold officials of the Government of Syria, Syria security forces, and the President of the Syrian Arab Republic accountable for crimes against humanity and gross violations of human rights; and

(6) expresses solidarity and support for the people of Syria as they seek to exercise universal rights and pursue peaceful democratic change.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I rise to submit a resolution condemning the Government of Syria for crimes against humanity. I am pleased to be joined by Senators GRAHAM, KLOBUCHAR, KIRK, CARDIN, COATS, COLLINS, and MCCAIN in submitting this resolution.

I am very proud we have strong bipartisan support and I thank, in particular, Senator GRAHAM for his leadership, along with Senator MCCAIN, who repeatedly and consistently in this area of human rights and liberties have stood for basic American principles of democracy and freedom. I had the great opportunity to visit a number of the Middle Eastern countries with them, and my strong support for this kind of resolution rises from the firsthand views we were able to have of the results of freedom fighters in Tunisia, Libya and Egypt and the impact on the future of their country and being on the right side of history, as the United States was there. Those people showed their gratitude and welcomed us to their countries.

I am grateful to Senators MCCAIN and GRAHAM for giving me that opportunity, along with Senators SESSIONS and HOEVEN, who accompanied us, for their leadership.

Syrian crimes against humanity include acts such as murder, torture and unlawful punishment and imprisonment when committed as part of a widespread or systematic attack on civilian populations.

Since peaceful protests began last year, the Syrian regime has brutalized and savaged its own people, leaving thousands dead as it commits horrific crimes against humanity, including the abduction and torture of children.

This resolution tells the Syrian people they are not alone, that the American people are with them as they fight for freedom and basic democratic rights; the people of the world are watching.

On November 23, 2011, the U.N.-appointed Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic expressed grave concern that “crimes against humanity of mur-

der, torture, rape or other forms of sexual violence . . . imprisonment or other severe deprivation of liberty, enforced disappearances of persons and other inhumane acts . . . have occurred in different locations in Syria since March 2011.”

The Commission also found that “the Syrian Arab Republic bears responsibility for these crimes and violations.”

Assistant Secretary of State for Near East Affairs Jeffrey Feltman testified before the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate that “large numbers of Syrians are living every day under siege, deprived of basic necessities including food, clean water and medical supplies, and women and children are wounded and dying for lack of treatment.”

General Mattis, commander of the U.S. Central Command, for whom I have the strongest and deepest respect, explained before the Senate Armed Services Committee “the Syrian military continues to ruthlessly use lethal force with impunity against the Syrian people.”

In this body, we have not remained silent in the face of this humanitarian disaster, approving on February 17, 2012, S. Res. 379, condemning violence by the Government of Syria against the Syrian people. We have also approved S. Res. 391, which I cosponsored, condemning violence by the Government of Syria against journalists and expressing the sense of the Senate on freedom of the press in Syria.

The world should be inspired by the continuing courage and determination of Syrian protesters standing and speaking, despite the Syrian military gunning down and bombing their homes, businesses, and neighborhoods.

I know our Nation is at war and rightly wary of intervention abroad. But military intervention is not our only option, not the only means to summon support or step forward in solidarity with the freedom fighters in Syria, nor is military intervention alone sufficient to call forth the world’s conscience. Even without military action, we need not abdicate the democratic rights and principles that underlie and underpin our own Nation’s constitutional ethos.

One powerful and profound step this body can take is to bear witness to the atrocities occurring in Syria. More than 9,000 people have died in Syria since these protests began. As Elie Wiesel has said, “For the dead and the living, we must bear witness.”

The Syrian thugs who detain and torture children must know the United States bears witness to their crimes. We should say to President Assad that the world is watching and witnessing as he uses snipers to target civilians, indiscriminately shelling homes and businesses, and torturing protesters who dare to speak of change.

This resolution calls on President Obama to bear witness by using his existing authority. America can and

must bear witness by taking and preserving evidence of actions and incidents in Syria that constitute crimes against humanity. America must bear witness by asking the President's newly created Atrocities Prevention Board to consider crimes against humanity occurring in Syria.

These atrocities epitomize the crimes this prevention board must address. I commend President Obama and Secretary of State Clinton for their work at the U.N. and with our allies to assist the Syrian people. We should make our own findings about what has occurred in Syria concerning the crimes against humanity. We cannot avoid this obligation simply because the result may present difficult choices.

As Martin Luther King would often remind us, "The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice."

If we bear witness today, justice will come closer for the Syrian people. President Assad and the Government of Syria, its leaders and senior officials who are responsible for crimes against humanity, will be brought to account and justice for their crimes.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution.

SENATE RESOLUTION 429—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF WORLD MALARIA DAY

Mr. WICKER (for himself, Mr. COONS, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BOOZMAN, and Mr. BINGAMAN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 429

Whereas April 25th of each year is recognized internationally as World Malaria Day;

Whereas malaria is a leading cause of death and disease in many developing countries, despite being completely preventable and treatable;

Whereas fighting malaria is in the national security interest of the United States Government, as reducing the risk of malaria protects members of the Armed Forces of the United States serving overseas in malaria endemic regions, and reducing malaria deaths helps to promote stability in less developed countries;

Whereas, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 35 countries, the majority of which are in sub-Saharan Africa, account for 98 percent of global malaria deaths;

Whereas young children and pregnant women are particularly vulnerable to and disproportionately affected by malaria;

Whereas malaria greatly affects child health, as children under the age of 5 account for an estimated 85 percent of malaria deaths each year;

Whereas malaria poses great risks to maternal health, causing complications during delivery, anemia, and low birth weights, with estimates that malaria infection causes 400,000 cases of severe maternal anemia and between 75,000 and 200,000 infant deaths annually in sub-Saharan Africa;

Whereas heightened national, regional, and international efforts to prevent and treat malaria over recent years have made meas-

urable progress and helped save hundreds of thousands of lives;

Whereas the World Malaria Report 2011 by the World Health Organization states that in 2011, approximately 50 percent of households in sub-Saharan Africa owned at least 1 insecticide-treated mosquito net (referred to in this preamble as an "ITN"), and household surveys indicated that 96 percent of people with access to an ITN within a household actually used the ITN;

Whereas, in 2010, a total of 185,000,000 people were protected by indoor residual spraying (referred to in this preamble as "IRS");

Whereas the World Malaria Report 2011 further states that malaria mortality rates have fallen by more than 25 percent globally, and 33 percent in Africa alone, since 2000;

Whereas the World Malaria Report 2011 further states that out of 99 countries with ongoing malaria transmissions, 43 countries recorded decreases of more than 50 percent in the number of malaria cases between 2000 and 2010, and 8 other countries recorded decreases of more than 25 percent;

Whereas continued national, regional, and international investment in efforts to eliminate malaria, including prevention and treatment efforts and the development of a vaccine to immunize children from the malaria parasite, is critical in order to continue to reduce malaria deaths, prevent backsliding in areas where progress has been made, and equip the United States and the global community with the tools necessary to fight malaria and other global health threats;

Whereas the United States Government has played a leading role in the recent progress made toward reducing the global burden of malaria, particularly through the President's Malaria Initiative (referred to in this preamble as "PMI") and the contribution of the United States to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria;

Whereas the United States Government is pursuing a comprehensive approach to ending malaria deaths through PMI, the United States Agency for International Development, the National Institutes of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Department of Defense, and the private sector focused on helping partner countries to achieve major improvements in overall health outcomes through advances in access to, and the quality of, healthcare services in resource-poor settings; and

Whereas PMI, recognizing the burden of malaria on many partner countries, has set a target of reducing the burden of malaria by 50 percent for 450,000,000 people, representing 70 percent of the at-risk population in Africa, by 2015: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of World Malaria Day, including the target of ending malaria deaths by 2015;

(2) recognizes the importance of reducing malaria prevalence and deaths to improve overall child and maternal health, especially in sub-Saharan Africa;

(3) commends the recent progress made toward reducing global malaria deaths and prevalence, particularly through the efforts of the President's Malaria Initiative and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria;

(4) strongly supports ongoing public-private partnerships to research and develop more effective and affordable tools for malaria diagnosis, treatment, and vaccination;

(5) recognizes the goals to combat malaria in the Tom Lantos and Henry J. Hyde United States Global Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Reauthorization Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-293; 122 Stat. 2918);

(6) supports continued leadership by the United States in bilateral, multilateral, and private sector efforts to combat malaria as a critical part of the President's Global Health Initiative; and

(7) encourages other members of the international community to sustain and scale up their support for and financial contributions to efforts worldwide to combat malaria.

SENATE RESOLUTION 430—RECOGNIZING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF DUCKS UNLIMITED, INCORPORATED, THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE ORGANIZATION IN HABITAT CONSERVATION, AND THE SUPPORT OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR THE WATERFOWLING HERITAGE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. WICKER (for himself, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. INHOFE, and Mr. TESTER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 430

Whereas Ducks Unlimited, Incorporated (referred to in this preamble as "Ducks Unlimited") was founded in 1937, when the drought-plagued waterfowl populations of North America plunged to unprecedented lows;

Whereas, after decades of commitment to conserving waterfowl habitats, Ducks Unlimited has become the largest private organization for waterfowl and wetlands conservation worldwide and one of the most effective private organizations dedicated to that cause;

Whereas, since the founding of Ducks Unlimited, the organization has conserved and protected more than 4,500,000 acres of waterfowl habitat in the United States and more than 12,600,000 acres of waterfowl habitat in North America;

Whereas Ducks Unlimited has nearly 750,000 members internationally, including 550,000 members in the United States;

Whereas, since the founding of Ducks Unlimited, the organization has raised more than \$3,400,000,000 for waterfowl conservation and education, leveraging public support to obtain more than half of its contributions from private sources;

Whereas Ducks Unlimited provides support to local projects that are important to waterfowlers in each State of the United States; and

Whereas Ducks Unlimited maintains the vital mission of conserving, restoring, and managing wetlands and associated habitats for the waterfowl of North America, a mission that also benefits other wildlife and people: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate recognizes the important contributions of Ducks Unlimited, Incorporated and its members across the United States to the conservation of habitats and the preservation of the waterfowl of North America during the past 75 years.

SENATE RESOLUTION 431—CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1962 SEATTLE WORLD'S FAIR

Ms. CANTWELL submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 431

Whereas, on April 21, 2012, the City of Seattle will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the 1962 Seattle World's Fair (referred to in