

Whereas the League of Arab States deployed a team of international monitors to Syria on December 26, 2011;

Whereas, on January 28, 2012, the League of Arab States suspended its monitoring mission in Syria in response to an escalation in violence;

Whereas, on March 16, 2012, United Nations and League of Arab States Special Envoy Kofi Annan presented a six-point peace plan for Syria that called on the Government of Syria to, among other things: commit to stop the fighting and urgently achieve a United Nations-supervised cessation of violence; work with the Envoy in an inclusive Syrian-led political process; cease military activity in and around civilian population centers; ensure timely provision of humanitarian assistance; release arbitrarily detained persons; ensure freedom of movement for journalists; and respect the freedom of association and the right to demonstrate peacefully;

Whereas, on March 21, 2012, the United Nations Security Council unanimously adopted a Presidential Statement giving full support to the efforts of Joint Special Envoy Annan and calling on the Government of Syria and the opposition in Syria to work in good faith to fully and immediately implement Mr. Annan's six point proposal;

Whereas, on April 1, 2012, the group Friends of the Syrian People met in Istanbul and announced measures to increase the pressure on the Assad regime, provide greater humanitarian relief to people in need, and support the Syrian opposition as it works toward an inclusive democratic transition.

Whereas, as of April 1, 2012, the United States Government had pledged \$25,000,000 in humanitarian assistance, as well as non-lethal communications equipment, to activists inside Syria;

Whereas, on April 5, 2012, the United Nations Security Council adopted a Presidential Statement calling on the Government of Syria to implement urgently and visibly its commitments to Mr. Annan, including ceasing armed violence within 48 hours;

Whereas, on April 14, 2012, the United Nations Security Council adopted Resolution 2042, which authorized the deployment of an advance team of United Nations military observers to monitor adherence to a ceasefire in the country;

Whereas the Governments of Turkey, Jordan, Lebanon, and Iraq have provided refuge for tens of thousands of people displaced by the violence in Syria; and

Whereas the Governments of the Russian Federation and the Islamic Republic of Iran continue to supply military equipment to the Government of Syria notwithstanding that government's violent repression of demonstrators:

Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's ongoing slaughter of his own people; (2) reaffirms that it is the policy of the United States that the legitimate aspirations of the Syrian people cannot be realized so long as Bashar al-Assad remains in power and that he must step aside;

(3) recognizes the efforts of the United Nations and the League of Arab States to establish a ceasefire in Syria and to deploy international personnel to observe adherence by the Government of Syria to Special Envoy Kofi Annan's six-point peace plan to bring an end to violence and human rights violations and as a first step toward a full democratic transition in Syria;

(4) urges robust support for the United Nations-administered Emergency Response Fund to ensure the sustained provision of humanitarian and emergency medical sup-

port for the population of Syria affected by the conflict;

(5) urges the continued provision of adequate humanitarian assistance to displaced Syrians currently located in Turkey, Jordan, Lebanon, and Iraq;

(6) calls on the President to engage with the League of Arab States, the European Union, and the Government of the Republic of Turkey to explore options to protect civilians in Syria;

(7) demands that the Government of Syria allow additional United Nations personnel into the country, with complete freedom of movement, and take necessary measures to ensure their safety in Syria so that they may observe the ceasefire and the adherence by the Government of Syria to the United Nations six-point peace plan;

(8) urges the Syrian opposition to renew its commitment to a democratic and inclusive society in the post-Assad era based on the rule of law, commitment to universal human rights for all of its people, and protections for religious and ethnic minorities;

(9) calls upon the League of Arab States, the United Nations, the Friends of the Syrian People, and other interested international bodies to continue to exert maximum diplomatic pressure for Assad to step aside and for a political transition in Syria;

(10) urges the Friends of the Syrian People to renew efforts to incentivize the enhanced cohesion of democratically oriented organizations in Syria, and to encourage these groups to make clear their intention to represent and protect the interests of all Syrians;

(11) calls upon the President to continue to provide support, including communications equipment to organizations in Syria that are representative of the people of Syria, make demonstrable efforts to protect human rights and religious freedom, reject terrorism, cooperate with international counterterrorism and nonproliferation efforts, and abstain from destabilizing neighboring countries;

(12) urges the President to develop a plan to identify weapons stockpiles and prevent the proliferation of conventional, biological, chemical, and other types of weapons in Syria; and

(13) strongly condemns the Governments of the Russian Federation and the Islamic Republic of Iran for providing military and security equipment to the Government of Syria, which has been used to repress peaceful demonstrations and commit mass atrocities against unarmed civilian populations in Syria.

SENATE RESOLUTION 436—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF APRIL 22 THROUGH 28, 2012, AS THE "WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD"

Mr. BEGICH submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 436

Whereas there are 20,000,000 children under the age of 5 in the United States;

Whereas numerous studies show that high-quality early childhood education programs improve the likelihood that children will have success in school and in life by improving their cognitive, social, emotional, and physical development;

Whereas many children eligible for, and in need of, high-quality child care, Early Head Start, Head Start, and other early childhood education programs are not served by such programs;

Whereas child care assistance and other early childhood education programs enable

parents to work, go to school, and support their families;

Whereas the individuals who work with young children deserve the respect of the people of the United States, professional support, and fair compensation to reflect the important value of their work;

Whereas economist and Nobel Laureate James Heckman has stated that investment in childhood education reaps economic returns due to outcomes such as lower special education placements, lower juvenile delinquency rates, and greater school graduation rates; and

Whereas the National Association for the Education of Young Children established the "Week of the Young Child" to bring attention to the developmental and learning needs of young children: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of April 22 through 28, 2012, as the "Week of the Young Child";

(2) encourages the people of the United States to celebrate—

(A) young children and families; and

(B) the individuals who provide high-quality care and early childhood education to the young children of the United States; and

(3) urges the people of the United States to recognize the importance of—

(A) high-quality, comprehensive early childhood education programs; and

(B) the value of those programs for preparing children to—

(i) experience positive development and education; and

(ii) enjoy lifelong success.

Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, today I rise to submit a resolution to recognize the Week of the Young Child.

My resolution recognizes April 22 to 28 as the Week of the Young Child. This week in Alaska, and in States and communities across the Nation, we celebrate and bring greater awareness to the importance of the early years of children's lives.

The Week of the Young Child officially began in 1971 as an annual observance and public education effort of the National Association for the Education of Young Children, the Nation's oldest and recognized leader in early childhood education for children from birth through age 8, to reach out to families and communities and to emphasize the crucial role adults play in giving children the foundation they need to succeed in school and beyond.

This week focuses attention on the importance of children's early years. Early childhood educators, librarians, United Ways, and other organizations provide a range of activities to highlight how each of us can help children and families thrive. This is a national issue as well as local issue. Federal policy and funding is a significant component of early childhood education in this country, from Early Head Start and Head Start to the Child Care and Development Block Grant as well as Title I and even higher education financial aid and teacher support programs for the early childhood education workforce. Yet our investments remain inadequate, especially when you consider the work of noted economists such as James Heckman on the return on investment to our Nation's economy. Today, not quite half of the poorest preschoolers in our country

can enroll in Head Start and only 3 percent of the babies and toddlers who could benefit from Early Head Start can attend because of inadequate resources. Child care assistance reaches only one in seven eligible children, making it harder for families to have stable jobs and for children to have safe and nurturing places to grow and learn. The committed individuals who work in child care earn woefully inadequate salaries, often without health care or retirement support.

I hope all of my colleagues will find out more about the activities celebrating the Week of the Young Child in their States and can show their support for families and the professionals who work with young children every day.

SENATE RESOLUTION 437—CONGRATULATING THE BOSTON COLLEGE MEN'S ICE HOCKEY TEAM ON WINNING ITS FIFTH NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION DIVISION I MEN'S HOCKEY CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr. KERRY (for himself and Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 437

Whereas, on April 7, 2012, Boston College won the 2012 National Collegiate Athletic Association (referred to in this preamble as the "NCAA") Division I Men's Hockey Championship;

Whereas the 2012 NCAA Division I Men's Hockey Championship is the fifth national championship for the Boston College Eagles men's ice hockey team;

Whereas the 2012 NCAA Division I Men's Hockey Championship is the third national championship in the last 5 years for Boston College and its head coach, Jerry York;

Whereas Jerry York has the most wins of any active coach in NCAA Division I Men's Hockey;

Whereas Father William P. Leahy, S.J., the President of Boston College, and Gene DeFilippo, the Athletic Director of Boston College, have shown great leadership in bringing athletic success to Boston College;

Whereas the semifinal games and final game of the NCAA Division I Men's Hockey Tournament are known as the "Frozen Four";

Whereas junior goaltender Parker Milner was named the Most Outstanding Player of the Frozen Four after allowing only 2 goals during the entire NCAA Division I Men's Hockey Tournament;

Whereas Boston College finished the 2011–2012 men's hockey season on a 19-game winning streak, which is a single-season team record;

Whereas, on February 13, 2012, Boston College won its third consecutive Beanpot Championship, defeating Boston University in sudden death overtime by a score of 3 to 2;

Whereas, on March 17, 2012, Boston College won its third consecutive Hockey East Championship, defeating the University of Maine by a score of 4 to 1;

Whereas, on April 5, 2012, Boston College defeated the University of Minnesota in a Frozen Four semifinal game by a score of 6 to 1 to advance to the national championship game; and

Whereas Boston College won the Frozen Four championship game with a victory over

Ferris State University by a score of 4 to 1: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the achievements of the players, coaches, students, and staff whose hard work and dedication helped Boston College win the 2012 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I Men's Hockey Championship; and

(2) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to—

(A) Father William P. Leahy, S.J., the President of Boston College;

(B) Gene DeFilippo, the Athletic Director of Boston College; and

(C) Jerry York, the head coach of the Boston College men's ice hockey team.

SENATE RESOLUTION 438—TO SUPPORT THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL SAFE DIGGING MONTH

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

S. RES. 438

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

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

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

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

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

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

Whereas "One Call" has helped reduce the number of digging damages caused by failure to call before digging from 48 percent in 2004 to 32 percent in 2010;

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

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

Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

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

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

SENATE RESOLUTION 439—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT VILLAGE VOICE MEDIA HOLDINGS, LLC SHOULD ELIMINATE THE "ADULT ENTERTAINMENT" SECTION OF THE CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING WEBSITE BACKPAGE.COM

Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. KIRK, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. RUBIO, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 439

Whereas, according to the Department of Justice, there was a 59 percent increase in identified victims of human trafficking worldwide between 2009 and 2010;

Whereas, according to the Department of Health and Human Services, human trafficking is the fastest-growing criminal enterprise in the world;

Whereas experts estimate that up to 300,000 children are at risk of sexual exploitation each year in the United States;

Whereas experts estimate that the average female victim of sex trafficking is forced into prostitution for the first time between the ages of 12 and 14, and the average male victim of sex trafficking is forced into prostitution for the first time between the ages of 11 and 13;

Whereas the Bureau of Justice Statistics found that 40 percent of incidents investigated by federally-funded task forces on human trafficking between 2008 and 2010 involved prostitution of a child or the sexual exploitation of a child;

Whereas, according to the classified advertising consultant Advanced Interactive Media Group (referred to in this preamble as "AIM Group"), Backpage.com is the leading United States website for prostitution advertising;

Whereas Backpage.com is owned by Village Voice Media Holdings, LLC (referred to in this preamble as "Village Voice Media");

Whereas the National Association of Attorneys General tracked more than 50 cases in which charges were filed against persons who were trafficking or attempting to traffic minors on Backpage.com;

Whereas Myrelle and Tyrelle Locket—

(1) in February 2011 were each sentenced to 4 years in prison on charges of trafficking of persons for forced labor or services for operating an Illinois sex trafficking ring that included minors; and

(2) used Backpage.com to facilitate the prostitution;

Whereas Arthur James Chappell—

(1) in March 2011 was sentenced to 28 years in prison on charges of sex trafficking of a minor for running a prostitution ring with at least 1 juvenile victim in Minnesota; and

(2) used Backpage.com to facilitate the prostitution;

Whereas Brandon Quincy Thompson—

(1) in April 2011 was sentenced to life imprisonment on charges of sex trafficking a child by force for running a South Dakota prostitution ring that involved multiple underage girls; and

(2) used Backpage.com to facilitate the prostitution;

Whereas Clint Eugene Wilson—

(1) in May 2011 was sentenced to 20 years in prison on charges of sex trafficking of a minor by force, fraud, or coercion for forcing a 16-year-old Dallas girl into prostitution, threatening to assault her, and forcing her to get a tattoo that branded her as his property; and

(2) used Backpage.com to facilitate the prostitution;