

transparency and encourage hospitals to meet certain quality metrics. The Graduate Medical Education Reform Act offers one promising avenue to do so. Under this bill, if a teaching hospital produces quality residents as measured by certain consensus-based metrics, it can get up to a 3 percent increase in indirect medical education funding. Conversely, a hospital that fails to meet the metrics can be penalized by up to 3 percent.

This is one common-sense approach that maintains overall current funding levels while encouraging quality teaching programs. I urge my colleagues to join Senator REED and me in supporting this measure.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mr. BURR, Mr. NELSON, of Florida, and Mr. RUBIO):

S. 3202. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to ensure that deceased veterans with no known next of kin can receive a dignified burial, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, today, as Chairman of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I am proud to introduce the Dignified Burial of Veterans Act of 2012 with Senator BURR, Ranking Member of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and my Senate colleagues from the state of Florida, Senators NELSON and RUBIO.

When America's heroes make a commitment to serve their country, we make a promise to care for them. One of the many ways in which we care for our veterans is by helping to provide them with a burial that honors their service.

That is why I was concerned when I learned that a veteran at a VA National Cemetery had an inappropriate burial. This veteran, with no known next-of-kin, was buried in a cardboard container that later disintegrated to the point where the veteran's remains were exposed and found during a raise and realign project at the cemetery. The veteran's remains were later placed in a bag and reburied with what was left of the cardboard box. This defies logic.

There is no reason why the remains of a veteran should ever be treated with this lack of dignity.

Yet, under current law, VA is not authorized to purchase a casket or urn for veterans who do not have a next-of-kin to provide one, or the resources to be buried in an appropriate manner.

We must take steps to prevent this from occurring again. That is why this bill would authorize VA to furnish a casket or urn to a deceased veteran when VA is unable to identify the veteran's next-of-kin and determines that sufficient resources are not otherwise available to furnish a casket or urn for burial in a national cemetery. This bill would further require that VA report back to Congress on the industry standard for urns and caskets and whether burials at VA's national cemeteries are meeting that standard.

I think we can all agree that every veteran deserves a dignified burial. Today, I am pleased to stand with my bipartisan colleagues to introduce a bill that would ensure that they receive one.

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

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

S. 3202

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 "Dignified Burial of Veterans Act of 2012".

SEC. 2. FURNISHING CASKETS AND URNS FOR DECEASED VETERANS WITH NO KNOWN NEXT OF KIN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2306 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (f) and (g) as subsections (g) and (h), respectively;

(2) by inserting after subsection (e) the following new subsection (f):

"(f) The Secretary may furnish a casket or urn, of such quality as the Secretary considers appropriate for a dignified burial, for burial in a national cemetery of a deceased veteran in any case in which the Secretary—

"(1) is unable to identify the veteran's next of kin, if any; and

"(2) determines that sufficient resources for the furnishing of a casket or urn for the burial of the veteran in a national cemetery are not otherwise available."; and

(3) in subsection (h), as redesignated by paragraph (1), by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(4) A casket or urn may not be furnished under subsection (f) for burial of a person described in section 2411(b) of this title."

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Subsections (f) and (h)(4) of section 2306 of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act and shall apply with respect to deaths occurring on or after such date.

SEC. 3. REPORT ON COMPLIANCE OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS WITH INDUSTRY STANDARDS FOR CASKETS AND URNS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on the compliance of the Department of Veterans Affairs with industry standards for caskets and urns.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report required by subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) A description of industry standards for caskets and urns.

(2) An assessment of compliance with such standards at National Cemeteries administered by the Department with respect to caskets and urns used for the interment of those eligible for burial at such cemeteries.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 466—CALLING FOR THE RELEASE FROM PRISON OF FORMER PRIME MINISTER OF UKRAINE YULIA TYMOSHENKO

Mr. INHOFE submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 466

Whereas Ukraine has experienced encouraging growth and reforms since it declared its independence from the former Soviet Union in 1991 and adopted its first constitution in 1996;

Whereas the 1996 constitution provided basic freedoms like the freedom of speech, assembly, religion, and press, but was ultimately too weak to contain the existing corruption-laced political culture inherited from its communist past;

Whereas, as a result of the electoral fraud by which Mr. Yanukovich was declared the winner, the citizens of the Ukraine organized a series of protests, strikes, and sit-ins, which came to be known as "The Orange Revolution";

Whereas the Orange Revolution, in concert with United States and international pressure, forced the Supreme Court of Ukraine to require an unprecedented second run-off election, which resulted in opposition leader Mr. Yushchenko defeating Mr. Yanukovich by a margin of 52 percent to 44 percent;

Whereas, in the 2010 presidential election, incumbent Yushchenko won only 5.5 percent in the first round of voting, which left former Prime Minister Yanukovich and then Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko to face one another in the run-off election;

Whereas, Mr. Yanukovich defeated Ms. Tymoshenko by a margin of 49 percent to 44 percent;

Whereas, shortly after the 2010 inauguration of Mr. Yanukovich, the Ukrainian Constitutional Court found most of the 2004 Orange Revolution inspired constitutional reforms unconstitutional;

Whereas, in 2010, President Yanukovich appointed Viktor Pshonka Prosecutor General, equivalent to the United States Attorney General;

Whereas, since Mr. Pshonka's appointment, more than a dozen political leaders associated with the 2004 Orange Revolution have faced criminal charges under the Abuse of Office and Exceeding Official Powers articles of the Ukrainian Criminal Code;

Whereas, in 2011, Prosecutor General Pshonka brought charges under these Abuse of Office articles against former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko over her decision while in office to conclude a natural gas contract between Ukraine and Russia;

Whereas, on October 11, 2011, Tymoshenko was found guilty and sentenced to seven years in prison, fined \$189,000,000, and banned from holding public office for three years;

Whereas, recognizing the judicial abuses present in Ukraine, the Parliamentary Assembly Council of Europe (PACE) passed Resolution 1862 on January 26, 2012;

Whereas Resolution 1862 declared that the Abuse of Office and Exceeding Official Powers articles under which Tymoshenko was convicted are "overly broad in application and effectively allow for ex post facto criminalization of normal political decision making";

Whereas, since Ms. Tymoshenko's imprisonment, the Prosecutor General's Office has reopened additional cases against her that were previously closed and thought to be sealed under a ten year statute of limitations;

Whereas, on October 28, 2011, the Ukrainian Deputy Prosecutor General alleged in a television interview that Ms. Tymoshenko was involved in contract killings, tax evasion, bribery, and embezzlement;

Whereas, at the time of the Deputy Prosecutor's public allegations, no formal charges were filed, thereby violating Ms. Tymoshenko's right to "presumed innocence" guaranteed by Article 6(2) of the European Convention on Human Rights;

Whereas, since August 5, 2011, Ms. Tymoshenko has languished in a prison cell in Ukraine with limited outside contact and access to needed medical treatment;

Whereas the denial of proper medical assistance has left Ms. Tymoshenko in a failing state of health;

Whereas international calls for Ms. Tymoshenko's release, access to outside visitors, and adequate medical treatment have been ignored even as her health continues to deteriorate;

Whereas, on April 28, 2012, major international news organizations, including the British Broadcast Corporation and Reuters, reported on and produced photos of bruises received by Ms. Tymoshenko during an apparent beating by prison guards on April 20, 2012;

Whereas, in response to her inhumane treatment, Ms. Tymoshenko began a hunger strike on April 20, 2012;

Whereas, amid international outrage, the European Union has delayed indefinitely the signing of a free trade agreement with Ukraine, and the member countries of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe currently are deliberating whether to allow Ukraine to assume the chairmanship of the organization, which has been scheduled for 2013; and

Whereas, under international pressure, Ms. Tymoshenko was moved to a hospital in Kharkiv on May 9, 2012, prompting her to end her hunger strike: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns the administration of President Viktor Yanukovich for the politically motivated imprisonment of former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko;

(2) calls on the Yanukovich administration to release Ms. Tymoshenko immediately for medical reasons;

(3) urges the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe not to recognize Ukraine's scheduled 2013 chairmanship of the Organization until the release of Ms. Tymoshenko;

(4) urges the Department of State to withdraw the United States Ambassador to the Ukraine and suspend operations at the United States Embassy in Kiev until the release of Ms. Tymoshenko;

(5) calls on the Department of State to institute a visa ban against President Yanukovich, Prosecutor General Viktor Pshonka, and other officials responsible for Ms. Tymoshenko's imprisonment; and

(6) calls on the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to suspend all cooperative agreements with Ukraine and place Ukraine on indefinite probation with regard to its Distinctive Partnership with the Organization until the release of Ms. Tymoshenko.

SENATE RESOLUTION 467—DESIGNATING MAY 18, 2012, AS “ENDANGERED SPECIES DAY”

Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. KERRY, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. REED of Rhode Island, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. SNOWE, and Mrs. BOXER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 467

Whereas nearly 2,000 species worldwide are listed as threatened or endangered, and many more face a heightened risk of extinction;

Whereas the actual and potential benefits that may be derived from many species have

not yet been fully discovered and would be permanently lost if not for conservation efforts;

Whereas recovery efforts for species such as the bald eagle, the whooping crane, the gray whale, the American alligator, the peregrine falcon, the Louisiana black bear, and others have resulted in great improvements in the viability of those species;

Whereas saving a species requires a combination of sound research, careful coordination, and intensive management of conservation efforts, along with increased public awareness and education;

Whereas voluntary cooperative conservation programs have proven to be critical to habitat restoration and species recovery; and

Whereas education and increasing public awareness are the first steps in effectively informing the public about endangered species and species restoration efforts: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates May 18, 2012, as “Endangered Species Day”;

(2) encourages schools to spend at least 30 minutes on Endangered Species Day teaching and informing students about—

(A) threats to endangered species around the world; and

(B) efforts to restore endangered species, including the essential role of private landowners and private stewardship in the protection and recovery of species;

(3) encourages organizations, businesses, private landowners, and agencies with a shared interest in conserving endangered species to collaborate in developing educational information for use in schools; and

(4) encourages the people of the United States—

(A) to become educated about, and aware of, threats to species, success stories in species recovery, and opportunities to promote species conservation worldwide; and

(B) to observe Endangered Species Day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2107. Mr. McCAIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3187, to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to revise and extend the user-fee programs for prescription drugs and medical devices, to establish user-fee programs for generic drugs and biosimilars, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2108. Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. LEAHY, and Ms. CANTWELL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 3187, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2109. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3187, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2110. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3187, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2111. Mr. BINGAMAN (for himself, Mr. VITTER, Mr. FRANKEN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. KOHL, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. SANDERS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3187, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2112. Mr. REID (for Mrs. BOXER (for herself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN)) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 4849, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to issue commercial use authorizations to commercial stock op-

erators for operations in designated wilderness within the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, and for other purposes.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2107. Mr. McCAIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3187, to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to revise and extend the user-fee programs for prescription drugs and medical devices, to establish user-fee programs for generic drugs and biosimilars, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title XI, add the following:

SEC. 11. SAFE AND AFFORDABLE DRUGS FROM CANADA.

Chapter VIII of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 381 et seq.), as amended by this Act, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 810. IMPORTATION BY INDIVIDUALS OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS FROM CANADA.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall promulgate regulations permitting individuals to safely import into the United States a prescription drug (other than a controlled substance, as defined in section 102 of the Controlled Substances Act) that—

“(1) is purchased from an approved Canadian pharmacy;

“(2) is dispensed by a pharmacist licensed to practice pharmacy and dispense prescription drugs in Canada;

“(3) is purchased for personal use by the individual, not for resale, in quantities that do not exceed a 90-day supply;

“(4) is filled using a valid prescription issued by a physician licensed to practice in the United States; and

“(5) has the same active ingredient or ingredients, route of administration, dosage form, and strength as a prescription drug approved by the Secretary under chapter V.

“(b) APPROVED CANADIAN PHARMACY.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In this section, an approved Canadian pharmacy is a pharmacy that—

“(A) is located in Canada; and

“(B) that the Secretary certifies—

“(i) is licensed to operate and dispense prescription drugs to individuals in Canada; and

“(ii) meets the criteria under subsection (c).

“(2) PUBLICATION OF APPROVED CANADIAN PHARMACIES.—The Secretary shall publish on the Internet Web site of the Food and Drug Administration a list of approved Canadian pharmacies, including the Internet Web site address of each such approved Canadian pharmacy, from which individuals may purchase prescription drugs in accordance with subsection (a).

“(c) ADDITIONAL CRITERIA.—To be an approved Canadian pharmacy, the Secretary shall certify that the pharmacy—

“(1) has been in existence for a period of at least 5 years preceding the date of enactment of this section and has a purpose other than to participate in the program established under this section;

“(2) operates in accordance with pharmacy standards set forth by the provincial pharmacy rules and regulations enacted in Canada;

“(3) has processes established by the pharmacy, or participates in another established process, to certify that the physical premises