

PN1643 ARMY nomination of Matthew W. Moffitt, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 14, 2012.

PN1644 ARMY nomination of Nathaniel V. Chittick, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 14, 2012.

PN1645 ARMY nomination of Lauri M. Zike, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 14, 2012.

PN1646 ARMY nomination of Timothy A. Crane, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 14, 2012.

PN1647 ARMY nomination of Ryan L. Jerke, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 14, 2012.

PN1648 ARMY nomination of Matthew R. Sun, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 14, 2012.

PN1649 ARMY nominations (3) beginning GREGORY P. CHANEY, and ending LAWRENCE E. SCHLOEGL, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 14, 2012.

PN1650 ARMY nominations (4) beginning AMY F. COOK, and ending PAUL S. TAMARIBUCHI, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 14, 2012.

PN1651 ARMY nominations (36) beginning MICHAEL I. ALLEN, and ending MATTHEW S. WYSOCKI, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 14, 2012.

FOREIGN SERVICE

PN1375 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (14) beginning Robert E. Drapcho, and ending Robert P. Schmidt, Jr., which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 13, 2012.

PN1407 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (235) beginning Kathryn E. Abate, and ending Timothy J. Riley, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 29, 2012.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

PN1334 MARINE CORPS nominations (362) beginning MARTIN L. ABREU, and ending ROBERT C. ZYLA, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 1, 2012.

IN THE NAVY

PN1304 NAVY nomination of John D. Wilshusen, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 31, 2012.

PN1339 NAVY nomination of Peter J. Oldmixon, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 1, 2012.

PN1421 NAVY nomination of Guillermo A. Navarro, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 29, 2012.

PN1446 NAVY nomination of Raymond J. Houk, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 12, 2012.

PN1474 NAVY nomination of Jason D. Weddle, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 19, 2012.

PN1549 NAVY nomination of Andrew J. Strickler, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 23, 2012.

PN1550 NAVY nomination of Andrew K. Ledford, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 23, 2012.

PN1551 NAVY nominations (14) beginning JOHN L. GRIMWOOD, and ending ROBYN M. TREADWELL, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 23, 2012.

PN1552 NAVY nominations (41) beginning DARIUS V. AHMADI, and ending SCOTT D. WOODS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 23, 2012.

PN1600 NAVY nomination of Matthew F. Phelps, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 10, 2012.

PN1626 NAVY nomination of Eric J. Skalski, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 10, 2012.

PN1627 NAVY nomination of Ted J. Steelman, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 10, 2012.

PN1628 NAVY nomination of David A. Moore, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 10, 2012.

PN1652 NAVY nomination of Steven J. Porter, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 14, 2012.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate resumes legislative session.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that on Monday, June 4, 2012 at 5 p.m., the Senate proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 613; that there be 30 minutes of debate equally divided in the usual form; that upon the use or yielding back of that time, the Senate proceed to vote, with no intervening action on the nomination; the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid on the table, with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order; that any further statements be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate then resume legislative session.

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

INTERNATIONAL PROTECTING GIRLS BY PREVENTING CHILD MARRIAGE ACT OF 2011

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to consideration of Calendar No. 412, S. 414.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 414) to protect girls in developing countries through the prevention of child marriage, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I rise today to urge that the Senate pass S. 414, the "Protecting Girls by Preventing Child Marriage Act." As the

Senate prepares to approve this bipartisan measure, we should take a moment to acknowledge and reflect upon the critical impact this legislation will have on the estimated 100 million girls in developing countries who are at risk of being married as children over the next decade.

The harmful practice of forced child marriage often exacerbates social, economic, and political instability in the developing world, and can prohibit smooth economic and political transition.

For example, Afghanistan's high female illiteracy rates and maternal mortality rates are among the most significant obstacles standing in the way of long-term progress and stability. Without ending child marriage, which remains one of the many underlying catalysts of these poor outcomes, the road ahead for women in Afghanistan will be all the more grueling. And women in Afghanistan are by no means alone in the struggle the discriminatory norms that perpetuate child marriage also prohibit full participation of women in the economic and political life in many other regions of the world.

According to the United Nations Children's Fund—UNICEF—an estimated 60,000,000 girls between the ages of 20 through 24 were married before they turned 18. The Population Council estimates that the number will increase by 100 million over the next decade if current trends continue. In addition to denying these tens of millions of women and girls their dignity, child marriage continues to endanger their health. Marriage at an early age puts girls at greater risk of dying as a result of childbirth. Pregnancy and childbirth complications are the leading cause of death for women 15 to 19 years old in most Third World countries.

Furthermore, women and girls are the world's greatest untapped resources. Studies conducted by the Food and Agricultural Organization—FAO—have confirmed that women are the main-stay of small scale agriculture, farm labor, and day-to-day family subsistence accounting for half of the world's food production.

However, child marriage continues to be a barrier to the improvement of society and the development of these young women. And, unfortunately, early marriages continue to pull girls out of school and prohibit them from gaining vital skills to engage in income generating activities, actively participate in efforts to shape their communities, and often block their ability to achieve food security.

I am heartened to see the United States Senate affirm the United States' commitment to promote the basic human rights of all individuals and through this small step improve the lives of millions of girls by passing this bill today.

Before closing, let me briefly commend my friend and colleague, Senator DURBIN of Illinois. He has been a leader on this topic for a number of years and

I have been privileged to work with him on this bill. Once the Senate completes action on this bill, I hope that the U.S. House will be able to quickly approve it and send it to the White House for signature by President Obama.

Mr. REID. I ask the bill be read a third time and the Senate proceed to a voice vote on passage of the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill (S. 414) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (S. 414) was passed, as follows:

S. 414

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 “International Protecting Girls by Preventing Child Marriage Act of 2011”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Child marriage, also known as “forced marriage” or “early marriage”, is a harmful traditional practice that deprives girls of their dignity and human rights.

(2) Child marriage as a traditional practice, as well as through coercion or force, is a violation of article 16 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which states, “Marriage shall be entered into only with the free and full consent of intending spouses”.

(3) According to the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), an estimated 60,000,000 girls in developing countries now ages 20 through 24 were married under the age of 18, and if present trends continue more than 100,000,000 more girls in developing countries will be married as children over the next decade, according to the Population Council.

(4) Between ½ and ¾ of all girls are married before the age of 18 in Niger, Chad, Mali, Bangladesh, Guinea, the Central African Republic, Mozambique, Burkina Faso, and Nepal, according to Demographic Health Survey data.

(5) Factors perpetuating child marriage include poverty, a lack of educational or employment opportunities for girls, parental concerns to ensure sexual relations within marriage, the dowry system, and the perceived lack of value of girls.

(6) Child marriage has negative effects on the health of girls, including significantly increased risk of maternal death and morbidity, infant mortality and morbidity, obstetric fistula, and sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS.

(7) According to the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), increasing the age at first birth for a woman will increase her chances of survival. Currently, pregnancy and childbirth complications are the leading cause of death for women 15 to 19 years old in developing countries.

(8) Most countries with high rates of child marriage have a legally established minimum age of marriage, yet child marriage persists due to strong traditional norms and the failure to enforce existing laws.

(9) Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has stated that child marriage is “a clear and unacceptable violation of human rights”,

and that “the Department of State categorically denounces all cases of child marriage as child abuse”.

(10) According to an International Center for Research on Women analysis of Demographic and Health Survey data, areas or regions in developing countries in which 40 percent or more of girls under the age of 18 are married are considered high-prevalence areas for child marriage.

(11) Investments in girls’ schooling, creating safe community spaces for girls, and programs for skills building for out-of-school girls are all effective and demonstrated strategies for preventing child marriage and creating a pathway to empower girls by addressing conditions of poverty, low status, and norms that contribute to child marriage.

SEC. 3. CHILD MARRIAGE DEFINED.

In this Act, the term “child marriage” means the marriage of a girl or boy, not yet the minimum age for marriage stipulated in law in the country in which the girl or boy is a resident or, where there is no such law, under the age of 18.

SEC. 4. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) child marriage is a violation of human rights, and the prevention and elimination of child marriage should be a foreign policy goal of the United States;

(2) the practice of child marriage undermines United States investments in foreign assistance to promote education and skills building for girls, reduce maternal and child mortality, reduce maternal illness, halt the transmission of HIV/AIDS, prevent gender-based violence, and reduce poverty; and

(3) expanding educational opportunities for girls, economic opportunities for women, and reducing maternal and child mortality are critical to achieving the Millennium Development Goals and the global health and development objectives of the United States, including efforts to prevent HIV/AIDS.

SEC. 5. STRATEGY TO PREVENT CHILD MARRIAGE IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

(a) ASSISTANCE AUTHORIZED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The President is authorized to provide assistance, including through multilateral, nongovernmental, and faith-based organizations, to prevent the incidence of child marriage in developing countries through the promotion of educational, health, economic, social, and legal empowerment of girls and women.

(2) PRIORITY.—In providing assistance authorized under paragraph (1), the President shall give priority to—

(A) areas or regions in developing countries in which 40 percent or more of girls under the age of 18 are married; and

(B) activities to—

(i) expand and replicate existing community-based programs that are successful in preventing the incidence of child marriage;

(ii) establish pilot projects to prevent child marriage; and

(iii) share evaluations of successful programs, program designs, experiences, and lessons.

(b) STRATEGY REQUIRED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The President shall establish a multi-year strategy to prevent child marriage and promote the empowerment of girls at risk of child marriage in developing countries, which should address the unique needs, vulnerabilities, and potential of girls under age 18 in developing countries.

(2) CONSULTATION.—In establishing the strategy required by paragraph (1), the President shall consult with Congress, relevant Federal departments and agencies, multilateral organizations, and representatives of civil society.

(3) ELEMENTS.—The strategy required by paragraph (1) shall—

(A) focus on areas in developing countries with high prevalence of child marriage;

(B) encompass diplomatic initiatives between the United States and governments of developing countries, with attention to human rights, legal reforms, and the rule of law;

(C) encompass programmatic initiatives in the areas of education, health, income generation, changing social norms, human rights, and democracy building; and

(D) be submitted to Congress not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than three years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President should submit to Congress a report that includes—

(1) a description of the implementation of the strategy required by subsection (b);

(2) examples of best practices or programs to prevent child marriage in developing countries that could be replicated; and

(3) an assessment, including data disaggregated by age and sex to the extent possible, of current United States funded efforts to specifically prevent child marriage in developing countries.

(d) COORDINATION.—Assistance authorized under subsection (a) shall be integrated with existing United States development programs.

(e) ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED.—Assistance authorized under subsection (a) may be made available for activities in the areas of education, health, income generation, agriculture development, legal rights, democracy building, and human rights, including—

(1) support for community-based activities that encourage community members to address beliefs or practices that promote child marriage and to educate parents, community leaders, religious leaders, and adolescents of the health risks associated with child marriage and the benefits for adolescents, especially girls, of access to education, health care, livelihood skills, microfinance, and savings programs;

(2) support for activities to educate girls in primary and secondary school at the appropriate age and keeping them in age-appropriate grade levels through adolescence;

(3) support for activities to reduce education fees and enhance safe and supportive conditions in primary and secondary schools to meet the needs of girls, including—

(A) access to water and suitable hygiene facilities, including separate lavatories and latrines for girls;

(B) assignment of female teachers;

(C) safe routes to and from school; and

(D) eliminating sexual harassment and other forms of violence and coercion;

(4) support for activities that allow adolescent girls to access health care services and proper nutrition, which is essential to both their school performance and their economic productivity;

(5) assistance to train adolescent girls and their parents in financial literacy and access economic opportunities, including livelihood skills, savings, microfinance, and small-enterprise development;

(6) support for education, including through community and faith-based organizations and youth programs, that helps remove gender stereotypes and the bias against girls used to justify child marriage, especially efforts targeted at men and boys, promotes zero tolerance for violence, and promotes gender equality, which in turn help to increase the perceived value of girls;

(7) assistance to create peer support and female mentoring networks and safe social spaces specifically for girls; and

(8) support for local advocacy work to provide legal literacy programs at the community level to ensure that governments and

law enforcement officials are meeting their obligations to prevent child and forced marriage.

SEC. 6. RESEARCH AND DATA.

It is the sense of Congress that the President and all relevant agencies should, as part of their ongoing research and data collection activities—

(1) collect and make available data on the incidence of child marriage in countries that receive foreign or development assistance from the United States where the practice of child marriage is prevalent; and

(2) collect and make available data on the impact of the incidence of child marriage and the age at marriage on progress in meeting key development goals.

SEC. 7. DEPARTMENT OF STATE'S COUNTRY REPORTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICES.

The Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 is amended—

(1) in section 116 (22 U.S.C. 2151n), by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(g) The report required by subsection (d) shall include, for each country in which child marriage is prevalent, a description of the status of the practice of child marriage in such country. In this subsection, the term ‘child marriage’ means the marriage of a girl or boy, not yet the minimum age for marriage stipulated in law or under the age of 18 if no such law exists, in the country in which such girl or boy is a resident.”; and

(2) in section 502B (22 U.S.C. 2304), by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(j) The report required by subsection (b) shall include, for each country in which child marriage is prevalent, a description of the status of the practice of child marriage in such country. In this subsection, the term ‘child marriage’ means the marriage of a girl or boy, not yet the minimum age for marriage stipulated in law or under the age of 18 if no such law exists, in the country in which such girl or boy is a resident.”.

Mr. REID. I now ask the motion to reconsider be laid on the table, there be no intervening action or debate, and any statements related to this measure be printed in the RECORD as if read.

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

AUTHORIZING THE ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL TO ESTABLISH BATTERY RECHARGING STATIONS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 44, S. 739.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 739) to authorize the Architect of the Capitol to establish battery recharging stations for privately owned vehicles in parking areas under the jurisdiction of the Senate at no net cost to the Federal Government.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to the bill.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I am very pleased that the Senate today is passing legislation that would allow the Senate to continue its leadership of our country toward a clean-energy future. This bill provides the authority for the Architect of the Capitol to provide for charging of batteries for privately owned vehicles in parking areas under

the jurisdiction of the Senate and, of great importance, at no cost to the Federal Government.

Plug-in hybrid and electric vehicles offer great potential in meeting our goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and auto manufacturers are moving toward developing a broad choice of electric-drive vehicles. Batteries and components are now being manufactured in the U.S., and we are developing the supply chain necessary to support these home-grown technologies. But in addition to making the vehicles and components available, we also need to take steps to ensure the infrastructure exists to make these vehicles desirable and accessible to consumers. Increased use of plug-in hybrid and electric vehicles will bring changes in how we think about cars and driving. Instead of looking for gas stations, drivers will need to have places where they can replenish the batteries that power their vehicles.

This bill will ensure that the Senate leads by example as we transition to that cleaner-energy future. It will ensure that the capability to charge plug-in hybrid and electric vehicles will exist in the Senate—at no cost to the taxpayer. I am a proud owner of a Chevrolet Volt, but I also want to ensure that the taxpayers do not subsidize the cost of my or anyone else's use of electricity to power these vehicles.

I appreciate the efforts and support of the cosponsors of this bill—Senators ALEXANDER, SCHUMER, KERRY, MURKOWSKI, BINGAMAN, STABENOW, and MERKLEY—and the great assistance of the staffs of Senators SCHUMER and ALEXANDER on the Rules Committee in getting this bill passed. It has been our explicit intention to ensure there would be no cost to the taxpayer in providing access to electricity for those wishing to charge their vehicle batteries in the parking areas of the Senate, but I am pleased that we were able to include language to clarify any questions in that regard.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss S. 739, a bill which authorizes the Architect of the Capitol, AOC, at no cost to the Federal government, to create and install electric vehicle recharging stations in Senate parking facilities.

This bill likely would have never seen the light of day if it were not for the perseverance and hard work of my good friend Senator LEVIN. He worked tirelessly to make this bill a reality, and I am so proud to stand with him. This bill was drafted with bipartisan support. Senator ALEXANDER and I join Senators KERRY, MURKOWSKI, BINGAMAN, MERKLEY and STABENOW in supporting this bill sponsored by Senator LEVIN.

It bears repeating: This bill creates a program that will not cost the Federal government one dime. S. 739 funds the installation and maintenance of the charging stations by billing the individuals who use the plug-in stations. S.

739 works on a simple premise: the more people who drive electric cars on campus, the more plug-in stations the AOC will install. S. 739 insures that the demand for plug-in stations will match the number of dues paying participants who fund the program.

This bill is needed as more and more people decide to buy electric cars. Currently, the Architect does not have the authority to install plug-in stations on the Capitol campus. This bill fixes that problem in a smart, cost effective manner.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a Levin amendment be agreed to, the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and any statements related to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

The amendment (No. 2155) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To improve oversight over the program and ensure no subsidy is received by Senators and employees)

On page 4, strike lines 14 through 19, and insert the following:

(e) REPORTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the end of each fiscal year, the Architect of the Capitol shall submit a report on the financial administration and cost recovery of activities under this section with respect to that fiscal year to the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate.

(2) AVOIDING SUBSIDY.—

(A) DETERMINATION.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act and every 3 years thereafter, the Architect of the Capitol shall submit a report to the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate determining whether Senators and covered employees using battery charging stations as authorized by this Act are receiving a subsidy from the taxpayers.

(B) MODIFICATION OF RATES AND FEES.—If a determination is made under subparagraph (A) that a subsidy is being received, the Architect of the Capitol shall submit a plan to the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate on how to update the program to ensure no subsidy is being received. If the committee does not act on the plan within 60 days, the Architect of the Capitol shall take appropriate steps to increase rates or fees to ensure reimbursement for the cost of the program consistent with an appropriate schedule for amortization, to be charged to those using the charging stations.

The bill (S. 739), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 739

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. BATTERY RECHARGING STATIONS FOR PRIVATELY OWNED VEHICLES IN PARKING AREAS UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE SENATE AT NO NET COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

(a) DEFINITION.—In this Act, the term “covered employee” means—

(1) an employee whose pay is disbursed by the Secretary of the Senate; or

(2) any other individual who is authorized to park in any parking area under the jurisdiction of the Senate on Capitol Grounds.