

months at a time, all of which have forced the Idaho federal court to increasingly rely on out-of-state federal district judges as shown by the 96 percent increase in visiting judge hours in 2008; and

Whereas, the United States District Court for Idaho is recognized within the federal judicial system, by Idaho's lawyers and by the citizens of Idaho as an exemplary court comprised of judges and staff making enormous efforts and sacrifices to meet the demands of its caseload and doing so in a highly competent fashion; and

Whereas, notwithstanding the extraordinary and laudable efforts of the United States District Court for the District of Idaho to meet the demands of its caseload, the resources available to it are inadequate, and the resulting situation has created an unsustainable burden on the court, delayed justice, hindered the rights of the people of Idaho, and hindered the economy of our state; and

Whereas, the people of Idaho have needed a third federal district judge for a very long time and in 2002 Senate Joint Memorial 110 was adopted by the Second Regular Session of the 56th Idaho Legislature urging the Congress of the United States to authorize an additional United States District Court Judge and the staff necessary to assist in the handling of the District of Idaho's increasing caseload, but, to date, Congress has failed to act; and

Whereas, a properly resourced and properly functioning judiciary is a fundamental and core governmental function essential to the preservation of the people's rights and their freedom: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the members of the Second Regular Session of the Sixty-first Idaho Legislature, the House of Representatives and the Senate concurring therein, That we hereby respectfully urge the Congress of the United States to authorize an additional United States District Court Judge and commensurate staff for the District of Idaho to assist in handling current and anticipated caseloads in the District of Idaho; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives be, and she is hereby authorized and directed to forward a copy of this Memorial to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of Congress, and the congressional delegation representing the State of Idaho in the Congress of the United States.

POM-100. A resolution adopted by the California State Lands Commission opposing H.R. 1837, the Sacramento-San Joaquin Valley Water Reliability Act; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

POM-101. A petition by the Governor's Commission on Disability and Employment in Maine urging Congress to introduce and support passage of the Social Security draft bill—Social Security Work Incentive Amendments of 2012; to the Committee on Finance.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. LEVIN, from the Committee on Armed Services, without amendment:

S. 3254. An original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2013 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 112-173).

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. LEVIN:

S. 3254. An original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2013 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; from the Committee on Armed Services; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. LEVIN:

S. 3255. A bill for the relief of Miguel Santillan; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HELLER:

S. 3256. A bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to improve nonretaliation provisions relating to equal pay requirements; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. COBURN (for himself, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, and Mr. BURR):

S. 3257. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to prohibit the use of public funds for political party conventions, and to provide for the return of previously distributed funds for deficit reduction; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mrs. McCASKILL:

S. 3258. A bill to amend the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 to clarify the maximum distance between Farm Service Agency county offices for purposes of the closure or relocation of a county office for the Farm Service Agency; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. PAUL:

S. 3259. A bill for the relief of Dr. Shakeel Afridi; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. PAUL:

S. 3260. A bill to provide that no United States assistance may be provided to Pakistan until Dr. Shakil Afridi is freed; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Mr. BINGAMAN):

S. 3261. A bill to allow the Chief of the Forest Service to award certain contracts for large air tankers; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. LIEBERMAN (for himself, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. KYL, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. WEBB):

S. Res. 476. A resolution honoring the contributions of the late Fang Lizhi to the people of China and the cause of freedom; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. COBURN (for himself, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, and Mr. BURR):

S. 3257. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to prohibit the use of public funds for political party conventions, and to provide for the return of previously distributed funds for deficit reduction; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

Mr. COBURN. Mr. President, members of Congress are debating fewer bills, casting fewer votes, and holding fewer hearings. Meanwhile, important government agencies including the Department of Defense and the Government Accountability Office are being targeted by Congress for spending reductions.

What Congress has not considered cutting is the budget for its own summertime parties.

On June 4, 2012, I introduced bipartisan legislation to eliminate taxpayer subsidies for political party conventions in the elections occurring after December 31, 2012. Additionally, the bill would allow Presidential Election Campaign Fund, PEF, funds dispersed before December 31, 2012, to be returned to the U.S. Treasury for the purpose of deficit reduction.

Despite our \$15.6 trillion national debt, political parties received a \$36.6 million check, \$18.3 million per party, from taxpayers to pay for the costs of political conventions occurring this summer. The funds that are used to cover the conventions come from the PEF.

According to the Congressional Research Service, "Federal law places relatively few restrictions on how PEF convention funds are spent, as long as purchases are lawful and are used to defray expenses incurred with respect to a presidential nominating convention." The money is, after all, essentially being used to throw a party.

Beside funding the event itself, the money is used to pay for entertainment, catering, transportation, hotel costs, "production of candidate biographical films," and a variety of other expenses. These events will be weeklong parties paid for by taxpayers, much like the highly maligned General Services Administration conference in Las Vegas.

The \$15.6 trillion debt cannot be eliminated over night. But eliminating taxpayer subsidies for political conventions will show strong leadership to getting our budget crisis in control.

I hope my colleagues on both sides of the aisle will support this common-sense legislation to demonstrate for once and all the party is over when it comes to travel and meetings paid for by the taxpayers.

I want to thank my colleagues for the opportunity to speak on the Senate floor today in support of this bill.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 476—HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE LATE FANG LIZHI TO THE PEOPLE OF CHINA AND THE CAUSE OF FREEDOM

Mr. LIEBERMAN (for himself, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. KYL, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. WEBB) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 476

Whereas the Chinese scientist and democracy advocate, Fang Lizhi, passed away at his home in Tucson, Arizona, on April 6, 2012;

Whereas Fang Lizhi was born in February 1936 in Beijing, China;

Whereas, in 1952, Fang Lizhi enrolled in the Physics Department of Peking University, where he met his future wife, Li Shuxian, and joined the Chinese Communist Party in 1955;

Whereas, in 1955, Fang Lizhi openly questioned the lack of independent thinking in China's education system and, in 1957, drafted a letter with Li Shuxian and other associates proposing political reform;

Whereas Fang Lizhi and Li Shuxian were sentenced to hard labor in 1957 and 1958, respectively, as victims of China's Anti-Rightist Campaign;

Whereas, during China's Cultural Revolution, Fang Lizhi and other faculty members and students of the University of Science and Technology of China were sentenced to "reeducation through labor" in a coal mine and a brick factory;

Whereas, after he was again freed from confinement, Fang Lizhi emerged as China's leading astrophysicist and wrote the first modern Chinese-language cosmological studies, although the theory of general relativity contradicted Communist dogma;

Whereas, when he was appointed as vice president of the University of Science and Technology of China in 1984, Fang Lizhi initiated a series of reforms intended to democratize the management of the university and enhance academic freedom;

Whereas, in the winter of 1986–1987, when Chinese students across China protested on behalf of democracy and human rights, the Government of China fired Fang Lizhi from his post at the University of Science and Technology of China and subsequently purged him from the Communist party;

Whereas when, in the wake of his purge, excerpts from Fang Lizhi's speeches were distributed by authorities in China as examples of "bourgeois liberalism," his writings became tremendously popular among Chinese students;

Whereas, in February 1989, Fang Lizhi published an essay entitled "China's Despair and China's Hope," in which he wrote, "The road to democracy has already been long and difficult, and is likely to remain difficult for many years to come.";

Whereas, in this essay, Fang Lizhi also wrote that "it is precisely because democracy is generated from below—despite the many frustrations and disappointments in our present situation—I still view our future with hope";

Whereas, in the spring and early summer of 1989, Chinese students gathered in Tiananmen Square to voice their support for democracy, as well as to protest corruption in the Chinese Communist Party;

Whereas Fang Lizhi chose not to join the protests at Tiananmen Square in order to demonstrate that the students were acting autonomously;

Whereas, from June 3 through 4, 1989, the Government of China directed the People's Liberation Army to clear Tiananmen Square of protestors, killing hundreds of students and other civilians in the process;

Whereas, the Government of China issued arrest warrants for Fang Lizhi and Li Shuxian after the Tiananmen Massacre, accusing the pair of engaging in "counter-revolutionary propaganda" and denouncing Fang as the "instigator of chaos which resulted in the deaths of many people";

Whereas, on June 5, 1989, Fang Lizhi and Li Shuxian were escorted by United States diplomats to the United States Embassy in Beijing;

Whereas, between June 1989 and June 1990, United States diplomatic personnel under the leadership of Ambassador James R. Lilley sheltered Fang Lizhi and Li Shuxian at the United States Embassy in Beijing, despite the many hardships it imposed on the mission;

Whereas, at a November 15, 1989, ceremony awarding Fang Lizhi the Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights Award, Senator Edward M. Kennedy said of Fang "What Andrei Sakharov was in Moscow, Fang Lizhi became in Beijing.";

Whereas, on June 25, 1990, Fang Lizhi and Li Shuxian were allowed to leave China for the United Kingdom and then the United States;

Whereas, in 1992, Fang Lizhi received an appointment as a professor of physics at the University of Arizona in Tucson, where he continued his research in astrophysics and advocating for human rights in China;

Whereas, in the years since June 4, 1989, a new generation of Chinese activists has continued the struggle for democracy in their homeland, working "from below" to protect the rights of Chinese citizens, to increase the openness of the Chinese political system, and to reduce corruption among public officials; and

Whereas, with the passing of Fang Lizhi, China and the United States have lost a great scientist and one of the most eloquent human rights advocates of the modern era: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) mourns the loss of Fang Lizhi;

(2) honors the life, scientific contributions, and service of Fang Lizhi to advance the cause of human freedom;

(3) offers the deepest condolences of the Senate to the family and friends of Fang Lizhi; and

(4) stands with the people of China as they strive to improve their way of life and create a government that is truly democratic and respectful of international norms in the area of human rights.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I would like to announce that the Committee on Indian Affairs will meet during the session of the Senate on June 7, 2012, in room SD-628 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, at 2:15 p.m., to conduct a hearing entitled "Universal Service Fund Reform: Ensuring a Sustainable and Connected Future for Native Communities."

Those wishing additional information may contact the Indian Affairs Committee at (202) 224-2251.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a hearing has been scheduled before the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. The hearing will be held on Thursday, June 14, 2012, at 9:30 a.m., in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The purpose of this hearing is to receive testimony on competitiveness and collaboration between the U.S. and China on clean energy.

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those

wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record should send it to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, 304 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510-6150, or by email to Meagan_Gins@energy.senate.gov.

For further information, please contact Jonathan Black at (202) 224-6722 or Meagan Gins at (202) 224-0883.

NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the HELP Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 462 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 462) recognizing National Foster Care Month as an opportunity to raise awareness about the challenges faced by children in the foster care system, acknowledging the dedication of foster care parents, advocates, and workers, and encouraging Congress to implement policy to improve the lives of children in the foster care system.

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

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Madam President, I further ask the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and any statements relating to the measure be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 462) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 462

Whereas National Foster Care Month was established more than 20 years ago to bring foster care issues to the forefront, highlight the importance of permanency for every child, and recognize the essential role that foster parents, social workers, and advocates have in the lives of children in foster care throughout the United States;

Whereas all children deserve a safe, loving, and permanent home;

Whereas the primary goal of the foster care system is to ensure the safety and well-being of children while working to provide a safe, loving, and permanent home for each child;

Whereas there are approximately 408,000 children living in foster care;

Whereas there were approximately 254,000 youth that entered the foster care system in 2010, while over 107,000 youth were eligible and awaiting adoption at the end of 2010;

Whereas children in foster care experience an average of 3 different placements, which often leads to disruption of routines and the need to change schools and move away from siblings, extended families, and familiar surroundings;

Whereas youth in foster care are much more likely to face educational instability with 65 percent of former foster children experiencing at least 7 school changes while in care;