

SEC. 4. OTHER ACTIVITIES.

(a) INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL ON PREMATURETY AND LOW BIRTHWEIGHT.—The Prematurity Research Expansion and Education for Mothers who deliver Infants Early Act is amended by striking section 5 (42 U.S.C. 247b-4g).

(b) ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON INFANT MORTALITY.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services (referred to in this section as the “Secretary”) may establish an advisory committee known as the “Advisory Committee on Infant Mortality” (referred to in this section as the “Advisory Committee”).

(2) DUTIES.—The Advisory Committee shall provide advice and recommendations to the Secretary concerning the following activities:

(A) Programs of the Department of Health and Human Services that are directed at reducing infant mortality and improving the health status of pregnant women and infants.

(B) Strategies to coordinate the various Federal programs and activities with State, local, and private programs and efforts that address factors that affect infant mortality.

(C) Implementation of the Healthy Start program under section 330H of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254c-8) and Healthy People 2020 infant mortality objectives.

(D) Strategies to reduce preterm birth rates through research, programs, and education.

(3) PLAN FOR HHS PRETERM BIRTH ACTIVITIES.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, the Advisory Committee (or an existing advisory committee designated by the Secretary) shall develop a plan for conducting and supporting research, education, and programs on preterm birth through the Department of Health and Human Services and shall periodically review and revise the plan, as appropriate. The plan shall—

(A) examine research and educational activities that receive Federal funding in order to enable the plan to provide informed recommendations to reduce preterm birth and address racial and ethnic disparities in preterm birth rates;

(B) identify research gaps and opportunities to implement evidence-based strategies to reduce preterm birth rates among the programs and activities of the Department of Health and Human Services regarding preterm birth, including opportunities to minimize duplication; and

(C) reflect input from a broad range of scientists, patients, and advocacy groups, as appropriate.

(4) MEMBERSHIP.—The Secretary shall ensure that the membership of the Advisory Committee includes the following:

(A) Representatives provided for in the original charter of the Advisory Committee.

(B) A representative of the National Center for Health Statistics.

(C) PATIENT SAFETY STUDIES AND REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall designate an appropriate agency within the Department of Health and Human Services to coordinate existing studies on hospital readmissions of preterm infants.

(2) REPORT TO SECRETARY AND CONGRESS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the agency designated under paragraph (1) shall submit to the Secretary and to Congress a report containing the findings and recommendations resulting from the studies coordinated under such paragraph, including recommendations for hospital discharge and follow-up procedures designed to reduce rates of preventable hospital readmissions for preterm infants.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

AMENDING THE AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT OF 2009 AND THE EMERGENCY ECONOMIC STABILIZATION ACT OF 2008

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of H.R. 6570, which was received from the House and is at the desk.

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 6570) to amend the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 and the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 to consolidate certain CBO reporting requirements.

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

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read three times 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 bill (H.R. 6570) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

NATIONAL MITOCHONDRIAL AWARENESS WEEK

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the HELP Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 490, and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 490) designating the week of September 16, 2012, as “Mitochondrial Disease Awareness Week,” reaffirming the importance of an enhanced and coordinated research effort on mitochondrial diseases, and commending the National Institutes of Health for its efforts to improve the understanding of mitochondrial diseases.

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

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate and that any statements relating to this measure be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 490) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 490

Whereas Brittany Wilkinson, the first Youth Ambassador of the United Mitochondrial Disease Foundation, joined other Youth Ambassadors of the United Mitochondrial Disease Foundation in working tirelessly to raise awareness about mitochondrial diseases;

Whereas mitochondrial diseases result from a defect that reduces the ability of the mitochondria in a cell to produce energy;

Whereas, as mitochondria fail to produce enough energy, cells cease to function properly and eventually die, leading to the failure of organ systems and possibly the death of the affected individuals;

Whereas mitochondrial diseases can present themselves at any age, and mortality rates vary depending upon the particular disease;

Whereas the most severe mitochondrial diseases result in the progressive loss of function in multiple organs, including the loss of neurological and muscle function, and death within several years;

Whereas mitochondrial diseases are a relatively newly identified group of diseases, first recognized in the late 1960s, and diagnosis of mitochondrial diseases is extremely difficult;

Whereas there are more than 100 identified primary mitochondrial diseases, but researchers believe there are several hundred other types of unidentified mitochondrial diseases and further research is necessary to help identify those diseases;

Whereas mitochondrial dysfunction is associated with many diseases, such as Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's disease, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, autism, diabetes, cancer, and many other diseases associated with aging;

Whereas research into primary mitochondrial diseases can provide applications to biomedical research and a window into our understanding of many other diseases, including possible treatments and cures for diseases such as Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's disease, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, autism, diabetes, cancer, and many other diseases associated with aging;

Whereas researchers estimate that one in 4,000 children will develop a mitochondrial disease related to an inherited mutation by 10 years of age, and recent studies of umbilical cord blood samples show that one in 200 people could develop a mitochondrial disease in their lifetime;

Whereas researchers also believe that those numbers could be much higher, given the difficulty associated with diagnosing mitochondrial disease and the many cases that are either misdiagnosed or never diagnosed;

Whereas there are no cures for mitochondrial diseases, nor are there specific treatments for any of those diseases;

Whereas human energy production involves multiple organ systems, and therefore primary mitochondrial diseases research involves many Institutes at the National Institutes of Health;

Whereas, according to the National Institutes of Health, more than \$600,000,000 is being spent on research related to mitochondrial functions, of which \$18,000,000

is being spent on actual primary mitochondrial diseases research;

Whereas the National Institutes of Health has taken an increased interest in primary mitochondrial diseases and has sponsored a number of activities in recent years aimed at advancing mitochondrial medicine, including incorporating research into functional variations in mitochondria in the Transformative Research Awards Initiative;

Whereas, in March 2012, the National Institutes of Health convened a 2-day symposium entitled "Translational Research in Primary Mitochondrial Diseases: Obstacles and Opportunities", which brought together leading government and private sector researchers and drug developers to share information related to primary mitochondrial diseases, develop systems to facilitate future collaboration, survey obstacles, needs, and priorities of primary mitochondrial diseases research, and develop mechanisms to enhance translation of basic science discoveries to diagnostics and therapeutics; and

Whereas, as a consequence of the symposium, a white paper has been developed that identifies current research challenges and impediments and a suggested course of action to address those challenges: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of September 16, 2012, as "Mitochondrial Disease Awareness Week";

(2) reaffirms the importance of an enhanced and coordinated research effort aimed at improving the understanding of primary mitochondrial diseases and the development of treatments and cures;

(3) commends the National Institutes of Health for its efforts to organize the symposium entitled "Translational Research in Primary Mitochondrial Disease: Obstacles and Opportunities" to improve the understanding of mitochondrial diseases and to enhance collaboration and chart a course for the future with respect to research on mitochondrial diseases;

(4) encourages the National Institutes of Health to place a greater priority on research into primary mitochondrial diseases, to continue to explore the connections between mitochondrial dysfunction and other systemic diseases, and to promote collaboration and coordination among the Institutes of the National Institutes of Health and with other organizations; and

(5) encourages the National Institutes of Health to consider the recommendations and address research directions identified in the white paper developed from the symposium described in paragraph (3), including—

(A) enhanced emphasis on research regarding basic mitochondrial physiology, variations in mitochondrial function in different body tissues, and improvements in the manipulation of mitochondrial DNA;

(B) supporting research that will provide the basis for drug development, including improved mouse models, efforts to achieve breakthroughs in in vivo research capability, consensus development around assays, and next generation sequencing;

(C) expansion and support of stable, long-term patient registries and biospecimen repositories in collaboration with patient advocacy groups to promote enrollment and ultimately pave the way for natural history trials; and

(D) the establishment of a working group to develop a system for the continued interaction among the Institutes within the National Institutes of Health and with other organizations and the establishment of a website on research on primary mitochondrial diseases.

PERMITTING THE USE OF SENATE OFFICE BUILDINGS FOR CHARITABLE PURPOSES

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 597, which was submitted earlier today.

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 597) to permit the collection of clothing, toys, food, and housewares during the holiday season for charitable purposes in Senate buildings.

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

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and any statements related to the measure be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 597) was agreed to, as follows:

S. RES. 597

Resolved,

SECTION 1. COLLECTION OF CLOTHING, TOYS, FOOD, AND HOUSEWARES DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON FOR CHARITABLE PURPOSES IN SENATE BUILDINGS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of the rules or regulations of the Senate—

(1) a Senator, officer of the Senate, or employee of the Senate may collect from another Senator, officer of the Senate, or employee of the Senate within Senate buildings nonmonetary donations of clothing, toys, food, and housewares for charitable purposes related to serving persons in need or members of the Armed Forces and the families of those members during the holiday season, if the charitable purposes do not otherwise violate any rule or regulation of the Senate or of Federal law; and

(2) a Senator, officer of the Senate, or employee of the Senate may work with a nonprofit organization with respect to the delivery of donations described under paragraph (1).

(b) EXPIRATION.—The authority provided by this resolution shall expire at the end of the second session of the 112th Congress.

CONGRATULATING THE 2012 WORLD SERIES CHAMPION SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 598 submitted earlier today.

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 598) commending and congratulating the San Francisco Giants for winning the 2012 World Series.

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

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I am thrilled, along with my friend and

fellow Giants fan Senator BOXER, to support a resolution honoring Major League Baseball's 2012 World Series champions, the San Francisco Giants.

Behind the best starting pitching in baseball, a shutdown bullpen, brilliant defense and timely hitting, our Giants are, once again, kings of the baseball world.

They defeated the American League Champion Detroit Tigers 4 games to none in the 108th World Series to win their second title in just 3 years.

It is the seventh title in the long, storied history of the franchise, and their second since moving to San Francisco in 1958.

Indeed, these are truly the glory days of Giants baseball in San Francisco.

The 2010 Giants were known as a band of misfits and castoffs who shocked the baseball world by winning the Giants' first World Series title in 56 years.

This Giants team can only be described as resilient, a diverse collection of veterans, rookies, and midseason acquisitions who banded together with a "never-say-die" spirit to overcome the greatest of odds to win it all.

Down two games to none in the best of five Division Series against the Cincinnati Reds, outfielder Hunter Pence gathered his teammates together before the third game and urged them not to give up, to play for each other, win each moment, and leave it all on the field so they could spend another day together.

He was not ready to go home, and neither were the Giants. They won that game and the next two, stunning the Reds and advancing to the National League Championship Series against the defending World Series champion St. Louis Cardinals.

In that series, the Giants once again found their backs against the wall, down three games to one in the best-of-seven series. In game 5 at St. Louis, Giants pitcher Barry Zito overcame years of adversity to pitch the game of his life, bringing the series back to San Francisco.

The Giants won the next two games to clinch the National League pennant in front of their loyal and passionate fans.

They became the first team in more than 25 years to win six elimination games in one postseason.

So it was on to the World Series against the Tigers, a formidable team that looked unbeatable to most baseball experts.

But with all due respect to the Tigers—and my friends and colleagues from Michigan—after the adversity they had faced against the Reds and the Cardinals, nothing was going to stop the Giants.

In game 1, World Series Most Valuable Player Pablo Sandoval became just the fourth player in World Series history to hit three home runs in one game as the Giants won 8 to 3.

In games 2 and 3, starting pitchers Madison Bumgarner and Ryan