

services in connection with a child described in section 101(b)(1)(F) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(b)(1)(F)), to the same extent as they apply to the offering or provision of adoption services in connection with a Convention adoption. The Secretary of State, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Attorney General (with respect to section 404(b) of the Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 14944)), and the accrediting entities shall have the duties, responsibilities, and authorities under title II and title IV of the Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000 and related implementing regulations with respect to a person offering or providing such adoption services, irrespective of whether such services are offered or provided in connection with a Convention adoption.

(b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The provisions of this section shall take effect 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) **TRANSITION RULE.**—This Act shall not apply to a person offering or providing adoption services as described in subsection (a) in the case of a prospective adoption in which—

(1) an application for advance processing of an orphan petition or petition to classify an orphan as an immediate relative for a child is filed before the date that is 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act; or

(2) the prospective adoptive parents of a child have initiated the adoption process with the filing of an appropriate application in a foreign country sufficient such that the Secretary of State is satisfied before the date that is 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 3. AVAILABILITY OF COLLECTED FEES FOR ACCREDITING ENTITIES.

(a) Section 403 of the Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 14943) is amended by striking subsection (c).

(b) **REPORT REQUIREMENT.**—Section 202(b) of the Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 14922(b)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(5) **REPORT ON USE OF FEDERAL FUNDING.**—Not later than 90 days after an accrediting entity receives Federal funding authorized by section 403, the entity shall submit a report to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives that describes—

“(A) the amount of such funding the entity received; and

“(B) how such funding was, or will be, used by the entity.”.

SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act, the terms “accrediting entity”, “adoption service”, “Convention adoption”, and “person” have the meanings given those terms in section 3 of the Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 14902).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

Hearing none, the question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill 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 it pass?

The bill (S. 3331), as amended, was passed.

Mr. CARDIN. I further 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 measure be printed in the RECORD.

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

IMMEDIATE AND UNCONDITIONAL RELEASE OF UNITED STATES CITIZEN ALAN PHILLIP GROSS

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 609, which was submitted earlier today.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 609) calling for the immediate and unconditional release of United States citizen Alan Phillip Gross from detention in Cuba and urging the Government of Cuba to address his medical issues.

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

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, 2 days ago—December 3, 2012—marked the third anniversary of Alan Gross’ arrest by the Cuban Government. Over the past 3 years, Alan’s case has been of deep personal concern to me and many in my State. Alan, an American citizen and Marylander, was in Cuba to help the small Jewish community there establish improved access to the Internet, which would allow the community to go online without fear of censorship or monitoring. After being held for 14 months without charge and then a cursory 2-day trial, he was convicted and sentenced to 15 years in prison. In August 2012, a petition to the United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention was filed on his behalf.

Last week, officials with the Cuban Ministry for Foreign Affairs claimed that Alan Gross is in good health. But the Cuban Government has not allowed Mr. Gross to receive an independent medical evaluation. To date, Alan has lost 105 pounds, suffers from degenerative arthritis, and has a mass behind his shoulder. Alan also suffers from severe mental anguish because of the separation from his family.

To say that the Gross family has been on a rollercoaster would be an understatement. His mother and daughter are both battling cancer. His wife Judy is struggling to make ends meet. Judy Gross has fought for Alan’s release every day for the last 3 years. Judy has called, e-mailed, and met with everyone imaginable. She has been on news programs and written letters. Judy has never given up hope; she has remained strong for her family and for Alan. As many of our colleagues will attest, she will stop at nothing to see Alan return home. Due in no small part to Judy’s perseverance, the U.S. Senate has been actively involved in this matter.

Over the past 3 years, U.S. officials have traveled to Cuba, we have written to numerous Cuban dignitaries, and we have employed other creative means to encourage Mr. Gross’ release. In September, my colleague Senator MORAN and I, along with a bipartisan group of

44 Senators, sent a letter to Raul Castro urging the Cuban Government in the strongest possible terms to release Alan Gross immediately and unconditionally. But these attempts have been futile. Alan Gross remains in prison, caught in the middle of a conflict between two nations with a complex, often frustrating relationship.

Tonight, the Senate is adopting a resolution unanimously, a resolution Senator MORAN and I have submitted with a long list of bipartisan sponsors. The resolution calls for Mr. Gross’ immediate and unconditional release and urges the Cuban Government to address his medical issues, including allowing an independent medical examination to be completed. Alan’s personal freedoms are being violated every day that he continues to be incarcerated, and we can no longer tolerate his being denied an independent medical evaluation. Alan Gross should no longer be forced to suffer the consequences of political gamesmanship. Enough is enough.

Today the Senate has spoken once again. Alan Gross is a husband, a father, a son, and an American. We call on the Cuban Government to release Alan Gross immediately.

Mr. President, I know of no further debate on this measure.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

If not, the question is on agreeing to the resolution.

The resolution (S. Res. 609) was agreed to.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating to the matter be printed in the RECORD.

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

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 609

Whereas, Alan Phillip Gross, a citizen of the United States, was born in New York on May 2, 1949, and is a resident of the State of Maryland;

Whereas Mr. Gross has devoted his professional life to helping others through his work in international development and has served in more than 50 countries and territories worldwide;

Whereas, in 2001, Mr. Gross founded JBDC, LLC to support Internet connectivity in locations with little or no access;

Whereas, on February 10, 2009, JBDC, LLC received a subcontract with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID);

Whereas, working as a subcontractor for the United States Agency for International Development, Mr. Gross sought to establish wireless networks and improve Internet and Intranet access and connectivity for a small, peaceful, non-dissident, Cuban Jewish community;

Whereas Mr. Gross made 5 trips to Cuba in furtherance of the United States Agency for International Development project he was subcontracted to support;

Whereas the last time Mr. Gross was in the United States was on November 24, 2009;

Whereas Mr. Gross was arrested on December 3, 2009, in Havana, Cuba;

Whereas Mr. Gross was detained without charge for 14 months;

Whereas Mr. Gross was charged in February 2011 with "actions against the independence or the territorial integrity of the state";

Whereas Mr. Gross's trial lasted only 2 days, after which he was sentenced to 15 years in prison;

Whereas Mr. Gross and his wife Judy have 2 daughters, one of which was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2010;

Whereas Mr. Gross's 90-year old mother was diagnosed with inoperable cancer in February 2011;

Whereas, in 2011, Mr. Gross's wife Judy underwent surgery, causing her to miss considerable time from work and putting further financial strain on their family;

Whereas Mr. Gross is 63 years old and has lost more than 105 pounds since being detained in Cuba;

Whereas Mr. Gross has developed degenerative arthritis in his leg and a mass behind his shoulder;

Whereas the Government of Cuba has denied requests by Mr. Gross for an independent medical examination;

Whereas Mr. Gross's legal representative filed an appeal to the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention of the United Nations in August 2012; and

Whereas, since Mr. Gross was detained by the Government of Cuba on December 3, 2009, his health has severely deteriorated and his family members have suffered health and financial problems: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) calls for the immediate and unconditional release of United States citizen Alan Phillip Gross; and

(2) urges the Government of Cuba in the meantime to provide all appropriate diagnostic and medical treatment to address the full range of medical issues facing Mr. Gross and to allow him to choose a doctor to provide him with an independent medical assessment.

TEEN CANCER AWARENESS WEEK

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 573 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 legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 573) designating the third week of January 2013 as "Teen Cancer Awareness Week."

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

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent 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 be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 573) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 573

Whereas cancer among adolescents is rare, but is still the leading cause of death from disease for teenagers between the ages of 15 and 19;

Whereas teenage cancer patients receive treatment at various types of medical establishments, including pediatric hospitals, pediatric oncology centers, and adult cancer facilities;

Whereas teenage cancer patients may feel out of place in any of these settings if their clinical and psychosocial needs are not met;

Whereas 40 percent of cancer patients aged 14 and younger are enrolled in clinical trials, compared with only 9 percent of cancer patients between the ages of 15 and 24;

Whereas teenagers with cancer have unique concerns about their education, social lives, body image, and infertility, among other concerns, and their needs may be misunderstood or unacknowledged;

Whereas many adolescent cancer survivors have difficulty readjusting to school and social settings, experience anxiety, and in some cases face increased learning difficulties; and

Whereas it is important to understand the biological and clinical needs of teenagers with cancer, seek the prevention of cancer in teenagers, and increase awareness in the general public of the unique challenges facing teenagers with cancer: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate designates the third week of January 2013 as "Teen Cancer Awareness Week" to promote awareness of teenage cancer and the unique medical and social needs of teenagers with cancer.

NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY AND NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the HELP Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 595 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 legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 595) expressing support for the goals of National Adoption Day and National Adoption Month by promoting national awareness of adoption and the children awaiting families, celebrating children and families involved in adoption, and encouraging the people of the United States to secure safety, permanency, and well-being for all children.

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

Mr. CARDIN. I ask unanimous consent that 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 be printed in the RECORD as if read.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 595) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 595

Whereas there are millions of unparented children in the world, including 400,540 chil-

dren in the foster care system in the United States, approximately 104,000 of whom are waiting for families to adopt them;

Whereas 59 percent of the children in foster care in the United States are age 10 or younger;

Whereas the average length of time a child spends in foster care is approximately 2 years;

Whereas for many foster children, the wait for a loving family in which they are nurtured, comforted, and protected seems endless;

Whereas in 2011, nearly 26,000 youth "aged out" of foster care by reaching adulthood without being placed in a permanent home;

Whereas every day, loving and nurturing families are strengthened and expanded when committed and dedicated individuals make an important difference in the life of a child through adoption;

Whereas a 2007 survey conducted by the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption demonstrated that though "Americans overwhelmingly support the concept of adoption, and in particular foster care adoption . . . foster care adoptions have not increased significantly over the past five years";

Whereas while 4 in 10 Americans have considered adoption, a majority of Americans have misperceptions about the process of adopting children from foster care and the children who are eligible for adoption;

Whereas 71 percent of those who have considered adoption consider adopting children from foster care above other forms of adoption;

Whereas 45 percent of Americans believe that children enter the foster care system because of juvenile delinquency, when in reality the vast majority of children who have entered the foster care system were victims of neglect, abandonment, or abuse;

Whereas 46 percent of Americans believe that foster care adoption is expensive, when in reality there is no substantial cost for adopting from foster care and financial support is available to adoptive parents after the adoption is finalized;

Whereas family reunification, kinship care, and domestic and inter-county adoption promote permanency and stability to a far greater degree than long-term institutionalization and long-term, often disrupted foster care;

Whereas both National Adoption Day and National Adoption Month occur in the month of November;

Whereas National Adoption Day is a collective national effort to find permanent, loving families for children in the foster care system;

Whereas since the first National Adoption Day in 2000, nearly 40,000 children have joined forever families during National Adoption Day;

Whereas in 2011, a total of 365 events were held in 47 States and the District of Columbia, finalizing the adoptions of 4,187 children from foster care and celebrating an additional 1,030 adoptions finalized during November or earlier in the year; and

Whereas the President traditionally issues an annual proclamation to declare the month of November as National Adoption Month, and National Adoption Day is on November 17, 2012: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Adoption Day and National Adoption Month;

(2) recognizes that every child should have a permanent and loving family; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to consider adoption during the month of November and all throughout the year.