

to any limitations in law, and to ensure that prisoners are provided with referrals to appropriate social and health services or are referred to appropriate nonprofit organizations.

(d) UPDATED REPORTS.—On an annual basis, the Task Force shall submit to Congress an updated report on the activities of the Task Force, including specific recommendations on issues described in subsections (b) and (c).

By Mr. HARKIN (for himself and Mr. HELLER):

S. 1694. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit against income tax for the purchase of hearing aids; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. HARKIN. 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. 1694

*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 "Hearing Aid Assistance Tax Credit Act".

#### SEC. 2. CREDIT FOR HEARING AIDS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subpart A of part IV of subchapter A of chapter 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to nonrefundable personal credits) is amended by inserting after section 25D the following new section:

##### "SEC. 25E. CREDIT FOR HEARING AIDS.

"(a) ALLOWANCE OF CREDIT.—In the case of an individual, there shall be allowed as a credit against the tax imposed by this chapter an amount equal to the amount paid during the taxable year, not compensated by insurance or otherwise, by the taxpayer for the purchase of any qualified hearing aid.

"(b) MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—The amount allowed as a credit under subsection (a) shall not exceed \$500 per qualified hearing aid.

"(c) QUALIFIED HEARING AID.—For purposes of this section, the term 'qualified hearing aid' means a hearing aid—

"(1) which is described in sections 874.3300 and 874.3305 of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations, and is authorized under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act for commercial distribution, and

"(2) which is intended for use—

"(A) by the taxpayer, or

"(B) by an individual with respect to whom the taxpayer, for the taxable year, is allowed a deduction under section 151(c) (relating to deduction for personal exemptions for dependents).

"(d) ELECTION ONCE EVERY 5 YEARS.—This section shall apply with respect to any individual for any taxable year only if there is an election in effect with respect to such individual (at such time and in such manner as the Secretary may by regulations prescribe) to have this section apply for such taxable year. An election to have this section apply with respect to any individual may not be made for any taxable year if such an election is in effect with respect to such individual for any of the 4 taxable years preceding such taxable year.

"(e) DENIAL OF DOUBLE BENEFIT.—No credit shall be allowed under subsection (a) for any expense for which a deduction or credit is allowed under any other provision of this chapter."

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for subpart A of part IV of subchapter A of chapter 1 of the Internal Rev-

enue Code of 1986 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 25D the following new item:

"Sec. 25E. Credit for hearing aids."

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2013.

By Mr. MARKEY:

S. 1698. A bill to provide for the establishment of clean technology consortia to enhance the economic, environmental, and energy security of the United States by promoting domestic development, manufacture, and deployment of clean technologies; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, today I am introducing the Consortia-Led Energy and Advanced Manufacturing Networks Act.

For more than a century, America's innovation community has been the foundation of our high-tech economy and generated broad-based growth to support a strong middle class. While our innovators remain the best in the world, we have seen a disturbing trend in recent years. When it comes to moving innovations out of the lab and into the factory, we are getting beat. Breakthroughs achieved in U.S. research universities and laboratories are all too often being commercialized and manufactured overseas. As recent research by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and others has demonstrated, innovation and production are closely related. When manufacturing facilities move overseas, we lose more than just those manufacturing jobs. We can lose our ability to continue to innovate in that industry and lose our hold on those jobs forever.

At the same time, we have some industries in the United States dominated by deeply entrenched companies that are resistant to innovation or adaptation of century-old business models. In those sectors, we need to look at ways of partnering with our innovators on proof-of-concept and demonstration projects so that more breakthroughs can bridge the so-called "Valley of Death" between the lab bench and commercialization of a new technology. That will ensure that innovative and potentially disruptive technologies can actually reach the market, and provide badly needed competition in industries where incumbents may be failing to innovate. This is what my legislation is intended to address.

In order to reach their full market potential, scientific breakthroughs must be translated into commercial applications, demonstrated, connected to appropriate markets, and scaled up. The bill I am introducing today would fertilize America's innovation ecosystems by making available \$100 million to 6 or more consortia to support these types of activities and help shepherd innovations through the commercialization process. Consortia could include a mix of research universities, large and small companies, national

laboratories, venture capital, and state and nonprofit entities with expertise in technology commercialization. The bill includes rigorous cost-share requirements to ensure that taxpayers are only partnering on the best ideas in which the private sector also has significant capital committed.

We have seen the benefits of regional innovation ecosystems in places like Silicon Valley; Boston, Cambridge and the Route 128 Corridor; the Research Triangle in North Carolina; Austin, TX; and elsewhere. The geographic proximity of institutions in these areas improves the flow of information between scientists, engineers, and entrepreneurs, and it facilitates the sharing of skilled human resources and facilities. Most critically when it comes to commercializing innovations, these regions have demonstrated a unique ability to pull investor capital off the sidelines and channel it into new production. We need to bolster these existing ecosystems and help nurture new ones.

America's universities and research institutions are truly national treasures. Our venture capitalists and entrepreneurs are the sharpest in the world. When we sprinkle the right mix of scientific brain power and capitalist drive, we get something uniquely American and extremely potent.

This legislation will help link inventors with investors, professors with producers, and get technologies out of laboratories and into factories. It provides the type of responsible and forward-looking partnership that we need with the private sector right now. This legislation builds on provisions I included in both the Waxman-Markey bill and the America COMPETES reauthorization, bills that passed the U.S. House of Representatives in 2009 and 2010, respectively.

#### SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

##### SENATE RESOLUTION 292—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE VICTIMS OF THE TYPHOON IN THE PHILIPPINES AND THE SURROUNDING REGION

Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. RUBIO, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mrs. BOXER, and Mr. BEGICH) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 292

Whereas on November 8, 2013, Typhoon Yolanda, also known as Typhoon Haiyan, struck the Republic of the Philippines and the surrounding region;

Whereas Typhoon Yolanda is the strongest typhoon in recorded history to make land-fall;

Whereas President Benigno Aquino III declared a state of national calamity after Typhoon Yolanda hit the central Philippines;

Whereas the typhoon caused widespread flooding and landslides, particularly in the provinces of Eastern Samar and Leyte, which experienced storm surges of up to 13

feet and sustained winds of more than 175 miles per hour;

Whereas authorities in the Philippines have confirmed at least 1,798 deaths, a toll that is expected to rise as thousands of individuals remain missing as of the date of this resolution;

Whereas unofficial estimates project the number of deaths to be over 10,000;

Whereas, according to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, more than 670,000 people have been displaced and 11,300,000 people have been affected by Typhoon Yolanda;

Whereas, according to the Philippine National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council, the typhoon destroyed or damaged approximately 149,015 houses, as well as public infrastructure and agricultural land across 41 provinces;

Whereas, in Ormoc City, the second largest city in the province of Leyte, the typhoon damaged or destroyed approximately 80 to 90 percent of housing;

Whereas the United Nations World Food Program estimates that 2,500,000 people will need food assistance in the aftermath of the typhoon;

Whereas the Government of the Philippines has been leading and coordinating the disaster response in the Philippines, including the evacuation of more than 792,000 people to temporary shelters and pre-positioning food commodities and emergency relief supplies in advance of the typhoon, and deploying military assets and road-clearing equipment to assist with relief operations;

Whereas the response by the United States Government to this tragedy has included \$20,000,000 in aid;

Whereas a United States Agency for International Development Disaster Assistance Response Team, elements of the 3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade, and other United States military and civilian personnel have deployed to the Philippines to provide aid and coordinate United States relief efforts;

Whereas the Philippines and the United States fought side-by-side during World War II to defend the Bataan Peninsula and subsequently liberate the Philippines from Japanese control;

Whereas the Philippines and the United States share a long, close relationship as allies, as evidenced by the 1951 U.S.-Philippines Mutual Defense Treaty, which was reaffirmed by the Manila Declaration signed in 2011, and the United States designation of the Philippines as a Major Non-NATO Ally;

Whereas the Philippines and the United States share strong economic, security, and people-to-people ties, including approximately 4,000,000 Americans of Philippine ancestry living in the United States, and more than 300,000 United States citizens residing in the Philippines; and

Whereas the Philippines and the United States share a long tradition of mutual support and cooperation: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) mourns the loss of life resulting from the typhoon;

(2) expresses its deepest condolences to the families of the victims of this tragedy;

(3) expresses solidarity with the survivors, and all those who have lost loved ones or otherwise been affected by the tragedy;

(4) supports the efforts of the Government of the Philippines to lead and coordinate assistance to address immediate humanitarian needs and to begin reconstruction efforts;

(5) supports the ongoing efforts of the United States Government, the international community, relief agencies, and private citizens to assist the governments and peoples of the Philippines and the surrounding region in their time of need; and

(6) encourages the United States and the international community to provide additional humanitarian assistance to aid the survivors and support reconstruction efforts, as appropriate.

SENATE RESOLUTION 293—DESIGNATING THE WEEK BEGINNING ON NOVEMBER 18, 2013, AS “NATIONAL TRIBAL COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES WEEK”

Ms. HEITKAMP (for herself, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. TESTER, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. MORAN, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. THUNE, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. BARRASSO, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. BAUCUS, and Mr. HEINRICH) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 293

Whereas there are 37 tribal colleges and universities operating on more than 75 campuses in 15 States;

Whereas tribal colleges and universities are tribally or Federally chartered institutions of higher education and therefore have a unique relationship with the Federal Government;

Whereas tribal colleges and universities serve students from more than 250 Federally recognized Indian tribes;

Whereas tribal colleges and universities offer students access to knowledge and skills grounded in cultural traditions and values, including indigenous languages, which enhance Indian communities and enrich the United States as a whole;

Whereas tribal colleges and universities provide access to quality higher education opportunities for American Indians, Alaska Natives, and other individuals living in some of the most isolated and economically depressed areas in the United States;

Whereas tribal colleges and universities are accredited institutions of higher education that effectively prepare students to succeed in a global and highly competitive workforce;

Whereas open enrollment policies have resulted in non-Indians constituting nearly one-fifth of the students at tribal colleges and universities;

Whereas tribal colleges and universities are effectively providing access to quality higher education opportunities to residents of reservation communities and the North Slope of Alaska; and

Whereas the mission and achievements of tribal colleges and universities deserve national recognition: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week beginning on November 18, 2013, as “National Tribal Colleges and Universities Week”; and

(2) calls on the people of the United States and interested groups to observe the week with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs to demonstrate support for tribal colleges and universities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 294—EX-PRESSING 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

Ms. LANDRIEU (for herself, Mr. INHOFE, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. KING, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. THUNE, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. WICKER, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. MORAN, Mr. BOOZMAN, and Mr. COCHRAN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 294

Whereas there are millions of unparented children in the world, including 399,546 children in the foster care system in the United States, approximately 102,000 of whom are waiting for families to adopt them;

Whereas 60 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 2012, 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 although “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 50 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 39 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