

supporting the goals of International Women's Day.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 2100. A bill to promote the use of clean cookstoves and fuels to save lives, improve livelihoods, empower women, and protect the environment by creating a thriving global market for clean and efficient household cooking solutions; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Clean Cookstove Support Act. This legislation addresses a serious global public health and environmental issue, and I am very pleased to be joined in this effort by my friend and colleague, Senator DURBIN.

Nearly half of the world's population cooks over open fires or with inefficient, polluting, and unsafe cookstoves using wood, agricultural waste, dung, coal, or other solid fuels. Smoke from these traditional cookstoves and open fires is associated with chronic and acute diseases and affects women and children disproportionately.

Alarmingly, the Global Burden of Disease Study of 2010 doubled the mortality estimates for exposure to smoke from cookstoves referred to as household air pollution from 2 million to 4 million deaths annually in the developing world. The GBD indicates this is more than the deaths from malaria, tuberculosis, and HIV/AIDS combined. The GBD ranks household air pollution as the fourth worst overall health risk factor in the world and as the second worst health risk factor in the world for women and girls. Millions more are sickened from the toxic smoke and thousands suffer burns annually from open fires or unsafe cookstoves.

Traditional cookstoves also create serious environmental problems. Recent studies show that the emissions of black carbon or common soot from biomass cookstoves significantly contribute to regional air and climate change. In fact, cookstoves account for some 25 percent of black carbon emissions. Each family using a traditional cookstove can require up to 2 tons of biomass cooking fuel, and where demand for fuel outstrips the natural regrowth of resources, local land degradation and loss of biodiversity often results.

Moreover, the collection of this fuel is a burden that is shouldered disproportionately by women and children. In some regions of the world, women and girls risk rape and gender-based violence during the up to 20 hours a week they spend away from their families gathering fuel.

Replacing these cookstoves with modern alternatives would help reverse these alarming health and environmental trends. This would be relatively inexpensive. In fact, there are stoves

that are coming on the market now that cost as little as \$20 and are 50 percent more efficient than the traditional cooking methods. It also could be done quickly. It is what scientists call the low-hanging fruit of environmental fixes.

Through the leadership of former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and the United Nations Foundation, the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves was formed in 2010. Recognizing the serious health and environmental issues posed by traditional cookstoves, the alliance aims to save lives, improve livelihoods, empower women, and combat pollution by creating a thriving global market for clean and efficient household cooking solutions. Alliance partners are working to help overcome market barriers that currently impede production, deployment, and use of cookstoves that are clean in the developing world.

To assist in this important endeavor, several Federal agencies and departments have committed a total of up to \$125 million to the sector for the first 5 years of the alliance. These include a wide variety of departments, including the Departments of State, Energy, and Health and Human Services, the U.S. Agency for International Development, USAID, the Environmental Protection Agency, the National Science Foundation, and the Overseas Private Investment Corporation. The U.S. Department of Agriculture, NOAA, and the Peace Corps have also made commitments to provide technical assistance in the developing world.

To help advance the alliance's goal to spur the adoption of clean cookstoves in 100 million households by the year 2020, the U.S. Government has focused its commitments on applied research and development, diplomatic engagement to encourage a market for clean cookstoves, and to improve access, international development projects to help build commercial businesses, and development efforts, including humanitarian and empowerment programs for women and girls.

The legislation Senator DURBIN and I are introducing today reinforces this commitment and would require the Secretary of State to work to advance the goals of the alliance. In addition, the bill authorizes the existing funding commitments made by our government to ensure that these crucial pledges toward preventing unnecessary illness and reducing pollution around the globe are met.

By supporting the work of the alliance and the commitments of the U.S. Government to replace traditional cookstoves with modern versions that emit far less soot, this bill aims to directly benefit some of the world's poorest people and to reduce harmful pollution that affects us all. It offers a way for us to address the second leading contributor to greenhouse gas emissions in a way that is inexpensive, not burdensome to the people of this country, and will benefit poor people living in developing nations.

There is yet another reason for my colleagues to support this initiative. Addressing persistent global issues of poverty and underdevelopment makes our country more secure by undercutting some of the key drivers of extremism and militancy around the world.

I urge my colleagues to join Senator DURBIN and me in supporting the Clean Cookstoves and Fuel Support Act.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 377—RECOGNIZING THE 193RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF GREECE AND CELEBRATING DEMOCRACY IN GREECE AND THE UNITED STATES

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. BARRASSO, and Mrs. SHAHEEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 377

Whereas the people of ancient Greece developed the concept of democracy, in which the supreme power to govern was vested in the people;

Whereas the founding fathers of the United States, many of whom read Greek political philosophy in the original Greek language, drew heavily on the political experience and philosophy of ancient Greece in forming the representative democracy of the United States;

Whereas Petros Mavromichalis, the former Commander in Chief of Greece and a founder of the modern Greek state, said to the citizens of the United States in 1821, "It is in your land that liberty has fixed her abode and . . . in imitating you, we shall imitate our ancestors and be thought worthy of them if we succeed in resembling you.";

Whereas the Greek national anthem, the "Hymn to Liberty", includes the words, "most heartily was gladdened George Washington's brave land";

Whereas the people of the United States generously offered humanitarian assistance to the people of Greece during their struggle for independence;

Whereas Greece, in one of the most consequential "David vs. Goliath" victories for freedom and democracy in modern times, refused to surrender to the Axis forces and inflicted a fatal wound at a crucial moment in World War II, forcing Adolf Hitler to change his timeline and delaying the attack on Russia, where the Axis forces met defeat;

Whereas Winston Churchill said, "if there had not been the virtue and courage of the Greeks, we do not know which the outcome of World War II would have been" and "no longer will we say that Greeks fight like heroes, but that heroes fight like Greeks";

Whereas hundreds of thousands of people of Greece were killed in Greece during World War II in defense of the values of the Allies;

Whereas, throughout the 20th century, Greece was one of a few countries that allied with the United States in every major international conflict;

Whereas Greece is a strategic partner and ally of the United States in bringing political stability and economic development to the volatile Balkan region, having invested billions of dollars in the countries of the region, thereby helping to create tens of thousands of new jobs, and having contributed more than \$750,000,000 in development aid for the region;

Whereas the Government and people of Greece actively participate in peacekeeping and peace-building operations conducted by international organizations, including the United Nations, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the European Union, and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, and have more recently provided critical support to the operation of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization in Libya;

Whereas Greece received worldwide praise for its extraordinary handling during the 2004 Olympic Games of more than 14,000 athletes and more than 2,000,000 spectators and journalists, a feat the Government and people of Greece handled efficiently, securely, and with hospitality;

Whereas Greece, located in a region where Christianity meets Islam and Judaism, maintains excellent relations with Muslim countries and Israel;

Whereas the Government of Greece has taken important steps in recent years to further cross-cultural understanding, rapprochement, and cooperation in various fields with Turkey, and has also improved its relations with other countries in the region, including Israel, thus enhancing the stability of the wider region;

Whereas the governments and people of Greece and the United States are at the forefront of efforts to advance freedom, democracy, peace, stability, and human rights;

Whereas those efforts and similar ideals have forged a close bond between the people of Greece and the United States; and

Whereas it is proper and desirable for the United States to celebrate March 25, 2014, Greek Independence Day, with the people of Greece and to reaffirm the democratic principles from which those two great countries were founded: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) extends warm congratulations and best wishes to the people of Greece as they celebrate the 193rd anniversary of the independence of Greece;

(2) expresses support for the principles of democratic governance to which the people of Greece are committed; and

(3) notes the important role that Greece has played in the wider European region and in the community of nations since gaining its independence 193 years ago.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2807. Mrs. GILLIBRAND submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 1086, to reauthorize and improve the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2808. Mr. MURPHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1086, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2807. Mrs. GILLIBRAND submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 1086, to reauthorize and improve the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . ABOVE-THE-LINE DEDUCTION FOR CHILD CARE EXPENSES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Part VII of subchapter A of chapter 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(1) by redesignating section 224 as section 225, and

(2) by inserting after section 223 the following new section:

“SEC. 224. CHILD CARE DEDUCTION.

“(a) ALLOWANCE OF DEDUCTION.—In the case of an individual for which there are 1 or more qualifying children with respect to such individual for the taxable year, there shall be allowed as a deduction an amount equal to the employment-related expenses paid by such individual during the taxable year.

“(b) DOLLAR LIMITATIONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The amount allowed as a deduction under subsection (a) with respect to the taxpayer for any taxable year shall not exceed—

“(A) \$7,000, if there is 1 qualifying child with respect to the taxpayer for such taxable year, or

“(B) \$14,000, if there are 2 or more qualifying children with respect to the taxpayer for such taxable year.

“(2) ADJUSTMENT FOR INFLATION.—In the case of a taxable year beginning after 2015, each of the dollar amounts in paragraph (1) shall be increased by an amount equal to—

“(A) such dollar amount, multiplied by

“(B) the cost-of-living adjustment determined under section 1(f)(3) for the calendar year in which such taxable year begins, determined by substituting ‘calendar year 2014’ for ‘calendar year 1992’ in subparagraph (B) thereof.

If any amount as adjusted under the preceding sentence is not a multiple of \$100, such amount shall be rounded to the next highest multiple of \$100.

“(c) DEFINITIONS AND SPECIAL RULES.—For purposes of this section—

“(1) QUALIFYING CHILD.—The term ‘qualifying child’ means a dependent of the taxpayer (as defined in section 152(a)(1))—

“(A) who has not attained age 13, or

“(B) who is physically or mentally incapable of caring for himself or herself.

“(2) EMPLOYMENT-RELATED EXPENSES.—The term ‘employment-related expenses’ has the meaning given such term by section 21(b)(2), applied as if the terms ‘qualifying child’ and ‘qualifying children,’ within the meaning of this section, were substituted for the terms ‘qualifying individual’ and ‘qualifying individuals’, respectively.

“(3) SPECIAL RULES.—Rules similar to the rules of paragraphs (1), (2), (3), (4), (5), (6), (9), and (10) of section 21(e) shall apply.

“(d) DENIAL OF DOUBLE BENEFIT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—No deduction shall be allowed under this section for any expense with respect to which a credit is claimed by the taxpayer under section 21.

“(2) COORDINATION RULE.—For coordination with a dependent care assistance program, see section 129(e)(7).”

(b) DEDUCTION ALLOWED ABOVE-THE-LINE.—Subsection (a) of section 62 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by inserting after paragraph (21) the following new paragraph:

“(22) CHILD CARE DEDUCTION.—The deduction allowed by section 224.”

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Subsection (e) of section 213 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by inserting “, or as a deduction under section 224,” after “section 21”.

(d) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for part VII of subchapter A of chapter 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking the item relating to section 224 and by inserting the following new items:

“Sec. 224. Child care deduction.

“Sec. 225. Cross reference.”

(e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to expenses

paid or incurred in taxable years beginning after December 31, 2014.

SA 2808. Mr. MURPHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1086, to reauthorize and improve the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

SEC. ____ . INCREASE IN DOLLAR LIMITATION ON EXCLUSION FOR EMPLOYER-PROVIDED DEPENDENT CARE ASSISTANCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subparagraph (A) of section 129(a)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking “shall not exceed” and all that follows and inserting the following: “shall not exceed—

“(i) in the case of a taxpayer whose modified adjusted gross income for such taxable year is less than \$100,000 (twice such amount in the case of a joint return), \$10,000 (half such amount in the case of a separate return by a married individual), and

“(ii) in any other case, \$5,000 (half such amount in the case of a separate return by a married individual).”

(b) MODIFIED ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME.—Paragraph (2) of section 129(a) of such Code is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(D) MODIFIED ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME.—For purposes of this paragraph, the term ‘modified adjusted gross income’ means the adjusted gross income of the taxpayer for the taxable year increased by any amount excluded from gross income under section 911, 931, or 933.”

(c) INFLATION ADJUSTMENT.—Paragraph (2) of section 129(a) of such Code, as amended by subsection (b), is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(E) INFLATION ADJUSTMENT.—In the case of any taxable year beginning in a calendar year after 2014, each dollar amount contained in subparagraph (A) shall be increased by an amount equal to—

“(i) such dollar amount, multiplied by

“(ii) the cost-of-living adjustment determined under section 1(f)(3) for the calendar year in which the taxable year begins, determined by substituting ‘calendar year 2013’ for ‘calendar year 1992’ in subparagraph (B) thereof.

Any increase determined under the preceding sentence shall be rounded to the nearest multiple of \$50.”

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

NOTICES OF HEARINGS

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I wish to announce that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions will meet on March 11, 2014, at 10 a.m., in room SD-430 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled “Access and Cost: What the U.S. Health Care System Can Learn from Other Countries.”

For further information regarding this meeting, please contact Bill Gendell of the committee staff on (202) 224-5480.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I wish to announce that the Committee on