

the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 132

Whereas the freedom to practice religion and to express religious thought is acknowledged to be a fundamental and unalienable right belonging to all individuals;

Whereas the United States was founded on the principle of freedom of religion and not freedom from religion;

Whereas the framers intended that the First Amendment would prohibit the Federal Government from enacting any law that favors one religious denomination over another, not prohibit any mention of religion or reference to God in civic dialog;

Whereas in 1983, the United States Supreme Court held in *Marsh v. Chambers*, 463 U.S. 783, that the practice of opening legislative sessions with prayer has become part of the fabric of our society and to invoke divine guidance on a public body entrusted with making the laws is not a violation of the Establishment Clause, but rather is simply a tolerable acknowledgment of beliefs widely held among the people of this Nation;

Whereas voluntary prayer in elected bodies should not be limited to prayer in State legislatures and Congress;

Whereas school boards are deliberative bodies of adults similar to a legislature in that they are elected by the people, act in the public interest, and are open to the public for voluntary attendance; and

Whereas voluntary prayer by an elected body should be protected under law and encouraged in society because voluntary prayer has become a part of the fabric of our society, voluntary prayer acknowledges beliefs widely held among the people of this Nation, and the Supreme Court has held that it is not a violation of the Establishment Clause for a public body to invoke divine guidance: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes that prayer before school board meetings is a protected act in accordance with the fundamental principles upon which the Nation was founded; and

(2) expresses support for the practice of prayer at the beginning of school board meetings.

## SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 29—PROVIDING FOR A CONDITIONAL ADJOURNMENT OF THE SENATE

Mr. FRIST (for himself and Mr. REID) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. CON. RES. 29

*Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring)*, That when the Senate recesses or adjourns at the close of business on Thursday, April 28, 2005, Friday, April 29, 2005, Saturday, April 30, 2005, or Sunday, May 1, 2005, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand recessed or adjourned until Monday, May 9, 2005, at a time to be specified by the Majority Leader or his designee in the motion to recess or adjourn, or until noon on the second day after Members are notified to reassemble pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first.

SEC. 2. The Majority Leader of the Senate or his designee, after consultation with the Minority Leader, shall notify the Members of the Senate to reassemble whenever, in his opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.

## SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 30—TO EXPRESS THE SENSE OF CONGRESS CONCERNING THE PROVISION OF HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE TO ALL AMERICANS

Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. REID, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. DAYTON, Mrs. MURRAY, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. CORZINE, and Mr. KENNEDY) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and pensions:

S. CON. RES. 30

Whereas the United States is the only major industrialized country that does not have universal access to health insurance among its citizens;

Whereas the number of Americans without health insurance has increased steadily over the past decade from 37,000,000 to 45,000,000;

Whereas 7 in 10 people without health insurance live in families where at least one person works full-time;

Whereas 20 percent of uninsured Americans are children;

Whereas members of racial and ethnic minority groups at all income levels are more likely to be uninsured than their White counterparts;

Whereas the percentage of private-sector employers offering health benefits to retirees has declined by more than 40 percent since 1997 to just 13 percent in 2002;

Whereas in 2003, 1,700,000 veterans and 3,900,000 dependents of veterans did not have access to health insurance or veterans medical care;

Whereas uninsured Americans receive less preventive care and are diagnosed at a more advanced stage of disease than Americans with health insurance;

Whereas uninsured adults have mortality rates approximately 25 percent higher than those of privately insured adults;

Whereas the financial consequences of uninsurance can be disastrous for families, as demonstrated by a recent study that found medical problems were a factor in nearly half of all personal bankruptcy filings;

Whereas the increase in average health insurance costs since 2000 was five times the increase in average worker wages;

Whereas the total cost of job-based health insurance has risen 72 percent in the past 5 years;

Whereas employers are struggling to keep up with rising health insurance costs;

Whereas a recent study by the Commonwealth Fund concluded that small employers that provide health insurance to their employees pay more but receive less for their money while suffering faster increases in premiums and steeper jumps in deductibles than large firms;

Whereas the market for individual insurance policies can be prohibitively expensive and allows for discrimination based on health status;

Whereas rising health insurance costs undermine United States competitiveness in the global market;

Whereas despite spending the most per capita on health care (\$4,887 compared to Germany which is the next highest at \$2,808), the United States ranks 12th out of 13 industrialized nations in 16 top health indicators such as infant mortality; and

Whereas members of Congress and their families have the opportunity to select among many benefit choices and to purchase high quality, group health insurance cov-

erage at reasonable rates: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring)*, That—

(1) Congress should enact legislation that will ensure that all Americans have access to affordable, quality health insurance coverage by 2010, regardless of income, age, employment or health status;

(2) such legislation should utilize private and public sector solutions;

(3) rather than shifting greater costs to consumers, such legislation should constrain underlying health care costs, including by assuring appropriate utilization, and lowering prescription drug costs and administrative expenses; and

(4) such legislation should assure high quality health care by promoting the utilization of information technology, reducing medical errors, providing for care coordination, and through other methods designed to improve quality.

## AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 591. Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mrs. BOXER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3, Reserved; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 592. Mr. BOND proposed an amendment to amendment SA 567 proposed by Mr. INHOFE to the bill H.R. 3, supra.

SA 593. Mr. THUNE (for himself, Mr. JOHN-SON, and Mr. THOMAS) proposed an amendment to amendment SA 567 proposed by Mr. INHOFE to the bill H.R. 3, supra.

SA 594. Mr. GREGG (for Mr. ISAKSON) proposed an amendment to amendment SA 567 proposed by Mr. INHOFE to the bill H.R. 3, supra.

SA 595. Mr. OBAMA submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 596. Mr. FRIST (for Mr. ALLEN) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 82, urging the European Union to add Hezbollah to the European Union's wide-ranging list of terrorist organizations.

## TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 591. Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, and Mrs. BOXER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3, Reserved; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of chapter 3 of subtitle E of title I, add the following:

### SEC. . ALAMEDA HIGH PRIORITY CORRIDOR.

Section 1105(c) of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (105 Stat. 2032) is amended by striking paragraph (34) and inserting the following:

“(34) The Alameda Corridor-East and Southwest Passage, California. The Alameda Corridor East is generally described as the corridor from East Los Angeles (terminus of Alameda Corridor) through Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino, and Riverside Counties, to termini at Barstow in San Bernardino County and Coachella in Riverside County. The Southwest Passage shall follow Interstate route 10 from San Bernardino to the Arizona State line.”.

SA 592. Mr. BOND proposed an amendment to amendment SA 567 proposed by Mr. INHOFE to the bill H.R. 3, Reserved; as follows:

Beginning on page 287, strike line 5 and all that follows through the matter following line 25 on page 290.