

1990s and her support for those standards contributed to their adoption in Colorado.

Most recently, Ms. Davidson served as one of the 15 experts on the Technical Guidelines Development Committee TGDC established under HAVA to develop an initial set of recommendations for the voluntary voting system guidelines with technical support and expertise from the National Institute of Standards and Technology NIST. At the end of the public comment and revision process, these recommendations are expected to form the bases of the new Federal voluntary voting system guidelines issued by the EAC.

Ms. Davidson's confirmation today ensures that the EAC has a full and permanent complement of commissioners as we move toward the full implementation of HAVA and the November 2006 Federal elections. The EAC will be well served by Ms. Davidson's expertise on election issues and her broad experience working with all stakeholders in Federal elections, including local election officials and their voters.

I congratulate Ms. Davidson on the honor of being nominated and confirmed to the Election Assistance Commission. It is an awesome responsibility and one that her background has prepared her well to meet.

To ensure that our Federal partnership gives voice to all Americans and their very diverse experiences on election day, the Commission's work must reflect more than just the perspectives of any single State or local election official. Commissioners must represent all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the territories—all of America and its diversity. I am confident that Commissioner Davidson will meet that goal.

While political races among candidates may be partisan, Federal elections cannot be. The Help America Vote Act is appropriately the first civil rights act of the 21st Century, and Congress must fulfill its commitment to the American people to provide the States sufficient resources to fund the mandated reforms.

In order for the EAC to meet its obligations under HAVA, it is critically important that Congress fully fund the agency and its requirements for fiscal year 2006. To support States in the nationwide implementation of HAVA, the Act authorized nearly \$4 billion to pay for the requirements and tasked the EAC with several responsibilities. To date, Congress has appropriated over \$3 billion to the States and territories.

For fiscal year 2006, the EAC submitted an appropriations request at the funding level of \$17,612,000, including four new staff positions to, among other duties, establish an Inspector General Office to monitor the Federal payments. The House-passed version of the Transportation, Treasury, HUD, Judiciary, District of Columbia appropriations bill provides only \$15,877,000

for the EAC, and no funds for State requirements payments, with an earmark of \$2.8 million for the National Institute of Standards and Technology. Complicating matters more, the Senate Appropriations Committee approved a slightly lower funding level for the EAC at \$13,888,000, with \$4 million earmarked for NIST. An average of both Senate-House bills will not produce enough funding for the EAC to maintain its current level of operations.

Without appropriate funding, the EAC will be unable to fulfill its obligations to the States and the voters for the Federal elections in 2006. To date, the EAC has been underfunded by over \$822 million, including a funding gap of \$600 million for requirements, \$95 million for disability access grants and \$127 million for other HAVA programs such as research and development for voting systems. When we return from the August recess, the Senate will complete its work on the Transportation, Treasury appropriations bill. It is my hope that we will be able to find the necessary resources to ensure the full implementation of HAVA without creating an unfunded mandate on the States.

In the meantime, I congratulate Commissioner Davidson on her appointment and look forward to working closely with her as she oversees the implementation of the most critical requirements of HAVA for the upcoming 2006 Federal elections and beyond in America.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will return to legislative session.

HONORING TEAM DISCOVERY, LANCE ARMSTRONG AND GEORGE HINCAPIE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to consideration of S. Res. 222 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. 222) honoring the victories of Team Discovery and American cyclists Lance Armstrong and George Hincapie in the 2005 Tour de France.

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

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 222) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 222

Whereas Team Discovery included Lance Armstrong of Texas and George Hincapie of

South Carolina from the United States, José Luis Rubiera, Manuel Beltran, and Benjamin Noval from Spain, Pavel Padrnos from the Czech Republic, José Azevedo from Portugal, Paolo Savoldelli from Italy, and Yaroslav Popovych from Ukraine;

Whereas Team Discovery won the 2005 Tour de France under the leadership of Lance Armstrong, who rode to victory by completing the 2,232-mile, 21-stage course in 86 hours, 15 minutes, and 2 seconds, finishing 4 minutes and 40 seconds ahead of his nearest competitor;

Whereas, by winning the Tour de France on July 24, 2005, Lance Armstrong became the only competitor in the history of the Tour de France to win cycling's most prestigious race in 7 consecutive years;

Whereas George Hincapie rode stage 15, which was 127.4 miles long and included 1 above category climb, 4 category 1 climbs, and 1 category 2 climb, for a total of 33.5 miles of climbing at an average gradient of 7.96 percent;

Whereas stage 15 was considered the hardest stage of the 2005 Tour de France and the victory of George Hincapie atop Pla d'Adet marks his first Tour de France stage victory;

Whereas George Hincapie is only the 8th competitor from the United States to win a stage in the Tour de France;

Whereas George Hincapie has participated in the Tour de France 10 times and is the only teammate to assist Lance Armstrong in each of his Tour de France victories;

Whereas Lance Armstrong and George Hincapie displayed incredible perseverance, determination, and leadership over 7 years with their teammates in prevailing over the mountainous terrain of the Alps and Pyrenees and in overcoming crashes, illness, hard-charging rivals, and driving rain on the way to winning the premier cycling event in the world;

Whereas, in 1996, Lance Armstrong defeated choriocarcinoma, an aggressive form of testicular cancer that had spread throughout his abdomen, lungs, and brain, and has remained cancer-free since treatment for the disease;

Whereas Lance Armstrong is the 1st cancer survivor to win the Tour de France;

Whereas the accomplishments of Team Discovery have made the team an inspiration to millions of people around the world: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors—

(A) the victory of Team Discovery in the 2005 Tour de France;

(B) professional cyclist Lance Armstrong for his record 7th consecutive Tour de France victory; and

(C) professional cyclist George Hincapie for his 1st Tour de France stage victory; and

(2) commends Lance Armstrong and George Hincapie for being pioneers of the sport of cycling in the United States.

NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 223, 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. 223) supporting the goals and ideals of "National Life Insurance Awareness Month," September 2005.

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