

linguistic backgrounds and benefits from this rich diversity; and

Whereas, these individuals, while keeping their own backgrounds alive, are encouraged to take advantage of our nation's educational system that teaches the English language and American history; and

Whereas, throughout the history of the United States, the common thread binding individuals of differing backgrounds has been the English language; and

Whereas, English was established as the official language of Louisiana as a condition of statehood in 1812; and

Whereas, command of the English language is necessary to participate in and take full advantage of the opportunities afforded by American life.

*Therefore, be it resolved,* That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the Congress of the United States of America to take such actions as are necessary to enact legislation establishing English as the official language of the United States.

*Be it further resolved,* That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

POM-186. A concurrent resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the Legislature of the State of Louisiana relative to making permanent the increases in Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance coverage and the Death Gratuity benefits to provide financial security of survivors of members of the Louisiana National Guard and other servicemembers who make the ultimate sacrifice with their lives while serving our country and the state of Louisiana; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

#### A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to make permanent the increases in Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance coverage and the Death Gratuity benefits to provide financial security of survivors of members of the Louisiana National Guard and other servicemembers who make the ultimate sacrifice with their lives while serving our country and the state of Louisiana.

Whereas, members of the Louisiana National Guard (LANG) have been asked to serve extended periods of active duty in combat areas and in recognition of the invaluable contributions that the members of LANG make to this country and to the state of Louisiana, members of LANG should receive assistance with their premiums for coverage under the federal Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance program; and

Whereas, the 256th Infantry Brigade is not scheduled to return from Iraq until October 2006, and there is always the possibility that if any conflict arises overseas that members of LANG will be deployed in combat areas; and

Whereas, under the FY 2005 Emergency Supplemental Appropriations bill (H.R. 1268) of the 109th Congress adopted by both houses of congress and enrolled, members of LANG will be eligible for one hundred thousand dollars in death gratuity benefits and life insurance policies with limits up to four hundred fifty thousand dollars through the federal Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance program; and

Whereas, the Secretary of Defense is authorized to pay the cost of premiums for the increased coverage under federal Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance program; however, the increased coverage and authority to pay the costs of premiums terminates on September 30, 2005.

*Therefore, be it resolved,* That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to make permanent the increases in Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance coverage and the Death Gratuity benefits to provide for financial security of survivors of members of the Louisiana National Guard and other servicemembers who make the ultimate sacrifice with their lives while serving our country and the state of Louisiana.

*Be it further resolved,* That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

POM-187. A resolution adopted by the Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners, Miami-Dade County, Florida relative to the support for \$385 Million in funding for Housing Opportunities for Persons Living with AIDS (HOPWA) Program for fiscal year 2006; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. MCCAIN, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, without amendment:

S. 1291. A bill to provide for the acquisition of subsurface mineral interests in land owned by the Pascua Yaqui Tribe and land held in trust for the Tribe (Rept. No. 109-116).

By Mr. ENZI, from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 518. A bill to provide for the establishment of a controlled substance monitoring program in each State (Rept. No. 109-117).

By Mr. MCCAIN, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1231. A bill to amend the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act to modify provisions relating to the National Fund for Excellence in American Indian Education (Rept. No. 109-118).

By Mr. CHAMBLISS, from the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, without amendment:

S. 1566. An original bill to reauthorize the Commodity Exchange Act, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 109-119).

By Mr. STEVENS, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, without amendment:

S. 1567. An original bill to reauthorize and improve surface transportation safety programs, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 109-120).

By Mr. ENZI, from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

Report to accompany S. 288, a bill to extend Federal funding for operation of State high risk health insurance pools (Rept. No. 109-121).

By Mr. SHELBY, from the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, without amendment:

H.R. 804. A bill to exclude from consideration as income certain payments under the national flood insurance program.

S. 1047. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of each of the Nation's past Presidents and their spouses, respectively to improve circulation of the \$1 coin, to create a new bullion coin, and for other purposes.

#### EXECUTIVE REPORT OF COMMITTEE

The following executive report of committee was submitted:

By Mr. LUGAR, from the Committee on Foreign Relations:

[Treaty Doc. 107-18 Inter-American Convention Against Terrorism (Exec. Rept. No. 109-3)]

TEXT OF RESOLUTION OF RATIFICATION AS RECOMMENDED BY THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Section 1. Senate Advice and Consent Subject to Understanding.

The Senate advises and consents to the ratification of the Inter-American Convention Against Terrorism (the "Convention"), adopted at the thirty-second regular session of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States meeting in Bridgetown, Barbados, and signed by the United States on June 3, 2002 (Treaty Doc. 107-18), subject to the understanding in Section 2.

Section 2. Understanding.

The advice and consent of the Senate under section 1 is subject to the following understanding, which shall be included in the United States instrument of ratification:

The United States of America understands that the term "international humanitarian law" in paragraph 2 of Article 15 of the Convention has the same substantive meaning as the law of war.

#### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. BOND:

S. 1553. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to enhance tax incentives for small property and casualty insurance companies; to the Committee on Finance.

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

S. 1554. A bill to establish an intergovernmental grant program to identify and develop homeland security information, equipment, capabilities, technologies, and services to further the homeland security of the United States and to address the homeland security needs of Federal, State, and local governments; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. CANTWELL (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. KOHL, and Mr. CORZINE):

S. 1555. A bill to amend the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to reform funding for the Seniors Farmers' Market Nutrition Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. WYDEN:

S. 1556. A bill to amend the Specialty Crops Competitiveness Act of 2004 to increase the authorization of appropriations for grants to support the competitiveness of specialty crops, to amend the Agricultural Risk Protection Act of 2000 to improve the program of value-added agricultural product market development grants by routing funds through State departments of agriculture, to amend the Federal Crop Insurance Act to require a nationwide expansion of the adjusted gross revenue insurance program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. COBURN (for himself and Mr. DEMINT):