

Whereas the Transitional Administrative Law provides for substantial participation of women in the Iraqi National Assembly and of personnel in all levels of the government;

Whereas the Personal Status Law provides for family and property rights for women in Iraq;

Whereas through grants funded by the United States Government's Iraqi Women's Democracy Initiative, nongovernmental organizations are providing training in political leadership, communications, coalition-building skills, voter education, constitution drafting, legal reform, and the legislative process;

Whereas a 275-member Transitional National Assembly, which is charged with the responsibility of drafting a new constitution, was elected to serve as Iraq's national legislature for a transition period.

Whereas Article 12 of Iraq's Transitional Administrative Law states that "[a]ll Iraqis [are] equal in their rights without regard to gender . . . and they are equal before the law";

Whereas Article 12 of the Transitional Administrative Law further states that "[d]iscrimination against an Iraqi citizen on the basis of his gender . . . is prohibited";

Whereas on May 10, 2005, Iraq's National Assembly appointed a committee, composed of Assembly members, to begin drafting a constitution for Iraq that will be subject to the approval of the Iraqi people in a national referendum;

Whereas the Senate recognizes the need to affirm the spirit and free the energies of women in Iraq who have spent countless hours, years, and lifetimes working for the basic human right of equal constitutional protection;

Whereas the Senate recognizes the risks Iraqi women have faced in working for the future of their country and admire their courageous commitment to democracy; and

Whereas the full and equal participation of all Iraqi citizens in all aspects of society is essential to achieving Iraq's democratic and economic potential: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) commends the Iraqi people for the progress achieved toward the establishment of a representative democratic government;

(2) recognizes the importance of ensuring women in Iraq have equal rights and opportunities under the law and in society and supports continued, substantial, and vigorous participation of women in the Iraqi National Assembly and in all levels of the government;

(3) recognizes the importance of ensuring women's rights in all legislation, with special attention to preserving women's equal rights under family, property, and inheritance laws;

(4) strongly encourages Iraq's Transitional National Assembly to adopt a constitution that grants women equal rights and opportunities under the law and to work to protect such rights;

(5) pledges to support the efforts of Iraqi women to fully participate in a democratic Iraq; and

(6) wishes the Iraqi people every success in developing, approving, and enacting a new constitution that ensures the civil and political rights of every citizen without reservation of any kind based on gender, religion, or national or social origin.

#### NATIONAL ALL SCHEDULES PRESCRIPTION ELECTRONIC REPORTING ACT OF 2005

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consider-

ation of H.R. 1132, which was received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1132) to provide for the establishment of a controlled substance monitoring program in each State.

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

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I commend our majority leader for bringing the Prescription Electronic Reporting Act to the floor for a vote so quickly, and I commend Senators ENZI, SESSIONS, DURBIN, and DODD for their contributions to this bill and their efforts to prevent the diversion of prescription drugs. Our goal is to help States establish electronic databases to monitor the use of prescription drugs and deal more effectively with the growing national epidemic of prescription drug abuse.

Over 6 million Americans currently use prescription drugs for nonmedical purposes. Thirty-one million people say they have abused such drugs at least once in their lives. The number of people reporting such abuse is higher than the total combined number of people abusing cocaine, hallucinogens, inhalants, and heroin.

The growing trend of prescription drug abuse is alarming. Since 1992, the total number of people abusing prescription drugs has soared by over 90 percent. The number of young adults who abuse prescription pain relievers and other addictive drugs has more than tripled. Prescription drug abuse among youths 12 to 17 has risen by tenfold. Today, 20 percent of teenagers have abused prescription drugs, and 37 percent have a close friend who does.

Better local programs to monitor addictive medications can help curb this abuse. Approximately 20 States have such programs in place, including Massachusetts, but they vary greatly in the collection and storage of data and the methods for using the databases.

The information in the databases can be used to identify physicians and patients who encourage the nonmedical use of prescription drugs. It can help people seek treatment early for their addiction. It can also be used to reduce the diversion of prescription drugs for illegal use.

Our bill authorizes the Secretary of HHS to make grants to States to establish needed monitoring programs. States with existing programs can use the grants to improve their systems and standardize the data to allow easy sharing of the information with other States.

Any such program, however, must include strong safeguards for medical privacy and make certain that the databases cannot be used to put improper pressure on physicians to avoid prescribing essential drugs. The effective treatment of pain is an enormous medical challenge, and good care will be much more difficult if patients fear that their prescription drug records

will not be protected, or if physicians begin to look over their shoulder every time they prescribe pain medication.

We all share the goal of reaching the right balance between the interests of patients, physicians, and law enforcement, and this legislation does that. It requires the Secretary to develop criteria for ensuring the privacy and security of the database, including penalties for improper use. In their grant applications, States must show that they have enacted legislation with appropriate penalties, and explain how they will meet privacy and security criteria, such as by using encryption technology. They must have plans for purging data, and for certifying that requests for information are legitimate. The bill also requires the Secretary to provide a follow-up analysis of the privacy protections within 3 years after funds are appropriated.

The problem of prescription drug abuse is growing exponentially and worsens every year. Today, the group most at risk is our children. Now is the time to act to limit the diversion of prescription drugs and protect our most vulnerable citizens from prescription drug abuse.

Physicians want to treat pain without contributing to addiction. Law enforcement officials want to stop the flow of prescription drugs from pharmacies to the streets. A national monitoring program will provide a valuable resource to achieve these goals.

I commend Majority Leader FRIST, Chairman ENZI, and Senator SESSIONS for their leadership on this important health issue, and I urge our colleagues to pass this legislation as a significant step toward ending prescription drug abuse.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

The bill (H.R. 1132) was read the third time and passed.

#### NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MUSEUM ACT OF 2005

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 168, S. 501.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 501) to provide a site for the National Women's History Museum in the District of Columbia.

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

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent that the Collins amendment at the desk be agreed to, the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table and any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.