

United States, have shaped the history of Europe from World War II, the Cold War, Operation Deliberate Force, and Operation Allied Force to today's operations, and secured stability and ensured freedom's future in the Europe, Africa, and Southwest Asia;

Whereas, for 17 consecutive years beginning with 1990, Airmen have been engaged in full-time combat operations ranging from Desert Shield to Iraqi Freedom, and have shown themselves to be an expeditionary air and space force of outstanding capability ready to fight and win wars of the United States when and where Airmen are called upon to do so;

Whereas the USAF is steadfast in its commitment to field a world-class, expeditionary air force by recruiting, training, and educating its Total Force of active duty, Air National Guard, Air Force Reserve, and civilian personnel;

Whereas the USAF is a steward of resources, developing and applying technology, managing acquisition programs, and maintaining test, evaluation, and sustainment criteria for all USAF weapon systems throughout such weapon systems' life cycles;

Whereas, when terrorists attacked the United States on September 11, 2001, USAF fighter and air refueling aircraft took to the skies to fly combat air patrols over major United States cities and protect families, friends, and neighbors of people of the United States from further attack;

Whereas, on December 7, 2005, the USAF modified its mission statement to include flying and fighting in cyberspace and prioritized the development, maintenance, and sustainment of war fighting capabilities to deliver unrestricted access to cyberspace and defend the United States and its global interests;

Whereas Airmen around the world are committed to fighting and winning the Global War on Terror and have flown more than 430,000 sorties to precisely target and engage insurgents who attempt to violently disrupt rebuilding in Iraq and Afghanistan;

Whereas talented and dedicated Airmen will meet the future challenges of an ever-changing world with strength and resolve;

Whereas the USAF, together with its joint partners, will continue to be the United States' leading edge in the ongoing fight to ensure the safety and security of the United States; and

Whereas during the past 60 years, the USAF has repeatedly proved its value to the Nation, fulfilling its critical role in national defense, and protecting peace, liberty, and freedom throughout the world: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That the Senate members, honors, and commends the achievements of the United States Air Force in serving and defending the United States on the 60th anniversary of the creation of the United States Air Force as an independent military service.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 59—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE CONGRESS THAT JOINT CUSTODY LAWS FOR FIT PARENTS SHOULD BE PASSED BY EACH STATE, SO THAT MORE CHILDREN ARE RAISED WITH THE BENEFITS OF HAVING A FATHER AND A MOTHER IN THEIR LIVES

Mr. AKAKA submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. CON. RES. 59

Whereas, in approximately 84 percent of the cases where a parent is absent, that parent is the father;

Whereas, if current trends continue, half of all children born today will live apart from one of their parents, usually their father, at some point before they turn 18 years old;

Whereas when families (whether intact or with a parent absent) are living in poverty, a significant factor is often the father's lack of job skills;

Whereas committed and responsible fathering during infancy and early childhood contributes to the development of emotional security, curiosity, and math and verbal skills;

Whereas an estimated 19,400,000 children (27 percent) live apart from their biological fathers;

Whereas 40 percent of the children under age 18 not living with their biological fathers had not seen their fathers even once in the past 12 months, according to national survey data;

Whereas single parents are to be commended for the tremendous job that they do with their children;

Whereas the United States needs to encourage responsible parenting by both fathers and mothers, whenever possible;

Whereas the United States needs to encourage both parents, as well as extended families, to be actively involved in children's lives;

Whereas a way to encourage active involvement is to encourage joint custody and shared parenting;

Whereas the American Bar Association found in 1997 that 19 States plus the District of Columbia had some form of presumption for joint custody, either legal, physical, or both, and by 2006, 13 additional States had added some form of presumption, bringing the current total to 32 States plus the District of Columbia;

Whereas data from the Census Bureau shows a correlation between joint custody and shared parenting and a higher rate of payment of child support;

Whereas social science literature shows that a higher proportion of children from intact families with 2 parents in the home are well adjusted, and research also shows that for children of divorced, separated, and never married parents, joint custody is strongly associated with positive outcomes for children on important measures of adjustment and well being; and

Whereas research by the Department of Health and Human Services shows that the States with the highest amount of joint custody subsequently had the lowest divorce rate: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That it is the sense of the Congress that joint custody laws for fit parents should be passed by each State, so that more children are raised with the benefits of having a father and a mother in their lives.

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I rise today to submit legislation expressing the sense of the Congress that States should enact joint custody laws for fit parents, so that more children are raised with the benefit of having both parents in their lives.

One of the most significant problems facing our Nation today is the number of children being raised without the love and support of both parents. Even if it is not possible for the parents to remain in a committed partnership, it is important that, when possible, each parent, as well as their extended fami-

lies, have every opportunity to play an active role in their children's life. A number of recent studies have suggested that children greatly benefit from joint custody or shared parenting arrangements. In my own home State of Hawaii, it is a way of life to have our keiki, or children, raised and nurtured by the extended family, and we have seen how our children flourish when the responsibility of child rearing is shared.

This Nation's children are our most vital resource, and every effort should be made to ensure that they receive the guidance and encouragement they need to thrive. I urge States to pass joint custody laws for fit parents so all children can be raised within the extended embrace of both parents and their families.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 60—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS RELATING TO NEGOTIATING A FREE TRADE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND TAIWAN

Mr. BAUCUS (for himself and Mr. KYL) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Finance:

S. CON. RES. 60

Whereas for more than 50 years a close bilateral relationship has existed between the United States and Taiwan as evidenced by the Taiwan Relations Act;

Whereas on January 1, 2002, Taiwan was admitted to the World Trade Organization, which has resulted in a reduction in duties for foreign goods and an increase in market access for foreign investment;

Whereas a 2002 United States International Trade Commission report found that exports by some sectors of the United States economy would increase significantly if the United States entered into a free trade agreement with Taiwan;

Whereas bilateral trade between Taiwan and the United States was \$57,000,000,000 in 2005 and \$61,000,000,000 in 2006;

Whereas Taiwan ranks as the 9th largest trading partner of the United States and the 11th largest export market for United States goods;

Whereas Taiwan is the 6th largest market for United States agricultural products, the 3rd largest buyer of United States corn, the 4th largest buyer of United States soybeans, the 5th largest buyer of United States beef, and the 6th largest buyer of United States wheat;

Whereas the United States is an important supplier of electrical machinery and appliances, aircraft, scientific instruments, and chemical products to Taiwan;

Whereas increasing exports to large and commercially significant economies in Asia is a critical part of reducing the United States trade deficit;

Whereas Taiwan, as a democracy and free market economy, shares with the United States principles and values that provide a strong foundation for open, fair, and mutually beneficial trade relations; and

Whereas maintaining and strengthening a robust trade relationship with Taiwan is of economic significance to the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That it is the sense of Congress that the United States should increase trade opportunities with Taiwan and