

Whereas, after 9 years, 67 percent of American Indians and Alaska Natives who had been diagnosed with HIV/AIDS were alive, compared to 66 percent of Blacks, 74 percent of Hispanics, 75 percent of Whites, and 81 percent of Asians and Pacific Islanders;

Whereas, from 2001 through 2004, the estimated number of HIV/AIDS cases increased among Whites, Asians and Pacific Islanders, and American Indians and Alaska Natives, and decreased among Blacks and Hispanics; and

Whereas, from 2000 through 2004, the estimated number of deaths among persons with AIDS decreased among Whites, Blacks, and Asians and Pacific Islanders, but increased among American Indians and Alaska Natives: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the seriousness of the spread and threat of the human immunodeficiency virus and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) epidemic in American Indian and Alaska Native communities;

(2) encourages Federal, State, and tribal governments as well as Indian organizations and health care providers to coordinate efforts in HIV/AIDS testing and in the promotion of prevention activities to further efforts in the reduction of HIV/AIDS infection rates among American Indians and Alaska Natives; and

(3) designates March 20, 2008, as “Second Annual National Native HIV/AIDS Awareness Day”.

PERMITTING THE USE OF THE ROTUNDA

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H. Con. Res. 306 received from the House and at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 306) permitting the use of the Rotunda of the Capitol for a ceremony as part of the commemoration of the days of remembrance of victims of the Holocaust.

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

Mr. BROWN. I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 306) was agreed to.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 2008

Mr. BROWN. I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 9:30 a.m., Wednesday, March 12; that on Wednesday, following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day and that the Senate then resume consideration of H. Con. Res. 70, the concurrent resolution on the budget.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. BROWN. Tomorrow, the Senate will resume debate on the budget resolution. Senator BINGAMAN is expected to be here to offer the next amendment.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. BROWN. I ask unanimous consent that all time during this period of morning business be charged equally against each side on the resolution and that morning business now be closed and that the Senate resume consideration of the budget resolution, and following the remarks of Senator COBURN, who was generous with his time this evening, and I am grateful for that, and the remarks of Senator SANDERS, that the Senate stand adjourned under the previous order.

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

TO CORRECT THE ENROLLMENT OF H.R. 1593

Mr. BROWN. I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of H. Con. Res. 270 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 270) to make corrections in the enrollment of the bill H.R. 1593.

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

Mr. BROWN. I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid on the table, and any statements relating to the measure be printed in the RECORD.

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

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 270) was agreed to.

SECOND CHANCE ACT OF 2007

Mr. BROWN. I ask unanimous consent the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 1593 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1593) to reauthorize the grant program for reentry of offenders into the community in the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, to improve reentry planning and implementation, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I was pleased to join Senators SPECTER, BIDEN, and BROWNBACK last year as an

original cosponsor of S. 1060, the Recidivism Reduction and Second Chance Act, and to help to shepherd that legislation through the Senate Judiciary Committee. I am pleased that now our hard work will finally enable us to take up and pass the House version of the legislation, which represents significant work and compromise on the part of the bill's Senate sponsors as well as those in the House, in order to move this important bill one step closer to becoming law.

Over the past several years that we have been working on this bill, I and others have had to make many painful compromises in order to ensure that this important bill could receive the support it needs to pass and become law. In spite of these sacrifices, the Second Chance Act is a good first step toward a new direction in criminal justice that focuses on making America safer by helping prisoners turn their lives around and become contributing members of society.

In recent years, this Congress and the States have passed a myriad of new criminal laws creating more and longer sentences for more and more crimes. As a result, this country sends more and more people to prison every year. There are currently more than 2 million people in jail or prison, and there are more than 13 million people who spend some time in jail or prison each year. Most of these people will at some point return to our communities. What kind of experience inmates have in prison, how we prepare them to rejoin society, and how we integrate them into the broader community when they get out are issues that profoundly affect the communities in which we live.

As a former prosecutor, I believe strongly in securing tough and appropriate prison sentences for people who break our laws. But it is also important that we do everything we can to ensure that when these people get out of prison, they enter our communities as productive members of society, so we can start to reverse the dangerous cycles of recidivism and violence. I hope that the Second Chance Act will help us begin to break that cycle.

The Second Chance Act would fund collaborations between State and local corrections agencies, nonprofits, educational institutions, service providers, and families to ensure that offenders released into society have the resources and support they need to become contributing members of the community. The bill would require that the programs supported by these grants demonstrate measurable positive results, including a reduction in recidivism. We should be supporting good programs and demanding results for our federal tax dollars.

The bill would also set up a task force to determine ways to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of federal programs related to prisoner reentry and would authorize additional programs that would encourage employment of released prisoners, improve