

To this end and without reservation, I strongly believe that Mr. Urenda will be a wonderful and positive addition to our community. If you have further questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

KRISTINA MOLINA,
Latina Outreach Coordinator.

THE WOMEN'S FOUNDATION OF
CALIFORNIA,

San Francisco, CA, July 22, 2009.

Senator DIANNE FEINSTEIN,
San Francisco, CA.

DEAR SENATOR FEINSTEIN: On behalf of the Women's Foundation of California, we are writing to convey our support for Javier Urenda to remain in the United States and become a lawful permanent resident.

Javier is a vital member of his community who participates at all levels: he is a hard-working and dedicated employee of FullBloom Baking Company, a Newark, California based company which did \$58 million in business last year; he is a devoted husband and father to three US citizen children; and he is an important role model to community members and co-workers. Javier was the second person hired by FullBloom and has helped grow FullBloom to a company which now has 388 employees. Javier's dedication, technical know-how and effective management abilities have been critical to FullBloom's success. The local community has been well served by FullBloom, which provides employment, health benefits and educational opportunities to its employees and their children. Javier's community would also be severely impacted if it were to lose his volunteer efforts in his children's schools and his tireless fundraising for charity.

The Women's Foundation of California has a long history of supporting immigrants and immigrant communities throughout the state. Through our research, grantmaking, and other programs, we have seen many of the benefits that new Americans give to our economy, society, and our overall infrastructure. The state's economy would suffer tremendously without the incredible achievements of immigrants.

Javier has recently received an approved labor certification (which had been pending for nearly three years) and is now eligible for adjustment of status. However, he has been issued a "surrender notice" which takes effect on July 29, 2009. If he is forced to leave the country, he would be barred from returning for 10 years causing his children and his employer enormous hardship. If Javier were granted a stay of his deportation order, he could adjust status immediately and be a lawful permanent resident.

We understand that the Immigration and Naturalization Service has established immigration policy to meet the needs of this country and others. Javier Urenda is fulfilling tremendous needs within his community. He is a model participant in this society and deserves to remain here legally.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

JUDY PATRICK,
President and CEO.

By Mrs. BOXER:

S. 1748. A bill to establish a program of research, recovery, and other activities to provide for the recovery of the southern sea otter; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I rise to speak on the introduction of the Southern Sea Otter Recovery and Research Act.

The southern sea otter is a keystone species that plays a critical role in central California's kelp forest ecosystem. By maintaining a healthy and productive ecosystem capable of supporting many other marine species, they also contribute to California's \$22 billion ocean tourism, recreation, and fishing industries.

Already listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act, southern sea otters recently experienced their largest population decline in over a decade. They face a variety of threats, including food limitation, disease, and habitat degradation—but the exact causes of their decline are unknown.

Sea otters are a sentinel species that serve as an indicator of ecosystem health, so this population decline is extremely alarming. Understanding and addressing the causes of this decline would help us protect the health of our kelp ecosystems as a whole.

My legislation would require the Department of the Interior to monitor the population of southern sea otters and assess the major factors limiting their recovery. It would also establish a competitive grant program for research and recovery projects.

The language has been drafted in consultation with numerous scientists, agency officials, conservation groups, and fishermen. Companion legislation was reported by the House Natural Resources Committee by voice vote in May, and passed the full House of Representatives in July. I look forward to working with my colleagues to achieve a successful outcome in the Senate.

With this legislation, we can finally put the southern sea otter on a path to recovery—and restore central California's magnificent kelp forests to a healthy, thriving condition.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 297—TO RECOGNIZE THE DYKE MARSH WILDLIFE PRESERVE AS A UNIQUE AND PRECIOUS ECOSYSTEM

Mr. WEBB submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources:

S. RES. 297

Whereas the Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve on the west bank of the Potomac River just south of Alexandria in Fairfax County is one of the largest remaining freshwater tidal marshes in the Greater Washington, DC, area;

Whereas Congress expressly designated the Dyke Marsh ecosystem for protection in 1959, fifty years ago, under Public Law 86-41 "so that fish and wildlife development and their preservation as wetland wildlife habitat shall be paramount";

Whereas the Honorable JOHN D. DINGELL of Michigan, the late Honorable John P. Saylor of Pennsylvania, and the late Honorable Henry S. Reuss of Wisconsin were instrumental in passing this legislation and in preventing proposed development along the Potomac River, thereby protecting the Dyke Marsh ecosystem from further dredging, fill-

ing, and other activities incompatible with a preserve;

Whereas Dyke Marsh is 5,000 to 7,000 years old and is a unique natural treasure in the national capital region, with more than 6,500 species of plants, insects, fish, birds, reptiles and amphibians contained within an approximately 485-acre parcel;

Whereas the Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve is a significant element in the historic character of the Mount Vernon Memorial Parkway;

Whereas freshwater tidal marshes are rare, and the Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve is one of the few climax, tidal, riverine, narrow-leaved cattail wetlands in the United States National Park Service system;

Whereas wetlands provide ecological services such as flood control, attenuation of tidal energy, water quality enhancement, wildlife habitat, nursery and spawning grounds, and recreational and aesthetic enjoyment;

Whereas the Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve serves as an outdoor laboratory for scientists, educators, students, naturalists, artists, photographers, and others, attracting people of all ages; and

Whereas the Friends of Dyke Marsh is a conservation advocacy group created in 1975 and dedicated to the preservation and restoration of this wetland habitat and its natural resources: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve of Fairfax County, Virginia, as a unique and precious ecosystem that serves as an invaluable natural resource both locally and nationally;

(2) recognizes and expresses appreciation for Representative JOHN DINGELL's, Representative John Saylor's, and Representative Henry Reuss's leadership in preserving this precious natural resource;

(3) celebrates the 50th anniversary of the Federal legislation designating the Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve as a protected wetland habitat;

(4) expresses the need to continue to conserve, protect and restore this fragile habitat, in which a diverse array of plants, animals and other natural resources is threatened by past dredging and filling, a gradual depletion in size, urban and suburban development, river traffic, stormwater runoff, poaching, and non-native invasive species; and

(5) commends the Friends of Dyke Marsh for its longstanding commitment to promoting conservation and environmental awareness and stewardship, so that the Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve may be enjoyed by generations for the next 50 years and into the future.

SENATE RESOLUTION 298—RECOGNIZING FILIPINO AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH IN OCTOBER 2009

Mr. REID (for himself, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. ENSIGN, Mr. INOUE, and Mr. MENENDEZ), submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 298

Whereas the earliest documented Filipino presence in the continental United States was on October 18, 1587, when the first "Luzones Indios" set foot in Morro Bay, California, on board the Manila-built galleon ship Nuestra Señora de Esperanza;

Whereas the Filipino American National Historical Society recognizes the year of 1763 as the date of the first permanent Filipino settlement in the United States in St. Malo, Louisiana, which set in motion the focus on

the story of our Nation's past from a new perspective by concentrating on the economic, cultural, social, and other notable contributions that Filipino Americans have made in countless ways toward the development of the history of the United States;

Whereas the Filipino-American community is the second largest Asian-American group in the United States, with a population of approximately 3,100,000 people;

Whereas Filipino-American servicemen and servicewomen have a longstanding history serving in the Armed Services, from the Civil War to the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts, including the 250,000 Filipinos who fought under the United States flag during World War II to protect and defend this country;

Whereas 9 Filipino Americans have received the Congressional Medal of Honor, the highest award for valor in action against an enemy force that can be bestowed upon an individual serving in the United States Armed Forces;

Whereas Filipino Americans are an integral part of the United States health care system as nurses, doctors, and other medical professionals;

Whereas Filipino Americans have contributed greatly to the fine arts, music, dance, literature, education, business, literature, journalism, sports, fashion, politics, government, science, technology, and other fields in the United States that enrich the landscape of the country;

Whereas efforts should continue to promote the study of Filipino-American history and culture, as mandated in the mission statement of the Filipino American National Historical Society, because the roles of Filipino Americans and other people of color have been overlooked in the writing, teaching, and learning of United States history;

Whereas it is imperative for Filipino-American youth to have positive role models to instill in them the importance of education, complemented with the richness of their ethnicity and the value of their legacy; and

Whereas Filipino American History Month is celebrated during the month of October 2009: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the celebration of Filipino American History Month 2009 as a study of the advancement of Filipino Americans, as a time of reflection and remembrance, and as a time to renew efforts toward the research and examination of history and culture in order to provide an opportunity for all people in the United States to learn and appreciate more about Filipino Americans and their historic contributions to the Nation; and

(2) urges the people of the United States to observe Filipino American History Month 2009 with appropriate programs and activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 299—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL INFANT MORTALITY AWARENESS MONTH 2009

Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Mr. BURR) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 299

Whereas infant mortality refers to the death of a baby before his or her first birthday;

Whereas the United States ranks 29th among industrialized nations in the rate of infant mortality;

Whereas premature birth, low-birth weight, and shorter gestation periods account for more than 60 percent of infant deaths in the United States;

Whereas high rates of infant mortality are especially prevalent in communities with large minority populations, high rates of unemployment and poverty, and limited access to safe housing and medical providers;

Whereas premature birth is a leading cause of infant mortality and, according to the Institute of Medicine, costs the United States more than \$26,000,000,000 annually;

Whereas infant mortality rates can be substantially reduced through community-based services such as outreach, home visitation, case management, health education, and interconceptional care;

Whereas support for community-based programs to reduce infant mortality can result in lower future spending on medical interventions, special education, and other social services that may be needed for infants and children who are born with a low-birth weight;

Whereas the United States Department of Health and Human Services, through the Office of Minority Health, has implemented the "A Healthy Baby Begins With You" campaign;

Whereas public awareness and education campaigns on infant mortality are held during the month of September 2009; and

Whereas September 2009 has been designated as National Infant Mortality Awareness Month: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Infant Mortality Awareness Month 2009;

(2) supports efforts to educate Americans about infant mortality and its contributing factors;

(3) supports efforts to reduce infant deaths, low-birth weight, pre-term births, and disparities in perinatal outcomes;

(4) recognizes the critical importance of including efforts to reduce infant mortality and its contributing factors as part of prevention and wellness strategies; and

(5) calls upon the people of the United States to observe National Infant Mortality Awareness Month during September 2009 with appropriate programs and activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 300—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF FIRE PREVENTION WEEK AND THE WORK OF FIREFIGHTERS IN EDUCATING AND PROTECTING THE COMMUNITIES OF THIS NATION

Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. CARPER, Mr. DODD, Mr. MCCAIN, and Mr. LIEBERMAN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 300

Whereas since the organization of the first fire departments during the colonial era of this Nation, firefighters have maintained their dedication to protecting the health and safety of the American public;

Whereas firefighters presently provide a multitude of services to our communities, including emergency medical services, special rescue response, hazardous material and terrorism response, and public safety education;

Whereas 103 firefighters lost their lives in the line of duty in 2008;

Whereas the Nation's fire departments respond to emergency calls nearly once per second and are dispatched to fire emergencies every 22 seconds;

Whereas approximately 1,145,000 fires were reported in 2008;

Whereas firefighters always respond with courage, whether they are confronted with acts of terrorism, natural disasters, or other emergencies;

Whereas Fire Prevention Week is the longest running public health and safety observance on record, as firefighters have been honored for their role in educating the American public since the first Fire Prevention Week was declared by President Warren G. Harding in 1922;

Whereas the National Fire Protection Association has designated the week of October 4 through October 10, 2009, as Fire Prevention Week; and

Whereas educating all Americans to "Stay Fire Smart" continues to be a priority for all firefighters: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the work of firefighters in educating and protecting the communities of this Nation; and

(2) supports the goals and ideals of Fire Prevention Week.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 42—PROVIDING FOR THE ACCEPTANCE OF A STATUE OF HELEN KELLER, PRESENTED BY THE PEOPLE OF ALABAMA

Mr. SESSIONS (for himself and Mr. SHELBY) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. CON. RES. 42

Whereas Helen Keller was born in Tuscumbia, Alabama on June 27, 1880, and at the age of 19 months lost her sight and hearing as a result of meningitis;

Whereas Helen was liberated from the "double dungeon of darkness and silence" by her teacher, Anne Sullivan, when she discovered language and communication at the water pump when she was 7 years old;

Whereas Helen enrolled in Radcliffe College in 1900 and graduated cum laude in 1904 to become the first deaf and blind college graduate;

Whereas Helen's life served as a model for all people with disabilities in America and worldwide;

Whereas Helen became recognized as one of Alabama's and America's best known figures and became "America's Goodwill Ambassador to the World";

Whereas Helen pioneered the concept of "talking books" for the blind;

Whereas LIFE Magazine hailed Helen as "one of the 100 most important Americans of the 20th Century—a national treasure"; and

Whereas Helen's presence in the Capitol will become an even greater inspiration for people with disabilities worldwide: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That—

SECTION 1. ACCEPTANCE OF HELEN KELLER, FROM THE PEOPLE OF ALABAMA, FOR PLACEMENT IN THE CAPITOL.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The statue of Helen Keller, furnished by the people of Alabama for placement in the Capitol, in accordance with section 1814 of the Revised Statutes of the United States (2 U.S.C. 2131), is accepted in the name of the United States, and the thanks of Congress are tendered to the people of Alabama for providing this commemoration of one of Alabama's most eminent personages.

(b) PRESENTATION CEREMONY.—The State of Alabama is authorized to use the Rotunda of the Capitol on October 7, 2009, for a presentation ceremony for the statue. The Architect of the Capitol and the Capitol Police