

Whereas Mr. Gross was arrested on December 3, 2009, in Havana, Cuba;

Whereas Mr. Gross was detained without charge for 14 months;

Whereas Mr. Gross was charged in February 2011 with "actions against the independence or the territorial integrity of the state";

Whereas Mr. Gross's trial lasted only 2 days, after which he was sentenced to 15 years in prison;

Whereas Mr. Gross and his wife Judy have 2 daughters, one of which was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2010;

Whereas Mr. Gross's 90-year old mother was diagnosed with inoperable cancer in February 2011;

Whereas, in 2011, Mr. Gross's wife Judy underwent surgery, causing her to miss considerable time from work and putting further financial strain on their family;

Whereas Mr. Gross is 63 years old and has lost more than 105 pounds since being detained in Cuba;

Whereas Mr. Gross has developed degenerative arthritis in his leg and a mass behind his shoulder;

Whereas the Government of Cuba has denied requests by Mr. Gross for an independent medical examination;

Whereas Mr. Gross's legal representative filed an appeal to the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention of the United Nations in August 2012; and

Whereas, since Mr. Gross was detained by the Government of Cuba on December 3, 2009, his health has severely deteriorated and his family members have suffered health and financial problems: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) calls for the immediate and unconditional release of United States citizen Alan Phillip Gross; and

(2) urges the Government of Cuba in the meantime to provide all appropriate diagnostic and medical treatment to address the full range of medical issues facing Mr. Gross and to allow him to choose a doctor to provide him with an independent medical assessment.

TEEN CANCER AWARENESS WEEK

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 573 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 573) designating the third week of January 2013 as "Teen Cancer Awareness Week."

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

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and any statements be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 573) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 573

Whereas cancer among adolescents is rare, but is still the leading cause of death from disease for teenagers between the ages of 15 and 19;

Whereas teenage cancer patients receive treatment at various types of medical establishments, including pediatric hospitals, pediatric oncology centers, and adult cancer facilities;

Whereas teenage cancer patients may feel out of place in any of these settings if their clinical and psychosocial needs are not met;

Whereas 40 percent of cancer patients aged 14 and younger are enrolled in clinical trials, compared with only 9 percent of cancer patients between the ages of 15 and 24;

Whereas teenagers with cancer have unique concerns about their education, social lives, body image, and infertility, among other concerns, and their needs may be misunderstood or unacknowledged;

Whereas many adolescent cancer survivors have difficulty readjusting to school and social settings, experience anxiety, and in some cases face increased learning difficulties; and

Whereas it is important to understand the biological and clinical needs of teenagers with cancer, seek the prevention of cancer in teenagers, and increase awareness in the general public of the unique challenges facing teenagers with cancer: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate designates the third week of January 2013 as "Teen Cancer Awareness Week" to promote awareness of teenage cancer and the unique medical and social needs of teenagers with cancer.

NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY AND NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the HELP Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 595 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 595) expressing support for the goals of National Adoption Day and National Adoption Month by promoting national awareness of adoption and the children awaiting families, celebrating children and families involved in adoption, and encouraging the people of the United States to secure safety, permanency, and well-being for all children.

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

Mr. CARDIN. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements be printed in the RECORD as if read.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 595) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 595

Whereas there are millions of unparented children in the world, including 400,540 chil-

dren in the foster care system in the United States, approximately 104,000 of whom are waiting for families to adopt them;

Whereas 59 percent of the children in foster care in the United States are age 10 or younger;

Whereas the average length of time a child spends in foster care is approximately 2 years;

Whereas for many foster children, the wait for a loving family in which they are nurtured, comforted, and protected seems endless;

Whereas in 2011, nearly 26,000 youth "aged out" of foster care by reaching adulthood without being placed in a permanent home;

Whereas every day, loving and nurturing families are strengthened and expanded when committed and dedicated individuals make an important difference in the life of a child through adoption;

Whereas a 2007 survey conducted by the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption demonstrated that though "Americans overwhelmingly support the concept of adoption, and in particular foster care adoption . . . foster care adoptions have not increased significantly over the past five years";

Whereas while 4 in 10 Americans have considered adoption, a majority of Americans have misperceptions about the process of adopting children from foster care and the children who are eligible for adoption;

Whereas 71 percent of those who have considered adoption consider adopting children from foster care above other forms of adoption;

Whereas 45 percent of Americans believe that children enter the foster care system because of juvenile delinquency, when in reality the vast majority of children who have entered the foster care system were victims of neglect, abandonment, or abuse;

Whereas 46 percent of Americans believe that foster care adoption is expensive, when in reality there is no substantial cost for adopting from foster care and financial support is available to adoptive parents after the adoption is finalized;

Whereas family reunification, kinship care, and domestic and inter-county adoption promote permanency and stability to a far greater degree than long-term institutionalization and long-term, often disrupted foster care;

Whereas both National Adoption Day and National Adoption Month occur in the month of November;

Whereas National Adoption Day is a collective national effort to find permanent, loving families for children in the foster care system;

Whereas since the first National Adoption Day in 2000, nearly 40,000 children have joined forever families during National Adoption Day;

Whereas in 2011, a total of 365 events were held in 47 States and the District of Columbia, finalizing the adoptions of 4,187 children from foster care and celebrating an additional 1,030 adoptions finalized during November or earlier in the year; and

Whereas the President traditionally issues an annual proclamation to declare the month of November as National Adoption Month, and National Adoption Day is on November 17, 2012: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Adoption Day and National Adoption Month;

(2) recognizes that every child should have a permanent and loving family; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to consider adoption during the month of November and all throughout the year.