

EC-1653. A communication from the Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Inspector General Act for the period April 1 through September 30, 1995; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-1654. A communication from the Chairman of the District of Columbia Financial Responsibility and Management Assistance Authority, transmitting, pursuant to law, a resolution concerning proposed D.C. law 11-150; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-1657. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, copies of D.C. Act 11-147 adopted by the Council on October 10, 1995; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-1658. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, copies of D.C. Act 11-150 adopted by the Council on October 10, 1995; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

#### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second time by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. JOHNSTON:

S. 1442. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award a grant for the establishment of the National Center for Sickle Cell Disease Research, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

By Mr. SIMON (for himself and Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN):

S. 1443. A bill to designate the United States Post Office building located at 102 South McLean, Lincoln, Illinois, as the "Edward Madigan Post Office Building," and for other purposes; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. JOHNSTON:

S. 1442. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award a grant for the establishment of the National Center for Sickle Cell Disease Research, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR SICKLE CELL DISEASE RESEARCH ESTABLISHMENT ACT OF 1995

• Mr. JOHNSTON. Mr. President, I introduce legislation that will support research for a disease which disproportionately affects African-Americans and other minority groups. Sickle cell disease is a painful, life-threatening, genetic disease. Approximately 1 of every 12 African-Americans is born with the sickle cell genetic trait, and about 1 in every 600 is afflicted with sickle cell disease. Sickle cell conditions are also found, although less frequently, in other United States populations, including those of Puerto Rican, Cuban, and southern Italian ancestry. The disease has also recently been found in some Caucasians.

Sickle cell disease is based in the circulatory system and is a painful and

disabling disorder for which there is currently no cure. In a healthy body, red blood cells contain the substance hemoglobin which carries oxygen from the lungs to various organs and tissues. This role of hemoglobin is essential to life because all body components require oxygen to live and carry out their functions. Diseased bodies have an abnormal type of hemoglobin which interrupts the flow of oxygen to these vital organs.

Red blood cells that contain normal hemoglobin remain round when they release oxygen. Cells with abnormal or sickle hemoglobin, upon releasing oxygen, become distorted into the shape of a sickle causing a chronic and painful anemia. Distorted, or sickled cells cannot traverse capillaries, further limiting oxygen supply to the body's tissues.

Mr. President, the minority population in the State of Louisiana is about 1.29 million people. Of this number roughly 3,250 people are suspected of having the disease, and of this number, 25 percent will have the most acute and serious form, which is often fatal. Alarming, about 130,000 Louisianians carry the genetic trait for this illness.

Mr. President, despite the fact that the cause of the sickle cell disease has been known for many years, progress has not been made in finding suitable treatment. Currently, the most common treatment for the illness is pain relief medication, treating only the immediate symptoms. Treating only the symptoms results in tissue damage, often to major organs, with each successive episode of oxygen deprivation. Consequently, many of those afflicted with severe forms of the disease often do not even live to see adulthood.

Concerned with finding a cure for a disease that has such a devastating effect on the Nation's minority populations, Southern University in Baton Rouge, LA, the largest predominately African-American university in the United States, has committed itself to the creation of a center for sickle cell disease research.

With a single purpose, this center will conduct multidisciplinary research to lead to the discovery of a cure for sickle cell disease. The center will conduct basic biomedical research to determine the types of drugs that can prevent, inhibit, or reverse the sickling process, along with clinical research and joint studies to conduct clinical trials on antisickling agents. In addition, the center will work with other institutions to promote and enhance scholarship and teaching knowledge in order to disseminate newly gained knowledge on the disease.

Mr. President, it is important to note that the Louisiana State Legislature in recognition of the importance of such a center, and even in these exceedingly hard economic times, has committed \$7 million to this project. To complete the center, and to be able to provide this valuable public health research,

Southern University needs Federal assistance. To provide this assistance, I offer a bill to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award a grant for the creation of this center. This legislation will direct the Secretary to provide a grant to the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals for the establishment and construction of the National Center for Sickle Cell Disease Research at Southern University in Baton Rouge.

Mr. President, sickle cell disease is a vital public health problem which this bill would assist in overcoming. Such funding can only aid in the development of this Nation. I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1442

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that:

(1) Sickle Cell Disease is a serious illness that disproportionately affects African-Americans.

(2) Approximately 1 out of every 12 African-Americans is born with the sickle cell trait, and about 1 out of every 600 is afflicted with Sickle Cell Disease.

(3) Sickle Cell conditions also occur in other United States populations, primarily those of Puerto Rican, Cuban, southern Italian ancestry and more recently sickle cell has been found in some Caucasian individuals.

(4) Sickle Cell Disease is a painful and disabling disorder which can lead to untimely death and is caused by inadequate transportation of oxygen due to an abnormal type of hemoglobin molecule in the red blood cells.

(5) Sickle Cell Disease is an inherited disease which can be transmitted to offspring, particularly if both parents carry the genetic trait.

(6) The sickle cell trait carriers show no sign of the disease, but statistically, 1 in 4 of their children will be afflicted with the disease.

(7) There is no national research center devoted to Sickle Cell Disease in the United States.

(8) There is no known cure for Sickle Cell Disease at this time and there is a need for prioritized and specialized research to find such a cure for this severely disabling disease.

(9) Louisiana's minority population is 1,299,281.

(10) Of this number, a suspected 3,248 individuals will have the disease and of those individuals, 25 percent (812 individuals) will have the most acute and serious stage of Sickle Cell Disease, a stage that is usually fatal.

(11) Some 129,928 individuals in Louisiana will carry the sickle cell trait.

(12) Southern University, located in Baton Rouge, Louisiana is the largest predominately African-American university in the United States.

(13) Approximately 16,700 students attend this 112 year old school and Southern graduates are located throughout the United States and the world.

(14) The State of Louisiana through the Louisiana Legislature and Southern University, has shown great leadership and committed significant financial and personnel