

immediately undertake appropriate measures, including actions pursuant to the dispute settlement provisions of the World Trade Organization.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. HAGEL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Friday, July 25, 1997, at 9:30 a.m. to hold a hearing.

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

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. HAGEL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent of behalf of the Governmental Affairs Committee Special Investigation to meet on Friday, July 25, at 10 a.m., for a hearing on campaign financing issues.

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

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Mr. HAGEL. The Committee on Veterans' Affairs would like to request unanimous consent to hold a hearing on pending legislation on July 25, 1997, at 10 a.m., in room 418 of the Russell Senate Office Building.

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

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

SUPPORT OF THE MCCAIN/KYL INTERNATIONAL ADOPTION AMENDMENT

• Mr. KYL. Mr. President, last year, the Senate Judiciary Committee unanimously passed an amendment I sponsored to the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act that requires incoming immigrants to be immunized before they enter the United States.

The amendment makes public health sense. Between 800,000 and 1 million individuals emigrate from their home country to the United States every year. And, the Department of Health and Human Services has made immunization of the U.S. population against vaccine-preventable diseases one of its top health priorities. But before the passage of last year's Immigration Act, there was no Federal policy with regard to the immunization of foreign nationals seeking permanent residency in the United States. With passage of the Immigration Reform Act, we can be assured that incoming immigrants will be immunized against vaccine-preventable diseases.

There are special circumstances, however, when requiring an immigrant to be immunized in his or her home country before traveling to the United States doesn't make sense. The law allows the Attorney General the authority to waive the immunization requirement whenever the requirement "would not be medically appropriate"

or when such immunizations "would be contrary to the alien's religious or moral convictions."

So, the Attorney General has complete authority to waive the immunization requirement. Some House and Senate offices, however, including mine, have heard from representatives of the international adoption community about the difficulties this requirement has caused for such parents and their children.

To address this issue, Senator MCCAIN and I offer this amendment to instruct the Attorney General "to exercise the waiver authority provided for in subsection (g)(2)(B) for any alien applying for an IR3 or IR4 category visa." That is, for any orphan in another country who is to be adopted by a U.S. citizen.

I have heard from adoptive parents and agencies in Arizona about the unique difficulties the immunization requirement is creating for some adoptive parents and their babies and young children. Their unique concerns focus on a number of issues, including:

Unavailable background Records: Children from orphanages, which comprise over 50 percent of international adoptions, often do not have health records on which to base recommendations for vaccinations.

Immunocompromised children: According to medical professionals, many children who have lived in orphanages exhibit significant immune defects. These immunocompromised children should not receive certain immunizations. Requiring such immunizations could cause the child to acquire the very disease the immunization is supposed to prevent.

The exact age of the child is unknown and, therefore, some children could be forced to receive age-inappropriate immunizations.

The adoptive parents often have limited time and resources to travel to the adoptee's home country. Forcing the child to undergo as many as five immunizations at one time, in order to reduce the amount of time and money a parent must spend in the child's home country, will drive up the cost of the adoption.

There is a danger that unsterile or reconstituted needles, or substandard immunizations, may be used to vaccinate children in some orphanages in some countries.

It is also important to ensure that any immigrant who has received a waiver be immunized once he or she has arrived in the United States. The McCain/Kyl amendment requires the Attorney General and Secretaries of HHS and State to report back in 6 months on how to establish an enforcement program to ensure that immigrants who receive waivers be immunized once they arrive in the United States. The enforcement program would not apply to immunizations that would not be medically appropriate in the foreign country or the United States or would be contrary to the alien's religious or moral convictions.

On July 22, 23 of my colleagues, including Senators ABRAHAM, KENNEDY, ALLARD, ASHCROFT, COATS, CONRAD, CRAIG, D'AMATO, DEWINE, DODD, DORGAN, DURBIN, FRIST, GRASSLEY, HUTCHINSON, INOUE, KOHL, LANDRIEU, MCCAIN, MOYNIHAN, ROBB, GORDON SMITH, and SNOWE joined me in sending a letter to Attorney General Reno urging her to generously use her authority to provide waivers from the immunization requirement for these babies and children awaiting adoption. I am pleased that the Senate has adopted this timely amendment. •

DARRELL COLSON, HOOSIER HERO

• Mr. COATS. Mr. President, I rise today in recognition of a true Hoosier hero, Mr. Darrell Colson of Indianapolis. On July 15, 1997, Mr. Colson performed a heroic act. While getting ready to leave his apartment complex pool, he noticed that his neighbor, Orian Williams, who moments earlier was swimming laps, was now drowning at the bottom of the pool. After an attempt by Kim Williams, his fiancé, to rescue the young woman, Mr. Colson dove into the water and pulled Ms. Williams to safety. Once he was able to remove her from the water, Darrell Colson and Kim Williams performed CPR until the rescue team arrived. Orian Williams, who by then was in a coma, was rushed to a nearby community hospital where she regained consciousness after receiving medical treatment.

This is a remarkable act, by a remarkable individual. However, what makes Ms. Williams' rescue truly amazing is that Mr. Colson is a paraplegic. Four years ago, Mr. Colson suffered a tragic accident when he fell 40 feet from a tree; he is now confined to a wheelchair. To save Ms. Williams, Darrell Colson maneuvered his wheelchair to the pool, dove in, held onto her with one arm and used the other to swim her to the surface. Despite his condition, Mr. Colson found the courage to risk his own life for a fellow human being. Mr. Colson may not think of himself as special, but he is a hero to both Orian Williams and to all of us who look to his selfless example for inspiration.

I initiated the Hoosier Hero program in 1991 to recognize individuals who have made significant contributions to Indiana life, while at the same time serving as an inspirational example to the entire Nation. I cannot think of a more inspirational display of courage than saving the life of another individual. Last week, Mr. President, I was pleased to officially recognize Mr. Colson as a true Hoosier hero and awarded him a Hoosier Hero plaque.

Mr. Colson never expected to save a life that day while he was relaxing at the pool. Yet, he demonstrated how we all need to be prepared if we are called upon to help others.

Today I ask that my colleagues join me in commending Darrell Colson,