

SENATE RESOLUTION 295 TO EXPRESS THE SENSE OF THE SENATE CONCERNING THE DEVELOPMENT OF EFFECTIVE METHODS FOR ELIMINATING THE USE OF HEROIN

Mr. COATS (for himself, Mr. MCCAIN, and Mr. COVERDELL) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources:

S. RES. 295

Whereas heroin use in the United States continues to increase;

Whereas drug use among teenagers in the United States is increasing and the number of teenagers that are using heroin for the first time is higher than any other number previously determined;

Whereas between 1992 and 1996, heroin use among college-age students increased an estimated 10 percent;

Whereas an estimated 810,000 chronic heroin addicts live in the United States;

Whereas an estimated 115,000 heroin addicts in the United States are currently participating in methadone programs;

Whereas methadone is a synthetic opiate and the use of methadone in treatment for heroin addiction results in the transfer of addiction from one drug to another drug;

Whereas heroin addicts and methadone addicts are unable to function as self-sufficient, productive members of society;

Whereas methadone addicts who attempt to become drug free experience the same difficult withdrawal process as that experienced by heroin addicts;

Whereas the Clinton Administration, through the Office of National Drug Control Policy, is directing the drug policy of the United States toward the wrong goals by announcing a new heroin policy;

Whereas that heroin policy would double the number of heroin addicts transferred to methadone addiction, loosen controls with respect to the licensing of methadone dispensers, and promote methadone addiction as the principal means of ending heroin addiction;

Whereas no official responsible for that policy has consulted with Congress concerning that policy and the Clinton Administration lacks sufficient statutory and budgetary authority to carry out that policy; and

Whereas in promoting methadone addiction as the preferred treatment for heroin addiction, the Clinton Administration has abandoned heroin addicts to a lifetime of Government-sponsored drug dependency: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the Federal Government should adopt a zero-tolerance drug-free policy that has as its principal objective the elimination of drug abuse and addiction, including both methadone and heroin;

(2) Congress should conduct a thorough examination of the national drug control policy of the United States to determine the reasons for the failure of methadone and methadone maintenance programs to eliminate heroin addiction;

(3) Congress should carefully examine alternative approaches to curing heroin addiction, and focus on treatments that eliminate dependence on, or addiction to, any substance or drug; and

(4) Congress should work with the Clinton Administration to develop an effective drug control policy that—

(A) includes a clear and comprehensive strategy to provide for a transition to a zero-tolerance, drug-free program that is based on

detoxification and the comprehensive treatment of the pathology of drug addiction;

(B) addresses other human needs that contribute to recidivism among recovering heroin addicts; and

(C) provides opportunities for former addicts to become self-sufficient, productive members of society.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I am here today with my colleagues, Senator COATS and Senator COVERDELL, to submit a resolution providing much needed direction to our nation's battle against heroin addiction.

Drug abuse continues to plague our society, destroying families, futures and opportunities for millions of Americans each year. Addiction to drugs, particularly devastating drugs like heroin, endangers the well-being of all citizens, particularly our children, and thus the future of this nation.

Recent statistics show dramatic increases in drug use among children and pain a chilling image of the obstacles facing our nation before we can claim victory in the battle against drugs. In a 1997 study, almost 12 percent of children between the ages of 12 and 17 report using an illicit drug in the preceding 30 days. The number of children using heroin for the first time is at its highest level in 30 years, and today there are over 810,000 heroin addicts in our country.

Clearly, we are still quite far from winning the war drugs.

This is why I am concerned and, honestly, frustrated by the policies which are being promoted by the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) to combat heroin addiction. Under the direction of General McCaffrey, the ONDCP and the Administration have announced their decision to spend \$3.7 billion to double the number of heroin addicts in methadone maintenance programs, which ONDCP has unilaterally chosen as the preferred treatment for heroin addicts.

Mr. President, I have serious concerns about this recently announced policy.

First, methadone treatment programs simply transfer addiction from one drug, heroin, to another drug, methadone. Methadone treatment merely transfers dependency. It does nothing to provide addicts with the training and support necessary to function as self-sufficient, productive members of society. Methadone maintenance programs alone force individuals into a life of government-sponsored drug dependency.

Second, ONDCP did not consult with Congress about this significant and expensive policy decision. The simple fact is that ONDCP has neither the statutory nor budget authority to implement this policy without Congressional approval. And it is not clear that spending nearly \$4 billion on expanded methadone maintenance programs is a wise or effective use of the resources available to combat drug abuse and addiction in this country.

Mr. President, eradicating heroin use is a difficult issue which must be ad-

dressed with careful deliberation, extensive dialogue and a thorough examination. Our policies and programs must be designed to free heroin addicts from their addiction, not hook them on another government-condoned drug.

The resolution we are submitting today calls on Congress to focus on developing effective policies and program for ending heroin addiction. We should be looking at all alternatives to methadone treatment, especially those that do not involve transferring addiction or dependence on substances. We should also include programs to provide training and support to former addicts to help them become productive members of our society. And we should be working to develop drug strategies that will further our goal of a drug-free America.

Let me take a moment to thank my dear friend, DAN COATS, for his work in putting together this resolution. His thoughtful and caring devotion to improving the lives of children and the less fortunate in our society will be sorely missed.

Mr. President, I realize that time is short in this Congress, but I strongly believe that eliminating drug abuse and addiction in America should be a high priority for the Administration and Congress. I urge my colleagues to give careful consideration to this issue and join in working toward that goal in the 106th Congress.

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, today I join Senator COATS and Senator MCCAIN in submitting a Senate Resolution renouncing the recent proposal by the Administration to expand methadone maintenance programs. Methadone is a so-called "treatment" for heroin addiction. Heroin is a highly addictive opiate which leads its users down a path of crime and self-destruction, and the prescription of methadone is simply a means to sustain addiction. My colleagues and I do realize the need for help, but do not believe the answer is exchanging one addiction for another.

The Administration has failed to consult Congress of its plan to increase the number of methadone maintenance programs and to loosen regulations of licensed methadone dispensers. We frown upon the idea of paying for drug addiction. Our Resolution states the need for Congressional hearings in order to compare the Administration's proposal with alternative drug-free treatment programs.

Alternatives such as the Ready, Willing and Able program have been extremely successful in helping Americans who are addicted to drugs, homeless, or in many cases, both. This program is based on community. It provides wages earned from community based jobs in exchange for room, board and positive reinforcement in a drug-free environment. I believe comprehensive treatment programs such as this are a positive step in our war against drugs.

America will have achieved nothing in the fight against drugs if we keep

funding programs that allow us to look the other way without looking at the facts. We need to hear from those who are methadone users, those who are previous methadone users, and those who administer methadone. We need to look at statistics, look at current funding, and look at current problems within the programs. I don't believe we have solved anyone's drug addiction if we can still call them an addict. Methadone users are addicts and they face the same withdrawals as those on heroin. Let's find solutions to our Nation's drug problems, not follow the Administration's example, which further feeds and funds drug addiction.

SENATE RESOLUTION 296—EX-PRESSING THE SENATE REGARDING THE COMPLETION OF CONSTRUCTION OF A WWII MEMORIAL

MR. KERREY submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 296

Whereas World War II is the defining event of the 20th century;

Whereas in World War II, over 16,000,000 American men and women served the Nation, of which nearly 300,000 were killed and over 670,000 were wounded;

Whereas in Public Law 103-422 (108 Stat. 4356), Congress approved the location of a memorial to this epic event in Area I of the District of Columbia and its environs, as described in the Act entitled "An Act to provide standards for placement of commemorative works on certain Federal lands in the District of Columbia and its environs, and for other purposes", approved November 14, 1986 (40 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.); and

Whereas Congress has traditionally provided funding for the memorials commemorating President Thomas Jefferson and President Abraham Lincoln, the monument to President George Washington, and the Korean War Veterans Memorial: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved,

SECTION 1. FUNDING OF A WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL.

It is the sense of the Senate that, on completion of construction of a World War II Memorial in Area I of the District of Columbia and its environs, as described in that Act, Congress should provide funding for the maintenance, security, and custodial and long-term care of the memorial by the National Park Service.

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I have a very simple proposition for the Senate. Let's close an accidental tax loophole for the heirs of people who leave estates worth more than \$17 million and use the savings to help self-employed Americans—like the thousands of entrepreneurs on Nebraska's farms and ranches—afford the soaring cost of health care.

Today I am submitting legislation to accomplish that purpose.

The facts are very simple. Prior to 1997, when we passed the 1997 Balanced Budget Agreement, the first \$600,000 of an estate was excluded from taxes. The old law gradually phased out this exclusion once an estate reached \$17 million. The 1997 Act increases the value

of an estate not subject to taxes. But a drafting error in the 1997 Balanced Budget Agreement failed to include the accompanying phase out of the exclusion on estates over \$17 million.

Clearly this error needs to be fixed. Letting this mistake stand uncorrected will cost the American taxpayers nearly \$900 million over the next ten years. To give you an idea of how much this provision does to benefit the few, consider that in 1995, the Internal Revenue Service estimates that just 300 tax returns were filed on estates over \$20 million.

Congress had the opportunity to correct this error during consideration of the IRS Reform bill this year. Regrettably, the objections of a few to making this right overcame the support of the many for doing so.

Meanwhile, Mr. President, self-employed Americans are struggling to cope with the rising cost of health insurance, which they—unlike Americans employed by others—cannot fully deduct from their taxable income. The face of their struggle is most evident on farms and ranches. In Nebraska, producers are facing plunging commodity prices at the same time they face soaring costs of living, especially for health insurance. Today they can deduct 40 percent of the cost of their insurance. Under current law, they cannot fully deduct that cost until 2007.

So, my proposal is simple. Let's close the loophole that everyone admits was an accident, and use that money to accelerate the full deductibility of health insurance for the self-employed. It's a clear choice between a loophole that nobody wanted to exist and entrepreneurs who—especially those on our farms and ranches—may not exist much longer if we don't get them some help.

While I recognize time is short for passing this bill this year, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation and in pursuing this goal next year.

SENATE RESOLUTIONS 297—AUTHORIZING TESTIMONY AND REPRESENTATION OF FORMER AND CURRENT SENATE EMPLOYEES AND REPRESENTATION OF A SENATOR

Mr. LOTT (for himself and Mr. DASCHLE) submitting the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 297

Whereas, in the case of *Student Loan Fund of Idaho, Inc. v. Riley, et al.*, Case No. CV 94-0413-S-LMB, pending in the United States District Court for the District of Idaho, testimony has been requested from Elizabeth Criner, a former employee of Senator LARRY CRAIG;

Whereas, pursuant to sections 703(a) and 704(a)(2) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, 2 U.S.C. §§ 288b(a) and 288c(a)(2), the Senate may direct its counsel to represent Senators and em-

ployees of the Senate with respect to any subpoena, order, or request for testimony relating to their official responsibilities;

Whereas, by the privileges of the Senate of the United States and Rule XI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, no evidence under the control or in the possession of the Senate may, by the judicial process, be taken from such control or possession but by permission of the Senate;

Whereas, when it appears that evidence under the control or in the possession of the Senate may promote the administration of justice, the Senate will take such action as will promote the ends of justice consistently with the privileges of the Senate: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That Elizabeth Criner, and any other former or current Senate employee from whom testimony may be required, are authorized to testify in the case of *Student Loan Funding of Idaho, Inc. v. Riley, et al.*, except concerning matters for which a privilege should be asserted.

Sec. 2. The Senate Legal Counsel is authorized to represent Senator LARRY CRAIG, Elizabeth Criner, and any other Member or employee of the Senate in connection with the testimony authorized in section one of this resolution.

SENATE RESOLUTION 298—CONDEMNING THE TERROR, VENGEANCE, AND HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES AGAINST THE CIVILIAN POPULATION OF SIERRA LEONE

Mr. ABRAHAM submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 298

Whereas the ousted Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC) military junta and the rebel fighters of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) have mounted a campaign of terror, vengeance, and human rights abuses on the civilian population of Sierra Leone;

Whereas the AFRC and RUF violence against civilians continues with at least 1,200 persons having hands or feet amputated by rebels;

Whereas the International Committee of the Red Cross estimates that only 1 in 4 victims of mutilation actually makes it to medical help;

Whereas the AFRC and RUF continue to abduct children and forcibly train them as combatants;

Whereas UNICEF estimates the number of children forcibly abducted since March 1998 exceeds 3,000;

Whereas the consequences of this campaign have been the flight of more than 250,000 refugees to Guinea and Liberia in the last 6 months and the increase of over 250,000 displaced Sierra Leoneans in camps and towns in the north and east;

Whereas the Governments of Guinea and Liberia are having great difficulty caring for the huge number of refugees, now totaling 600,000 in Guinea and Liberia, and emergency appeals have been issued by the United Nations High Commission for Refugees for \$7,300,000 for emergency food, shelter, and sanitation, and medical, educational, psychological, and social services;