

beginning on the date that member ceases to be a Member of Congress.

(e) **TERMS.**—Each member shall be appointed for the life of the Commission.

(f) **VACANCIES.**—A vacancy in the Commission shall not affect the powers of the Commission but shall be filled in the manner in which the original appointment was made.

(g) **BASIC PAY.**—Members shall serve on the Commission without pay.

(h) **TRAVEL EXPENSES.**—Each member shall receive travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in accordance with sections 5702 and 5703 of title 5, United States Code.

(i) **QUORUM.**—Five members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum but a lesser number may hold hearings.

(j) **CHAIR.**—The Commission shall select a Chair from among the members of the Commission.

(k) **MEETINGS.**—The Commission shall meet at the call of the Chair. Periodically, the Commission shall hold a meeting in Springfield, Illinois.

SEC. 6. DIRECTOR AND STAFF.

(a) **DIRECTOR.**—The Commission may appoint and fix the pay of a Director and such additional personnel as the Commission considers to be appropriate.

(b) **APPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN CIVIL SERVICE LAWS.**—

(1) **DIRECTOR.**—The Director of the Commission may be appointed without regard to the provisions of title 5, United States Code, governing appointments in the competitive service, and may be paid without regard to the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of that title relating to classification and General Schedule pay rates.

(2) **STAFF.**—The staff of the Commission shall be appointed subject to the provisions of title 5, United States Code, governing appointments in the competitive service, and shall be paid in accordance with the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of that title relating to classification and General Schedule pay rates.

SEC. 7. POWERS.

(a) **HEARINGS AND SESSIONS.**—The Commission may, for the purpose of carrying out this Act, hold such hearings, sit and act at such times and places, take such testimony, and receive such evidence as the Commission considers to be appropriate.

(b) **POWERS OF MEMBERS AND AGENTS.**—Any member or agent of the Commission may, if authorized by the Commission, take any action that the Commission is authorized to take by this Act.

(c) **OBTAINING OFFICIAL DATA.**—The Commission may secure directly from any department or agency of the United States information necessary to enable the Commission to carry out this Act. Upon request of the Chair of the Commission, the head of that department or agency shall furnish that information to the Commission.

(d) **MAILS.**—The Commission may use the United States mails in the same manner and under the same conditions as other departments and agencies of the United States.

(e) **ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT SERVICES.**—Upon the request of the Commission, the Administrator of General Services shall provide to the Commission, on a reimbursable basis, the administrative support services necessary for the Commission to carry out its responsibilities under this Act.

SEC. 8. REPORTS.

(a) **INTERIM REPORTS.**—The Commission may submit to Congress such interim reports as the Commission considers to be appropriate.

(b) **FINAL REPORT.**—The Commission shall submit a final report to Congress not later than the expiration of the 4-year period be-

ginning on the date of the formation of the Commission. The final report shall contain—

(1) a detailed statement of the findings and conclusions of the Commission;

(2) the recommendations of the Commission; and

(3) any other information that the Commission considers to be appropriate.

SEC. 9. BUDGET ACT COMPLIANCE.

Any spending authority provided under this Act shall be effective only to such extent and in such amounts as are provided in appropriation Acts.

SEC. 10. TERMINATION.

The Commission shall terminate 120 days after submitting the final report of the Commission pursuant to section 8.

SEC. 11. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out this Act.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be agreed to.

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

The amendment (No. 2795) was agreed to.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, as amended, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements related to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

The bill (H.R. 1451), as amended, was read the third time and passed.

Mr. REID addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST— S. RES. 237

Mr. REID. On behalf of Senator BOXER, I send a Senate resolution to the desk and ask for its immediate consideration.

Ms. COLLINS. On behalf of the Republican leader, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

S. Res. 237 will lie over under the rule.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, today I am submitting a resolution on the Convention to Eliminate All Forms of Discrimination Against Women.

For those unfamiliar with this issue, the Treaty, known by its acronym CEDAW, is the most comprehensive and detailed international treaty to date that addresses the rights of women.

The United States was an active participant in drafting this treaty. It was approved by the General Assembly in 1979. President Carter signed the treaty on behalf of the United States.

To date, 165 nations have ratified or acceded to the treaty. The United States joins the likes of Afghanistan, North Korea and Iran as the few nations who have decided not to become state parties to this treaty.

The Convention requires that nations take measures to eliminate discrimina-

tion against women. Discrimination is defined as "any distinction, exclusion or restriction made on the basis of sex which has the effect of impairing or nullifying the recognition, enjoyment, or exercise by women, irrespective of their marital status."

The treaty addresses "human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil, or any other field."

Let me be clear, this treaty covers the most basic rights for women. For example, Article 5 recognizes the common responsibility of men and women for raising children. Article 6 requires measures to suppress all forms of traffic in women and exploitation of prostitution of women.

Articles 7 and 8 would ensure that women have the right to vote, run for office, and represent their countries in international activities.

Article 10 calls for the elimination of discrimination in the field of education.

Article 11 gives women the right to work and free choice of employment.

Article 12 eliminates discrimination in the delivery of health care services.

This treaty covers other areas of discrimination as well, but as you can tell by the few Articles I have described, this treaty is extremely important to the rights of women throughout the world.

And, ratification of this treaty will strengthen our capability to urge other nations to promote these rights.

In 1994 the Senate Foreign Relations overwhelmingly supported this treaty approving the resolution of ratification by a vote of 13 to 5.

Unfortunately, time ran out in the 103rd Congress before the full Senate had the opportunity to consider the treaty.

Today, I am offering amendment stating that it is the Sense of the Senate that the Foreign Relations Committee should once again hold hearings on CEDAW.

It also states the Senate should take action on the treaty prior to March 8, 2000—International Women's Day.

The United States needs to show that it is the world leader on promoting human rights and that includes the rights of women throughout the world.

I urge my colleagues to join us in co-sponsoring this resolution.

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION AND ENFORCEMENT ACT

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I now ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of calendar No. 356, H.R. 764.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 764) to reduce the incidence of child abuse and neglect, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee