

TEXT OF THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED
RESOLUTION OF ADVICE AND CONSENT:

Resolved, (two-thirds of the Senators present concurring therein), That the Senate advise and consent to the ratification of the Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption, adopted and opened for signature at the conclusion of the seventeenth session of the Hague conference on Private International Law on May 29, 1993 (Treaty Doc. 105-51) (hereinafter, "The Convention"), subject to the declarations of subsection (a) and subsection (b).

(a) DECLARATIONS.—The Senate's advice and consent is subject to the following declarations, which shall be included in the instrument of ratification:

(1) NON-SELF EXECUTING CONVENTION.—The United States declares that the provisions of Articles 1 through 39 of the Convention are not self-executing.

(2) PERFORMANCE OF REQUIRED FUNCTIONS.—The United States declares, pursuant to Article 22(2), that in the United States the Central Authority functions under Articles 15-21 may also be performed by bodies or persons meeting the requirements of Articles 22(2)(a) and (b). Such bodies or persons will be subject to federal law and regulations implementing the Convention as well as state licensing and other laws and regulations applicable to providers of adoption services. The performance of Central Authority functions by such approved adoption service providers would be subject to the supervision of the competent federal and state authorities in the United States.

(b) DECLARATIONS.—The Senate's advice and consent is subject to the following declarations, which shall be binding on the President:

(1) DEPOSIT ON INSTRUMENT.—The President shall not deposit the instrument of ratification for the Convention until such time as the federal law implementing the Convention is enacted and the United States is able to carry out all the obligations of the Convention, as required by its implementing legislation.

(2) TREATY INTERPRETATION.—The Senate affirms the applicability to all treaties of the constitutionally based principles of treaty interpretation set forth in Condition (1) of the resolution of ratification of the INF Treaty, approved by the Senate on May 27, 1988, and Condition (8) of the resolution of ratification of the Document Agreed Among the States Parties to the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe, approved by the Senate on May 14, 1997.

(3) SUPREMACY OF THE CONSTITUTION.—Nothing in the Treaty requires or authorizes legislation or other action by the United States of America that is prohibited by the Constitution of the United States as interpreted by the United States.

(4) REJECTION OF NO RESERVATIONS PROVISION.—It is the Sense of the Senate that the "no reservations" provisions contained in Article 40 of the Convention has the effect of inhibiting the Senate from exercising its constitutional duty to give advice and consent to a treaty, and the Senate's approval of this Convention should not be construed as a precedent for acquiescence to future treaties containing such a provision.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND
JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. COVERDELL:

S. 2475. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow nonitemizers a de-

duction for a portion of their charitable contributions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BURNS (for himself, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. BAUCUS):

S. 2476. A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 in order to prohibit any regulatory impediments to completely and accurately fulfilling the sufficiency of support mandates of the national statutory policy of universal service, and for other purposes; to the Committee of Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. BREAUX):

S. 2477. A bill to amend the Social Security Act to provide additional safeguards for beneficiaries with representative payees under the Old-Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance program or the Supplemental Security Income program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. AKAKA (for himself and Mr. GRAHAM):

S. 2478. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a theme study on the peopling of America, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. LANDRIEU:

S. 2479. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a refundable credit against income tax to certain elementary and secondary school teachers who receive advanced certification and to exclude from gross income certain amounts received by such teachers; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. FRIST, Mr. ABRAHAM, Ms. SNOWE, and Mr. JEFFORDS):

S. 2480. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to improve the safety of perishable product whose import is regulated by the Commissioner of Food and Drugs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. WARNER (for himself and Mr. LEVIN) (by request):

S. 2481. A bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2001 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2001, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. LAUTENBERG):

S. 2482. A bill to assist States and units of local government in carrying out Safe Homes-Safe Streets programs; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. SNOWE (for herself and Mr. WARNER):

S. 2483. A bill to provide for the eligibility of small business concerns owned and controlled by women for assistance under the mentor-protégé program of the Department of Defense; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. CLELAND (for himself and Mr. COVERDELL):

S. 2484. A bill to ensure that immigrant students and their families receive the services that the students and families need to successfully participate in elementary schools, secondary schools, and communities, in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Ms. SNOWE):

S. 2485. A bill to direct the Secretary of the interior to provide assistance in planning and constructing a regional heritage center in Calais, Maine; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND
SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. ROBB (for himself and Mr. WARNER):

S. Res. 298. A resolution designating the month of May each year as the Month for Children; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MCCONNELL (for himself and Mr. DODD):

S. Res. 299. A resolution to make technical corrections to the Standing Rules of the Senate; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. WELLSTONE:

S. Res. 300. A resolution designating the week of April 23-30, 2000, as "National Shaken Baby Syndrome Awareness Week"; considered and agreed to.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED
BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. BURNS (for himself, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. BAUCUS):

S. 2476. A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 in order to prohibit any regulatory impediments to completely and accurately fulfilling the sufficiency of support mandates of the national statutory policy of universal service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

UNIVERSAL SERVICE SUPPORT ACT

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Universal Service Support Act, a bill that will spur increased access to communications services for rural America. Just a few short years ago, we took the dramatic step of reshaping our nation's communications policy by passing the Telecommunications Act of 1996. A significant element of that initiative was the codification of a reconstituted policy of universal service, which guarantees all Americans with the ability to access to quality communications services.

Nevertheless, a significant impediment to the fulfillment of this national policy exists. There currently exist two regulatory caps that are limiting the amount of support that can be directed to high-cost infrastructure deployment initiatives that are covered under the 1996 Act.

The regulatory caps were first instituted in 1994 at a time when a significant number of communications infrastructure acquisitions were taking place. This was in the days prior to the 1996 Act, which initiated competition and deregulation into the communications industry. Many of the acquisitions of that time involved the rural exchanges of large incumbent local exchange carriers that were divesting themselves of properties deemed to be unprofitable or otherwise undesirable. The entities purchasing such exchanges were generally the small rural cooperative and commercial systems that have served large portions of the nation's rural areas for years.

The Federal Communications Commission instituted these caps because