

Whereas, In 1999, the Texas Legislature called for an in-depth study of the public health infrastructure and barriers to a cooperative effort between Texas and Mexico; results of the study indicate that differences in technology and limitations on the exchange of technology, disparities in methods of collecting data and confidentiality provisions that restrict information sharing, and cultural differences that affect interaction between local and state health departments all combine to inhibit collaboration on health issues of mutual concern; and

Whereas, An example of the consequences of such barriers to cooperation occurred in 1999, when an outbreak of dengue fever in South Texas was traced back to Mexican cities and was thought to have been brought from Nuevo Laredo, Mexico, to Laredo, Texas; and

Whereas, Despite the implications for an outbreak across the border, Mexican health officials were limited in their ability to confirm cases of the mosquito-borne illness, and provisions in the Mexican Constitution restricted them from sharing the results of tests performed on Mexican citizens with Texas' health officials; and

Whereas, Similar instances have occurred where incidences of tuberculosis, salmonella, and malaria around the United States were found to have started in the Texas-Mexico border region; and

Whereas, It is in the interest of the United States to control the spread of diseases, beginning in the places where they originate, and poverty and poor health conditions along the United States-Mexico border region provide a large incubation ground for diseases; however, the efforts of one state or country alone will not address conditions that are present on both sides of the border, or legal issues that create incompatibilities between approaches, making a cooperative binational effort vitally important; and

Whereas, The United States and Mexico have worked in concert in forming NAFTA and related side agreements that address environmental infrastructure issues, creating the Border Environment Cooperation Commission and establishing the North American Development Bank; the success of these joint ventures suggests that forming similar international agreements to improve the public health infrastructure and finding ways to address the exchange of technology and information will improve the quality of life for residents of the border region as well as reduce the public health risks in the spread of disease; and

Whereas, Establishing an agreement between the United States and Mexico will show a commitment to the issue of public health and acknowledge that the spread of disease is an international problem without boundaries; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the 77th Legislature of the State of Texas hereby urge the Congress of the United States to initiate the development of an agreement or treaty with Mexico to address health issues of mutual concern; and, be it further

Resolved, That the Texas secretary of state forward official copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to the speaker of the house of representatives and the president of the senate of the United States Congress, and to all the members of the Texas delegation to the congress with the request that this resolution be officially entered in the Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.

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. HATCH (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 1272. A bill to assist United States veterans who were treated as slave laborers while held as prisoners of war by Japan during World War II, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. HARKIN:

S. 1273. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for rural health services outreach, rural health network planning and implementation, and small health care provider quality improvement grant programs, and telehomecare demonstration projects; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. FRIST, Mr. DODD, Mr. HUTCHINSON, Mr. JEFFORDS, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. EDWARDS, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mr. SESSIONS):

S. 1274. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide programs for the prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation of stroke; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. FRIST (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. HUTCHINSON, Mr. DODD, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. EDWARDS, and Mr. CORZINE):

S. 1275. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide grants for public access defibrillation programs and public access defibrillation demonstration projects, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. DOMENICI (for himself and Mr. BINGAMAN):

S. 1276. A bill to provide for the establishment of a new counterintelligence polygraph program for the Department of Energy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. DOMENICI (for himself and Mr. LUGAR):

S. 1277. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Energy to guarantee loans to facilitate nuclear nonproliferation programs and activities of the Government of the Russian Federation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mrs. LINCOLN (for herself, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BREAUX, and Ms. LANDRIEU):

S. 1278. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a United States independent film and television production wage credit; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BREAUX:

S. 1279. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the active business definition under section 355; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CLELAND:

S. 1280. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out construction projects for the purpose of improving, renovating, and updating patient care facilities at Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself and Mr. FRIST):

S. 1281. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize and strengthen the health centers program and the National Health Service Corps, and to establish the Healthy Communities Access Program, which will help coordinate services for the uninsured and underinsured, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. HATCH:

S. 1282. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross in-

come of individual taxpayers discharges of indebtedness attributable to certain forgiven residential mortgage obligations; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. JOHNSON:

S. 1283. A bill to establish a program for the delivery of mental health services by telehealth; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr.

SPECTER, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. BAYH, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mrs. BOXER, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CHAFEE, Mr. CLELAND, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. CORZINE, Mr. DAYTON, Mr. DODD, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. INOUE, Mr. KERRY, Mr. KOHL, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEVIN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. REED, Mr. REID, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SMITH of Oregon, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. TORRICELLI, Mr. WELLSTONE, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 1284. A bill to prohibit employment discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CORZINE:

S. 1285. A bill to provide the President with flexibility to set strategic nuclear delivery system levels to meet United States national security goals; to the Committee on Armed Services.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. DODD:

S. Res. 142. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the United States should be an active participant in the United Nations World Conference on Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. BIDEN (for himself, Mr. CON-

RAD, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. SANTORUM, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. BREAUX, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. DODD, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. BAYH, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. DORGAN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. KERRY, Mr. INOUE, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. MILLER, Mr. MURKOWSKI, Mr. REID, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. BYRD, Mr. DAYTON, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. KOHL, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. WARNER, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. CHAFEE, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. INHOPE, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. THURMOND, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CARPER, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. ENSIGN, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire, and Mr. BOND):

S. Res. 143. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the development of educational programs on veterans' contributions to the country and the designation of the week of November 11 through November 17, 2001, as "National Veterans Awareness Week"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LOTT (for himself and Mr. DASCHLE):

S. Res. 144. A resolution commending James W. Ziglar for his service to the United States Senate; considered and agreed to.