

Whereas over 53,000 young people have gone to Safe Place locations to get help when faced with crisis situations;

Whereas through the efforts of Safe Place coordinators across the country each year more than one-half million students learn that Safe Place is a resource if abusive or neglectful situations exist;

Whereas increased awareness of the program's existence will encourage communities to establish Safe Places for the Nation's youth throughout the country: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) proclaims the week of March 17 through March 23, 2002 as "National Safe Place Week" and

(2) request that the President issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States and interested groups to promote awareness of and volunteer involvement in the Safe Place programs, and to observe the week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 219—EX-PRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DEMOCRATICALLY ELECTED GOVERNMENT OF COLOMBIA AND ITS EFFORTS TO COUNTER THREATS FROM UNITED STATES-DESIGNATED FOREIGN TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS

Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mr. HELMS, Mr. DEWINE, and Mr. TORRICELLI) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 219

Whereas the democratically elected Government of Colombia, led by President Andres Pastrana, is the legitimate authority in the oldest representative democracy in South America;

Whereas the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Attorney General and the Secretary of the Treasury, is required to designate as foreign terrorist organizations those groups whose activities threaten the security of United States nationals or the national security interests of the United States pursuant to section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act;

Whereas the Secretary of State has designated 3 Colombian terrorist groups as foreign terrorist organizations, including the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), the United Self-Defense Forces of Colombia (AUC), and the National Liberation Army (ELN);

Whereas all 3 United States-designated foreign terrorist organizations regularly engage in criminal acts, including murder, kidnapping, and extortion perpetrated against Colombian civilians, government officials, security forces, and against foreign nationals, including United States citizens;

Whereas the FARC is holding 5 Colombian legislators, a presidential candidate, and Colombian police and army officers and soldiers as hostages and has recently escalated bombings against civilian targets, including a foiled attempt to destroy the city of Bogota's principal water reservoir;

Whereas, according to the Colombian government, the FARC has received training in terrorist techniques and technology from foreign nationals;

Whereas, since 1992, United States-designated foreign terrorist organizations in Colombia have committed serious crimes against United States citizens, kidnapping more than 50 Americans and murdering at least 10 Americans;

Whereas the Drug Enforcement Administration believes that members of the FARC and the AUC directly engage in narcotics trafficking;

Whereas individual members of Colombia's security forces have collaborated with illegal paramilitary organizations by, inter alia, in some instances allowing such organizations to pass through roadblocks, sharing tactical information with such organizations, and providing such organizations with supplies and ammunition;

Whereas while the Colombian government has made progress in its efforts to combat and capture members of illegal paramilitary organizations and taken positive steps to break links between individual members of the security forces and such organizations, further steps by the Colombian government are warranted;

Whereas in 1998, Colombian President Andres Pastrana began exhaustive efforts to negotiate a peace agreement with the FARC and implemented extraordinary confidence-building measures to advance these negotiations, including establishing a 16,000-square-mile safe haven for the FARC;

Whereas the Government of Colombia has also undertaken substantial efforts to negotiate a peace agreement with the ELN;

Whereas the United States has consistently supported the Government of Colombia's protracted efforts to negotiate a peace agreement with the FARC and supports the Government of Colombia in its continuing efforts to reach a negotiated agreement with the ELN;

Whereas the United States would welcome a negotiated, political solution to end the violence in Colombia;

Whereas, after the FARC hijacked a commercial airplane and took Colombian Senator Jorge Eduardo Gechem Turbay as a hostage into the government-created safe haven, President Pastrana ended his government's sponsorship of the peace negotiations with the FARC and ordered Colombia's security forces to reestablish legitimate governmental control in the safe haven;

Whereas President Pastrana has received strong expressions of support from foreign governments and international organizations for his decision to end the peace talks and dissolve the FARC's safe haven; and

Whereas the Government of Colombia's negotiations with the ELN are continuing despite the end of the negotiations with the FARC: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That—

(1) the Senate—

(A) expresses its support for the democratically elected Government of Colombia and the Colombian people as they strive to protect their democracy from terrorism and the scourge of illicit narcotics; and

(B) deplors the continuing criminal terrorist acts of murder, abduction, and extortion carried out by all United States-designated foreign terrorist organizations in Colombia against United States citizens, the civilian population of Colombia, and Colombian authorities; and

(2) it is the sense of the Senate that the President, without undue delay, should transmit to Congress for its consideration proposed legislation, consistent with United States law regarding the protection of human rights, to assist the Government of Colombia to protect its democracy from United States-designated foreign terrorist organizations and the scourge of illicit narcotics.

SENATE RESOLUTION 220—EX-PRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING THE CONTINUED ATTACKS ON DEMOCRACY AND THE RULE OF LAW IN COLOMBIA, INCLUDING THE KIDNAPPINGS OF THE ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PEOPLE OF COLOMBIA

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

S. RES. 220

Whereas Colombia is home to the oldest democracy in Latin America and has consistently been a friend of the United States;

Whereas Colombia has been affected by the violence generated by the terrorist acts of illegal armed groups;

Whereas the largest of these groups, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), has used kidnapping, extortion, terrorism, and narcotics trafficking to raise money for its activities;

Whereas those most affected by the targets of these activities have been the people of Colombia;

Whereas in October 1997, almost 10,000,000 Colombians voted for a mandate for peace that asked all presidential candidates to find peace in Colombia through political negotiation;

Whereas in June 1998, 6,500,000 Colombians voted for President Andres Pastrana and his project for peace in Colombia;

Whereas, since his election, President Pastrana has worked consistently and persistently to find a peaceful solution to the ongoing conflict between the Government of Colombia and the insurgency groups operating within the borders of Colombia;

Whereas the Government of Colombia put forth several proposals for peace and made sacrifices in sovereign territory and commitments in funding in hopes of achieving peace in Colombia only to have these overtures repeatedly rejected;

Whereas, on January 20, 2002, the Government of Colombia and the FARC were able to agree on a schedule to be followed in order to define the future of the peace process;

Whereas, since this accord was signed by the FARC, the FARC has consistently and repeatedly taken violent actions against the people and the Government of Colombia in the form of terrorist attacks, including—

- (1) car bombs;
- (2) attacking government installations;
- (3) mining new fields;
- (4) homicides, including women and children;
- (5) destroying electric pylons;
- (6) bombing oil pipelines;
- (7) destroying bridges; and
- (8) attacks on the dam that provides water to Bogota;

Whereas five democratically elected representatives of the Colombian Congress are currently being held against their will after being kidnapped by the FARC, including—

(1) Representative Oscar Tulio Lizcano, a member of the Conservative Party and elected by the people of Colombia to represent the Province of Caldas, who was kidnapped in the municipality of Riosucio, Province of Caldas, on August 5, 2000, by members of the "Aurelio Rodriguez Front" of the "Jose Maria Cordoba Block" of the FARC;

(2) Senator Luis Eladio Perez, a member of the Liberal Party and elected by the people of Colombia, while visiting several municipalities on a political tour who was kidnapped in the town of Ipiales, Province of Nariflo, on June 10, 2001, by elements of the