

(Mrs. CLINTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1967, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve outpatient vision services under part B of the medicare program.

S. 2051

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2051, a bill to remove a condition preventing authority for concurrent receipt of military retired pay and veterans' disability compensation from taking effect, and for other purposes.

S. 2246

At the request of Mr. DODD, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. CARNAHAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2246, a bill to improve access to printed instructional materials used by blind or other persons with print disabilities in elementary and secondary schools, and for other purposes.

S. 2480

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. ALLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2480, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to exempt qualified current and former law enforcement officers from state laws prohibiting the carrying of concealed handguns.

S. 2509

At the request of Mrs. HUTCHISON, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BAYH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2509, a bill to amend the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 to specify additional selection criteria for the 2005 round of defense base closures and realignments, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 185

At the request of Mr. ALLEN, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 185, a resolution recognizing the historical significance of the 100th anniversary of Korean immigration to the United States.

S. CON. RES. 109

At the request of Mr. CHAFEE, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 109, a concurrent resolution commemorating the independence of East Timor and expressing the sense of Congress that the President should establish diplomatic relations with East Timor, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3431

At the request of Mr. KERRY, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3431 proposed to H.R. 3009, a bill to extend the Andean Trade Preference Act, to grant additional trade benefits under that Act, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 272—EX- PRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING THE suc- CESS OF THE VARELA PROJECT'S COLLECTION OF 10,000 CERTIFIED SIGNATURES IN SUP- PORT OF A NATIONAL REF- ERENDUM AND THE DELIVERY OF THESE SIGNATURES TO THE CUBAN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

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

S. RES. 272

Whereas Article 88 of the Cuban Constitution states that the Cuban National Assembly should schedule a national referendum if it receives the verified signatures of 10,000 legal voters;

Whereas on May 10, 2002, a group of Cuban citizens led by Oswaldo Paya delivered 11,020 verified signatures to the Cuban National Assembly in support of a referendum;

Whereas Mr. Paya's petition drive is inspired by the 19th-century priest and Cuban independence hero, Padre Felix Varela, and is known as the Varela Project;

Whereas the Varela Project seeks a referendum on civil liberties, including freedom of speech, amnesty for political prisoners, support for private business, a new electoral law, and a general election;

Whereas the Varela Project is supported by 140 opposition organizations in Cuba and has received no money or support from foreign citizens or foreign governments;

Whereas the Varela Project is the largest petition drive in Cuban history;

Whereas the Varela Project seeks amnesty for all of those who have been detained, sanctioned, or jailed for political motives and who have not participated in acts directly threatening the lives of others;

Whereas the Varela Project seeks to guarantee citizens the right to form private businesses, to carry out economic activities that could be productive and of service, and to establish contracts between workers and businesses for the development of these businesses in fair and just conditions so that no one may obtain profits by exploiting the work of others;

Whereas the Varela Project is a step in moving Cuba toward achieving international standards for human rights;

Whereas the goal of United States policy in Cuba is to promote a peaceful transition to democracy through an active policy of supporting the forces of change on the island; and

Whereas the Varela Project is engaged in the promotion of a peaceful transition to democracy in Cuba: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the constitutional right of the citizens of Cuba who have signed the Varela Project to petition the Cuban National Assembly for a referendum;

(2) calls on the Cuban government to accept the Varela Project petition and, in accordance with its obligation under Article 88 of the Cuban Constitution, to hold a referendum on civil liberties, including freedom of speech, an amnesty for political prisoners, support for private business, a new electoral law, and a general election;

(3) praises the bravery of Oswaldo Paya and his colleagues in collecting 11,020 verified signatures in support of the Varela Project;

(4) calls on the Cuban government to provide its citizens with internationally accepted standards for civil and human rights, and the opportunity to vote in free and fair elections;

(5) urges the President and his representatives to take all appropriate steps to support the Varela Project and any future efforts by the Cuban people to assert their constitutional right to petition the National Assembly in support of a referendum; and

(6) urges the President to pursue an action-oriented policy of directly assisting the Cuban people and independent organizations to strengthen the forces of change and to improve human rights in Cuba.

SEC. 2. The Secretary of the Senate shall transmit a copy of this resolution to the President.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLU- TION 114—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARD- ING NORTH KOREAN REFUGEEES WHO ARE DETAINED IN CHINA AND RETURNED TO NORTH KOREA WHERE THEY FACE TOR- TURE, IMPRISONMENT, AND EXE- CUTION

Mr. BROWNBACK (for himself and Mr. KENNEDY) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. CON. RES. 114

Whereas the Government of North Korea is one of the most oppressive regimes and was identified by the President of the United States as one of the three countries forming an "axis of evil";

Whereas the Government of North Korea is controlled by the Korean Workers Party, which does not recognize the right of North Koreans to exercise the freedoms of speech, religion, press, assembly, or association;

Whereas the Government of North Korea imposes severe punishments for crimes such as attempted defection, slander of the Korean Workers Party, listening to foreign broadcasts, possessing printed matter that is considered reactionary by the Korean Workers Party, and holding prohibited religious beliefs;

Whereas at least 1,000,000 North Koreans are estimated to have died of starvation since 1995 because of the failure of the centralized agricultural system operated by the Government of North Korea and because of severe drought;

Whereas the combination of political, social, and religious persecution, economic deprivation, and the risk of starvation in North Korea is causing many North Koreans to flee to China;

Whereas between 100,000 and 300,000 North Korean refugees are estimated to be residing in China without the permission of the Government of China;

Whereas the Governments of China and North Korea have reportedly begun aggressive campaigns to locate North Koreans who reside without permission in China and to forcibly return them to North Korea;

Whereas North Koreans who seek asylum in China and are refused, are returned to North Korea where they have reportedly been imprisoned and tortured, and in many cases killed;

Whereas the United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees of 1951, as modified and incorporated by reference by the Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees of 1967, defines a refugee as a person who "owing to well-founded fear of being