

(A) participate in events and awareness initiatives held during the month of February;

(B) become informed about the convenience and safety of direct deposit; and

(C) consider signing up for direct deposit of Social Security or other Federal benefits.

SENATE RESOLUTION 364—HONORING THE VALUABLE CONTRIBUTIONS OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS IN THE UNITED STATES

Mr. VITTER (for himself and Ms. LANDRIEU) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 364

Whereas Catholic schools in the United States have received international acclaim for academic excellence while providing students with lessons that extend far beyond the classroom;

Whereas Catholic schools present a broad curriculum that emphasizes the lifelong development of moral, intellectual, physical, and social values in the young people of the United States;

Whereas Catholic schools in the United States today educate 2,420,590 students and maintain a student-to-teacher ratio of 15 to 1;

Whereas the faculty members of Catholic schools teach a highly diverse body of students;

Whereas more than 27.1 percent of school children enrolled in Catholic schools are minorities, and more than 13.6 percent are non-Catholics;

Whereas Catholic schools saved the United States \$19,000,000,000 in educational funding during fiscal year 2005;

Whereas Catholic schools produce students strongly dedicated to their faith, values, families, and communities by providing an intellectually stimulating environment rich in spiritual, character, and moral development; and

Whereas in the 1972 pastoral message concerning Catholic education, the National Conference of Catholic Bishops stated, "Education is one of the most important ways by which the Church fulfills its commitment to the dignity of the person and building of community. Community is central to education ministry, both as a necessary condition and an ardently desired goal. The educational efforts of the Church, therefore, must be directed to forming persons-in-community; for the education of the individual Christian is important not only to his solitary destiny, but also the destinies of the many communities in which he lives." Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the goals of Catholic Schools Week, an event cosponsored by the National Catholic Educational Association and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops that recognizes the vital contributions of thousands of Catholic elementary and secondary schools in the United States; and

(2) congratulates Catholic schools, students, parents, and teachers across the United States for their ongoing contributions to education, and for the vital role they play in promoting and ensuring a brighter, stronger future for this Nation.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 79—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT NO UNITED STATES ASSISTANCE SHOULD BE PROVIDED DIRECTLY TO THE PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY IF ANY REPRESENTATIVE POLITICAL PARTY HOLDING A MAJORITY OF PARLIAMENTARY SEATS WITHIN THE PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY MAINTAINS A POSITION CALLING FOR THE DESTRUCTION OF ISRAEL

Mr. THUNE (for himself, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. TALENT, Mr. BROWBACK, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. VOINOVICH, and Mr. JOHNSON) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. CON. RES. 79

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That it is the sense of Congress that no United States assistance should be provided directly to the Palestinian Authority if any representative political party holding a majority of parliamentary seats within the Palestinian Authority maintains a position calling for the destruction of Israel.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2697. Mr. NELSON, of Florida (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. KOHL, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. DAYTON, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. NELSON, of Nebraska, and Mr. SARBANES) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4297, to provide for reconciliation pursuant to section 201(b) of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2006; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2698. Mr. BINGAMAN (for himself, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KOHL, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. KERRY, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. DAYTON, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mr. BAYH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4297, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2699. Mr. LAUTENBERG submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4297, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2700. Mr. KENNEDY (for himself and Mr. HARKIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4297, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2701. Mr. DURBIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4297, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2702. Mr. KENNEDY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4297, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2697. Mr. NELSON of Florida (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. KOHL, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. DAYTON, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, and Mr. SARBANES) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by

him to the bill H.R. 4297, to provide for reconciliation pursuant to section 201(b) of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2006; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. . . . PROTECTION FOR MEDICARE BENEFICIARIES WHO ENROLL IN THE PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFIT DURING 2006.

(a) EXTENDED PERIOD OF OPEN ENROLLMENT DURING ALL OF 2006 WITHOUT LATE ENROLLMENT PENALTY.—Section 1851(e)(3)(B) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-21(e)(3)(B)) is amended—

(1) in clause (iii), by striking "May 15, 2006" and inserting "December 31, 2006"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new sentence:

"An individual making an election during the period beginning on November 15, 2006, and ending on December 15, 2006, shall specify whether the election is to be effective with respect to 2006 or with respect to 2007 (or both)."

(b) ONE-TIME CHANGE OF PLAN ENROLLMENT FOR MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFIT DURING ALL OF 2006.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1851(e) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-21(e)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (2)(B)—

(i) in the heading, by striking "FOR FIRST 6 MONTHS";

(ii) in clause (i), by striking "the first 6 months of 2006," and all that follows through "is a Medicare+Choice eligible individual," and inserting "2006,"; and

(iii) in clause (ii), by inserting "(other than during 2006)" after "paragraph (3)"; and

(B) in paragraph (4), by striking "2006" and inserting "2007" each place it appears.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 1860D-1(b)(1)(B)(iii) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-101(b)(1)(B)(iii)) is amended by striking "subparagraphs (B) and (C) of paragraph (2)" and inserting "paragraph (2)(C)".

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect as if included in the enactment of the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003 (Public Law 108-173).

SA 2698. Mr. BINGAMAN (for himself, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KOHL, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. KERRY, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. DAYTON, Mr. FEINSTEIN, and Mr. BAYH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4297, to provide for reconciliation pursuant to section 201(b) of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2006; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. . . . TRANSITION REQUIREMENTS.

(a) REQUIREMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1860D-4(b) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-104(b)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(4) FORMULARY TRANSITION.—The sponsor of a prescription drug plan is required to provide at least a 30-day supply of any drug that a new enrollee in the plan was taking prior to enrolling in such plan. For individuals residing in a long-term care setting, the sponsor of a prescription drug plan is required to