

the City of Milwaukee to exercise powers or cooperate in the exercise of powers in violation of any city ordinance or the laws or Constitution of the State of the United States; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That in order to assess the effect of antiterrorism initiatives on the residents of the City of Milwaukee, the Common Council calls upon federal officials to make periodic reports, consistent with the Freedom of Information Act; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City of Milwaukee joins 43 million Americans, 250 communities in 37 states across the nation and the National League of Cities as of February 24, 2004 in expressing concern that existing elements of the USA PATRIOT Act threaten civil rights and liberties guaranteed under the U.S. Constitution.

Mr. President, I shared with my colleagues the resolutions of all eight States in this country, all the way from Alaska to Maine, that express deep concerns about provisions of the USA PATRIOT Act. This was our opportunity to respond to the voices of those legislatures and the people of those States, to their heartfelt concerns about the degradation of their civil liberties. Many of these are not liberal States. Many of these are some of the reddest of the red States, to put it into common parlance, and they are some of the strongest States when it comes to the question of whether someone's library records or business records should be obtainable on no showing whatever—whatever—that someone is connected either to terrorism or any kind of wrongdoing at all. That is American common sense, whether you are standing in Maine, Wisconsin, or Alaska.

I only shared 4 of the 400 resolutions from city councils and county governments that essentially say the same thing. But I did share four from all over my State of Wisconsin where I believe the sentiment is strong that there simply is no reason why we cannot get the balance right, why we can't always err on the side of more government power, where the feeling is that somehow we are capable in this Congress and in this Government and in this country of getting the terrorists and stopping the terrorists, but also protecting the fundamental rights on which this country is founded.

It is not just my words. I happen to have been the only person to vote against the original USA PATRIOT Act in this Senate. But what I have begun to share is the fact that hundreds and hundreds of governmental units across this country have passed resolutions by the elected representatives in those communities or in those States, saying, wait, there are problems with the USA PATRIOT Act and they must be fixed.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. VITTER). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, the vote on adoption of the conference report to accompany H.R. 3199, the PATRIOT Act, occur at 3 p.m. tomorrow, with no further intervening action or debate. I further ask that the time until 2:30 be equally divided, with 1 hour of the time controlled by the minority to be under the control of Senator FEINGOLD and that the time between 2:30 and 3 p.m. be equally divided between the majority leader and the Democratic leader or their designees.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The minority leader is recognized.

Mr. REID. Reserving the right to object, I want the record to be spread with my appreciation to Senator FEINGOLD for working with us. Because of his agreeing to give up part of the time, it is going to make it more convenient for Members who have other things they would like to be doing, including another matter to vote on as soon as we finish this. So I want the record to indicate that I speak for many Senators in expressing appreciation to Senator FEINGOLD for working with us.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, yesterday I opposed cloture on S. 2271, the USA PATRIOT Act Additional Reauthorizing Amendments Act of 2006. Although I support Senator SUNUNU's bill, I voted against ending debate on it because Members of the Senate should have the right to offer amendments to this legislation, which implicates some very weighty constitutional and civil liberty issues. Today, I voted in support of S. 2271 on its merits because I believe it improves the PATRIOT Act conference report. I will continue to work with Senators FEINGOLD, SPECTER, and others to make more improvements such as those included in the bipartisan Senate PATRIOT Act reauthorization bill, which passed unanimously last July.

GOLDEN GAVEL AWARD

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I wish to take a brief moment to acknowledge an important feat of one of our Members. At approximately 5 o'clock today, the distinguished Senator from Oklahoma, Mr. COBURN, reached his 100th hour of presiding. Senator COBURN will be the second Senator in the 109th Congress to receive the Golden Gavel Award.

Most Members will agree that the best way to learn about Senate procedure is to preside over the Senate Chamber. Senator COBURN has done so with distinction. He has done so with honor and with a firm but fair gavel. In addition to his regular presiding time, Senator COBURN has volunteered to preside and fill in on those late nights

and weekends when we are in dire need of help in the Chair. We all thank him for that.

The Senate owes a debt of gratitude to the Senator from Oklahoma. We thank him for his service and congratulate him on this outstanding achievement.

AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, each year roughly 24,000 children in the United States are born with an autism spectrum disorder. Over my short lifetime in medicine, the last 30 years, it has been remarkable to see the increase in autism spectrum disorder, a disorder which we don't understand today. We have made progress, but we don't understand it. The symptoms are tragic in many ways. They can be severe, or they have the spectrum from mild to severe. Autistic infants display abnormal reactions to various sensory stimuli, whether it is light or touch or smells, where touches can be experienced as being very painful, smells can be experienced as being very unpleasant. Loud noises and bright lights may cause reactions that involve a range of emotions, including weeping.

As the child grows older, they sometimes avoid cuddling or touching even close family members—again, this is a broad spectrum—many times preferring to stay alone, to play by themselves. By adolescence, these symptoms can become unbearably acute. You can imagine the impact this has on parents who become bewildered. Some lose hope. It is more common than childhood cancer today.

A lot of people don't realize that the incidence and prevalence of this has increased to the point that it surpasses childhood cancer. It can tear apart families—even the strongest families. The reason I bring it to the floor today is, I spent a good part of today talking to various people whose families have been affected. My own family has been affected by it. And as a physician, a doctor, as somebody who has devoted the majority of his adult life not to politics but to healing, I do believe that that combination of physician and legislator gives me certain responsibilities but also certain opportunities to push the frontiers of health, especially when we don't know the cause, the etiology.

That is why 6 years ago I sponsored the Children's Health Act of 2000. That was the first bill that looked at a whole spectrum of childhood diseases, one of which was autism. The legislation directed the National Institutes of Health to expand, to intensify, and to coordinate research into autism—this very complex, very poorly understood disorder. Progress has been made, but now the time has come to reauthorize that legislation.

Under the Children's Health Act, the NIH established the interagency coordinating committee to coordinate all autism-related activities at the Health