

The NASVH has been vitally important in developing new methods for caring for elderly veterans, such as hospice care, respite care, Alzheimer's care, and adult day health care.

The State veterans home program has been remarkably successful. This resolution recognizes the importance of this Federal-State partnership and honors the dedicated men and women of the National Association of State Veterans Homes for caring for our Nation's aging and disabled military heroes.

I served in the Army Signal Corps during World War II. Consequently, I am well aware of the sacrifices brave young men and women make on behalf of our country. It's important that our Nation honors its commitment to look after our veterans. That's where organizations like the NASVH come in and do their part. So it's appropriate to honor this group for its commitment to serving our veterans. I thank the Senate for adopting this resolution.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble agreed to, the motion to reconsider laid upon the table, and that any statements relating thereto be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 417) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 417

Whereas the National Association of State Veterans Homes was established in 1954 by a group of administrators of State veterans homes to represent the interests of those homes in a unified voice before Congress and the executive branch;

Whereas the National Association of State Veterans Homes functions on an all-volunteer basis and focuses on endeavors that improve the conditions of care furnished to veterans by State veterans homes, elevate and monitor the qualifications for managers of such homes, and provide continuing education standards for staff who provide care to veterans in such homes;

Whereas the National Association of State Veterans Homes has been and continues to be in the forefront of developing and supporting new methods and models for providing long-term care services to elderly veterans, such as hospice care, respite care, Alzheimer's care, and adult day health care;

Whereas State veterans homes, which provide long-term care to thousands of veterans, were established initially in the States of Connecticut, Kansas, Ohio, and Maine in 1868 to house, feed, and care for thousands of homeless, wounded, and permanently scarred Union soldiers and thus have been in existence since before the establishment of the Department of Veterans Affairs, the earlier Veterans' Administration, and its predecessor agencies;

Whereas in 1888 Congress authorized the Federal payment of a daily allowance for the care of each former soldier or sailor in a State home-hospital, an allowance that continues today in the form of a per diem grant program administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs that is authorized to provide up to 50 percent of the average daily cost of care, but currently provides only approximately 30 percent;

Whereas the Department of Veterans Affairs further participates in the care of veterans in State homes with a matching grant program to support construction and major renovation projects to sustain those homes and build towards sufficient levels of available, high-quality health care;

Whereas State veterans homes offer long-term services to eligible veterans in need of such services on certification of the Department of Veterans Affairs at 119 facilities in 47 States and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico;

Whereas the States determine the allocation of nursing home beds in individual State veterans home facilities, and establish the eligibility of veterans and their dependents to occupy those beds, following Federal guidelines;

Whereas within the limits of their capacities, State veterans homes provide care for more than 27,500 veterans each day, accounting for more than 50 percent of the total national long-term care bed capacity for veterans, thereby sharing the enormous responsibility of caring for veterans with the Department of Veterans Affairs in an admirable partnership;

Whereas State veterans homes provide quality care for elderly and disabled veterans at an average daily cost that is significantly less than nursing homes operated by the Department of Veterans Affairs;

Whereas the number of elderly veterans, particularly those over age 85, continues to rise, and the need for long-term care services for those veterans will continue to rise in the coming years; and

Whereas the Nation's State veterans homes continue to achieve their purpose of improving and sustaining the health of elderly, sick, and severely disabled veterans by assuring access to affordable nursing care in settings that provide personal dignity to truly deserving veterans, often at the end of lives spent in service to the Nation: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors the National Association of State Veterans Homes and the 119 State veterans homes providing long-term care to veterans that are represented by that association for their significant contributions to the health care of veterans and to the health care system of the Nation;

(2) commends the thousands of individuals who work in, or on behalf of, State veterans homes for their contributions in caring for elderly and disabled veterans;

(3) recognizes the importance of the partnership between the States and the Department of Veterans Affairs in providing long-term care to veterans; and

(4) affirms the support of Congress for continuation of the State homes program to address the known and anticipated needs of the Nation's veterans for institutional long-term care services.

WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 418, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 418) designating the week April 2, 2006, as "Week of the Young Child."

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 418) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 418

Whereas there are 20,000,000 children under the age of 5 in the United States;

Whereas numerous studies, including the Abecedarian Study, the Study of the Chicago Child-Parent Center, and the High/Scope Perry Preschool Study, indicate that low-income children who have enrolled in quality, comprehensive early childhood education programs—

(1) improve their cognitive, language, physical, social, and emotional development; and

(2) are less likely to—

(A) be placed in special education;

(B) drop out of school; or

(C) engage in juvenile delinquency;

Whereas the enrollment rates of children under the age of 5 in early childhood education programs have steadily increased since 1965 with—

(1) the creation of the Head Start program carried out under the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9831 et seq.);

(2) the establishment of the Early Head Start program carried out under the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9831 et seq.); and

(3) the enactment of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858 et seq.);

Whereas many children eligible for, and in need of, quality early childhood education services are not served due to inadequate funding;

Whereas over 4,000,000 children under the age of 5 live in poverty;

Whereas only about 1/2 of all preschoolers who are eligible to participate in Head Start programs have the opportunity to do so, and even fewer eligible babies and toddlers receive the opportunity to participate in Early Head Start;

Whereas only about 1 out of every 7 eligible children receives an amount of child care assistance sufficient to—

(1) enable the parents of the child to continue working; and

(2) provide the child with safe and nurturing early childhood care and education;

Whereas, although State and local governments have responded to the numerous benefits of early childhood education by making significant investments in programs and classrooms, there remains—

(1) a large unmet need for those services; and

(2) a need to improve the quality of those programs; and

Whereas, according to numerous studies on the impact of investments in high-quality early childhood education, the programs yield to the public a return of 4 dollars to 13 dollars for each dollar invested: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week beginning April 2, 2006, as "Week of the Young Child";

(2) encourages the citizens of the United States to celebrate—

(A) young children; and

(B) the citizens who provide care and early childhood education to the young children of the United States; and

(3) urges the citizens of the United States to recognize the importance of—

(A) quality, comprehensive early childhood education programs; and

(B) the value of those services for preparing children to—

(i) appreciate future educational experiences; and

(ii) enjoy lifelong success.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, APRIL 3,
2006

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 2 p.m. on Monday, April 3. I further ask unanimous consent that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved, and the Senate resume consideration of S. 2454, the border security bill, with the time until 5:30 p.m. being equally divided between the chairman and ranking member or their designees.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, on Monday, the Senate will resume consideration of the border security bill. Last night, Senator ALEXANDER offered his widely supported Strengthening American Citizenship Act. This legislation is

reasonable, it is patriotic, and it will help newly arrived immigrants learn the responsibilities, the habits, and the privileges of American citizenship.

I had hoped that today we would have locked in a vote on that amendment and the Bingaman amendment for Monday. Unfortunately, the other side objected to allowing a vote on the Alexander amendment. I mention that only because it leaves me concerned that the other side may be falling into this pattern of delay and obstruction.

As I said and implied in all of my statements since we have started on this bill, we need to proceed in a civil way, a dignified way, and consider these amendments as soon as they are ready. I would encourage all of our colleagues to work aggressively to help bring this bill to closure over the next several days. We are right where I thought we would be in terms of finishing this bill, but it does mean that we are going to have to work together, come together and address substantive amendments in a substantive way and vote on those.

In closing—and I will close in a few seconds—if we don't come together, it means that we are not going to fulfill our responsibility to address these very important issues of border security, of the 11 million to 12 million people who are in this country under the temporary worker program that is being considered. We absolutely must have substantive debate and discussion that respects that we are a nation of the

rule of law and a proud nation of immigrants, legal immigrants who have come to this country to work and contribute so much to our society.

So I hope that we will get back on track on Monday. We will be voting Monday afternoon at approximately 5:30. We will try to get a unanimous consent for votes on the pending amendments, and Members should expect at least two votes Monday evening.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY,
APRIL 3, 2006 AT 2 P.M.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 1:17 p.m., adjourned until Monday, April 3, 2006, at 2 p.m.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate Friday, March 31, 2006:

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

ERIC M. THORSON, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE INSPECTOR GENERAL, SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

SHAREE M. FREEMAN, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY RELATIONS SERVICE, FOR A TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

JEFFREY L. SEDGWICK, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE BUREAU OF JUSTICE STATISTICS.