

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 2603, S. 2611, AND S. 2612

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I understand there are three bills at the desk, and I ask for their first reading en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2603) to reduce temporarily the royalty required to be paid for sodium produced on Federal lands and for other purposes.

A bill (S. 2611) to provide for comprehensive immigration reform and for other purposes.

A bill (S. 2612) to provide for comprehensive immigration reform and for other purposes.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I now ask for their second reading and, in order to place the bills on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The bills will be read for the second time on the next legislative day.

H.R. 4939—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 391, H.R. 4939, the supplemental appropriations bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the pending legislation be set aside until Tuesday, April 25, at a time to be determined by the majority leader in consultation with the Democratic leader.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

TREATY ON THE MARPOL CONVENTION

TREATY ON MUTUAL LEGAL ASSISTANCE WITH JAPAN

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following treaties on today's Executive Calendar: No. 12 and 14.

I further ask unanimous consent that the treaties be considered as having passed through the various parliamentary stages up to and including the presentation of the resolutions of ratification, that any statements be printed in the RECORD as if read, and the Senate take one vote on a resolution of ratification to be considered as separate votes; further, that when the resolutions of ratification are voted upon, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, the President be notified of the Senate's action, and that following the disposition of the treaties, the Senate return to legislative session.

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

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask for a division vote on the resolutions of ratification.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. A division vote has been requested.

Senators in favor of the ratification of these treaties, please rise.

Those opposed will rise and stand until counted.

With two-thirds of the Senators present having voted in the affirmative, the resolutions of ratification are agreed to.

The resolutions of ratification are as follows:

PROTOCOL OF 1997 AMENDING MARPOL CONVENTION (TREATY DOC. 108-7)

Resolved (two-thirds of the Senators present concurring therein),

Section 1. Senate Advice and Consent Subject to Understandings and Declaration.

The Senate advises and consents to the ratification of the Protocol of 1997 to Amend the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as modified by the Protocol of 1978 Relating Thereto (hereinafter in this resolution referred to as the "Protocol of 1997"), signed by the United States on December 22, 1998 (T. Doc. 108-7), subject to the understandings and declaration in sections 2 and 3.

Section 2. Understandings.

The advice and consent of the Senate under section 1 is subject to the following understandings, which shall be included in the United States instrument of ratification:

(1) The United States of America understands that the Protocol of 1997 does not, as a matter of international law, prohibit Parties from imposing, as a condition of entry into their ports or internal waters, more stringent emission standards or fuel oil requirements than those identified in the Protocol.

(2) The United States of America understands that Regulation 15 applies only to safety aspects associated with the operation of vapor emission control systems that may be applied during cargo transfer operations between a tanker and port-side facilities and to the requirements specified in Regulation 15 for notification to the International Maritime Organization of port State regulation of such systems.

Section 3. Declaration.

The advice and consent of the Senate under section 1 is subject to the following declaration, which shall be included in the United States instrument of ratification:

The United States of America notes that at the time of adoption of the Protocol of 1997, the NO_x emission control limits contained in Regulation 13 were those agreed as being achievable by January 1, 2000, on new marine diesel engines, and further notes that Regulation 13(3)(b) contemplated that new technology would become available to reduce on-board NO_x emissions below those limits. As such improved technology is now available, the United States expresses its support for an amendment to Annex VI, that would, on an urgent basis, revise the agreed NO_x emission control limits contained in Regulation 13 in keeping with new technological developments.

MUTUAL LEGAL ASSISTANCE TREATY WITH JAPAN (TREATY DOC. 108-12)

Resolved (two-thirds of the Senators present concurring therein),

The Senate advises and consents to the ratification of the Treaty between the United States of America and Japan on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters, signed at Washington on August 5, 2003 (Treaty Doc. 108-12).

DESIGNATING THE THIRD WEEK OF APRIL AS "NATIONAL SHAKEN BABY SYNDROME AWARENESS WEEK"

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 439, which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 439) to designate the third week of April 2006 as "National Shaken Baby Syndrome Awareness Week."

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

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise today, along with my colleague Senator ALEXANDER, to introduce a resolution that of the resolution the Senate has passed to proclaim the third week of April of 2006 as Shaken Baby Syndrome Awareness Week. Last year, we passed a similar resolution and continue to support raising awareness of this important issue. I would like to recognize the many groups, particularly the National Shaken Baby Coalition and the SKIPPER Initiative, who support this effort to increase awareness of one of the most devastating forms of child abuse, one that results in the death or lifelong disability of hundreds of children each year.

We must recognize child abuse and neglect as the public health problem it is, one that is linked with a host of other problems facing our country and one that needs the comprehensive approach of our entire public health system to solve. The month of April has been designated National Child Abuse Prevention Month as an annual tradition that was initiated in 1979 by former President Jimmy Carter. In 2006, April is again National Child Abuse Prevention Month.

The tragedy of child abuse is well documented. According to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System, NCANDS, almost 900,000 children were victims of abuse and neglect in the United States in 2002, causing unspeakable pain and suffering to our most vulnerable citizens. Each day, nearly four of these children die as a result of this abuse. Most experts are certain that cases of child abuse and neglect are in fact underreported.

Abusive head trauma, including the trauma known as Shaken Baby Syndrome, is recognized as the leading cause of death of physically abused children, especially young children. Shaken Baby Syndrome is a totally preventable form of child abuse that results from a caregiver losing control and shaking a baby, usually an infant who is less than 1 year old. This severe shaking can kill the baby, or it can cause loss of vision, brain damage, paralysis, and seizures, resulting in lifelong disabilities and causing untold grief for many families.

Too many families have experienced the pain of Shaken Baby Syndrome. A 2003 report in the Journal of the American Medical Association estimates

that, in the U.S., an average of 300 children will die each year, and 600 to 1,200 more will be injured, of whom two-thirds will be babies or infants under 1 year in age, as a result of Shaken Baby Syndrome. Medical professionals believe that thousands more cases of Shaken Baby Syndrome are being misdiagnosed or not detected.

Families should be spared the needless tragedy of Shaken Baby Syndrome. Prevention is the most effective solution to ending Shaken Baby Syndrome. It is clear that the minimal costs of educational and prevention programs may help to protect our young children. Families as well as professionals who care for children must be made aware of the injuries that shaking can cause. In 1995, the U.S. Advisory Board on Child Abuse and Neglect recommended a universal approach to the prevention of child fatalities that included services such as home visitation by trained professionals or paraprofessionals, hospital-linked outreach to parents of infants and toddlers, community-based programs designed for the specific needs of neighborhoods, and effective public education campaigns.

Prevention programs have demonstrated that educating new parents about the danger of shaking young children and how they can help protect their child from injury can bring about a significant reduction in the number of cases of Shaken Baby Syndrome. In 1998, Dr. Mark Dias started the Upstate New York SBS Prevention Project at Children's Hospital of Buffalo, which uses a simple video to educate new parents before they leave the hospital. Since that time, the number of shaken baby incidents in the Buffalo area has dropped by nearly 50%; none of the perpetrators have been identified as participants in the hospital education program. Hospitals around the country, including several in my own State of Connecticut, have adopted programs similar to these to educate new parents about the dangers of shaking young children.

I urge the Senate to adopt this resolution designating the third week of April of 2006 as National Shaken Baby Syndrome Awareness Week, and to take part in the many local and national activities and events recognizing the month of April as National Child Abuse Prevention Month.

The prevention of Shaken Baby Syndrome is supported by advocacy groups across the U.S. that were formed by parents and relatives of children who have been killed or injured by shaking. I ask unanimous consent that a list of groups supporting this resolution be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

GROUPS SUPPORTING NATIONAL SHAKEN BABY SYNDROME AWARENESS WEEK

The National Shaken Baby Coalition, The National Center on Shaken Baby Syndrome, The Children's Defense Fund, The American

Academy of Pediatrics, The Child Welfare League of America, Prevent Child Abuse America, The National Child Abuse Coalition, The National Exchange Club Foundation, The American Humane Association, The American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children, The Arc of the United States, The Association of University Centers on Disabilities, Children's Healthcare is a Legal Duty, Family Partnership, Family Voices, National Alliance of Children's Trust and Prevention Funds, United Cerebral Palsy, The National Association of Children's Hospitals and Related Institutions, Never Shake a Baby Arizona/Prevent Child Abuse Arizona, The Center for Child Protection and Family Support.

Mr. McCONNELL. 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 thereto be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 439) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 439

Whereas the month of April has been designated "National Child Abuse Prevention Month" as an annual tradition that was initiated in 1979 by former President Jimmy Carter;

Whereas the most recent National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System figures reveal that almost 900,000 children were victims of abuse and neglect in the United States in 2002, causing unspeakable pain and suffering to our most vulnerable citizens;

Whereas among the children who are victims of abuse and neglect, nearly 4 children die in the United States each day;

Whereas children aged 1 year or younger accounted for 41.2 percent of all child abuse and neglect fatalities in 2002, and children aged 4 years or younger accounted for 76.1 percent of all child abuse and neglect fatalities in 2002;

Whereas abusive head trauma, including the trauma known as "Shaken Baby Syndrome", is recognized as the leading cause of death of physically abused children;

Whereas Shaken Baby Syndrome can result in loss of vision, brain damage, paralysis, seizures, or death;

Whereas a 2003 report in the Journal of the American Medical Association estimated that, in the United States, an average of 300 children will die each year, and 600 to 1,200 more will be injured, of whom ⅔ will be babies or infants under 1 year in age, as a result of Shaken Baby Syndrome, with many cases resulting in severe and permanent disabilities;

Whereas medical professionals believe that thousands of additional cases of Shaken Baby Syndrome are being misdiagnosed or are not detected;

Whereas Shaken Baby Syndrome often results in permanent, irreparable brain damage or death to an infant and may result in more than \$1,000,000 in medical costs to care for a single, disabled child in just the first few years of life;

Whereas the most effective solution for ending Shaken Baby Syndrome is to prevent the abuse, and it is clear that the minimal costs of education and prevention programs may prevent enormous medical and disability costs and immeasurable amounts of grief for many families;

Whereas prevention programs have demonstrated that educating new parents about the danger of shaking young children and how they can help protect their child from injury can bring about a significant reduction in the number of cases of Shaken Baby Syndrome;

Whereas education programs have been shown to raise awareness and provide critically important information about Shaken Baby Syndrome to parents, caregivers, daycare workers, child protection employees, law enforcement personnel, health care professionals, and legal representatives;

Whereas efforts to prevent Shaken Baby Syndrome are supported by advocacy groups across the United States that were formed by parents and relatives of children who have been killed or injured by shaking, including the National Shaken Baby Coalition, the Shaken Baby Association, the Shaking Kills: Instead Parents Please Educate and Remember Initiative (commonly known as the "SKIPPER Initiative"), the Shaken Baby Alliance, Shaken Baby Prevention, Inc., A Voice for Gabbi, Don't Shake Jake, and the Kierra Harrison Foundation, whose mission is to educate the general public and professionals about Shaken Baby Syndrome and to increase support for victims and the families of the victims in the health care and criminal justice systems;

Whereas child abuse prevention programs and "National Shaken Baby Syndrome Awareness Week" are supported by the National Shaken Baby Coalition, the National Center on Shaken Baby Syndrome, the Children's Defense Fund, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Child Welfare League of America, Prevent Child Abuse America, the National Child Abuse Coalition, the National Exchange Club Foundation, the American Humane Association, the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children, the Arc of the United States, the Association of University Centers on Disabilities, Children's Healthcare is a Legal Duty, Family Partnership, Family Voices, National Alliance of Children's Trust and Prevention Funds, United Cerebral Palsy, the National Association of Children's Hospitals and related institutions, Never Shake a Baby Arizona, Prevent Child Abuse Arizona, the Center for Child Protection and Family Support, and many other organizations;

Whereas a 2000 survey by Prevent Child Abuse America shows that approximately half of all citizens of the United States believe that, of all the public health issues facing the United States, child abuse and neglect is the most important issue;

Whereas Congress previously designated the third week of April 2001 as "National Shaken Baby Syndrome Awareness Week 2001"; and

Whereas Congress strongly supports efforts to protect children from abuse and neglect: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the third week of April 2006 as "National Shaken Baby Syndrome Awareness Week";

(2) commends those hospitals, child care councils, schools, and other organizations that are—

(A) working to increase awareness of the danger of shaking young children; and

(B) educating parents and caregivers on how they can help protect children from injuries caused by abusive shaking; and

(3) encourages the citizens of the United States to—

(A) remember the victims of Shaken Baby Syndrome; and

(B) participate in educational programs to help prevent Shaken Baby Syndrome.