

that would create the America's Opportunity Scholarships for Kids. First proposed by President Bush, this legislation will provide children who are in schools designated for restructuring with scholarships either for the cost of tuition at a private school or for sustained, supplemental educational services.

The No Child Left Behind Act set up a structure for schools to get evaluated annually to determine whether they are meeting adequate yearly progress. Schools are designated for restructuring after 6 years of poor student academic achievement. Children are often trapped in these circumstances, and this legislation will help provide them with either a way out or additional services to increase their academic achievement levels.

I believe that the America's Opportunity Scholarships for Kids will provide true school choice across the country.

Competitiveness and innovation are two of the latest buzz words that surround education. I believe that school choice will breed both competitiveness and innovation.

A few years ago I read an article by Maurice McTigue, now a professor at George Mason University. Mr. McTigue was the equivalent of the Secretary of Transportation in New Zealand when their government underwent a radical transformation. During that time New Zealand's government was decentralized, with most control and money going to local areas. This included the education system.

Rather than having money go directly to the schools, the money followed the children. The government set specific dollar amounts for each child, depending on whether the child had special needs, and that money was given to the school of the child's parents' choice.

This truly radical change caused great uproar at the time, as everyone believed that it would lead to the destruction of the public school system. During the first few years of this new system, enrollment in public schools did decline slightly. However, because each public school was allowed to change and meet the needs of its local students, parents eventually moved back to their home schools.

Now, public school enrollment is at an all-time high in New Zealand. Why? Because schools were forced to compete among themselves without artificial governmental barriers. Parents were allowed to choose the school that best fit their child's needs.

I believe the same thing would happen in the United States if school choice were made available across the country. In fact, two studies by Harvard researchers have shown that, as the voucher program in Milwaukee was expanded, there was a marked improvement in test scores at the public schools most threatened by the program. Students in these public schools have benefited from competition.

In Milwaukee, the choice program caused the public school system to shift power from a centralized administration to each individual school. This shift allowed parents and teachers to make decisions, including who could teach at the school.

Elementary and secondary education is one of the few sectors in this country that does not have open competition. By contrast, our higher education system has flourished because of competition.

The purpose of this legislation is to provide low-income children who are in schools that have consistently not met adequate yearly progress benchmarks, and have not improved student academic achievement, with other options.

This legislation would provide low-income students and their parents with two options. First, these students would have the option of a \$4,000 scholarship that would be applied to the cost of tuition at the private school of their parent's choice. If parents decide not to take the scholarship, their child would be eligible for up to \$3,000 of intensive, sustained supplemental educational services. Supplemental educational services are services that are provided outside of the regular school day, such as after or before school, that are designed to improve academic achievement.

I believe that this legislation is the next step toward bringing true competition to elementary and secondary education.

I hope that my colleagues will join Senator ALEXANDER and me in supporting this legislation.

By Mr. ALLEN (for himself, Mr. BINGAMAN, and Mrs. BOXER):

S. 3684. A bill to study and promote the use of energy efficient computer servers in the United States; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I am pleased to join the Senator from Virginia as an original cosponsor of legislation to study and promote the use of energy efficient computer servers in the United States. The growth of the Internet and online applications and the strong demand for electronic transactions are creating a growing need for data centers. Most data center equipment is composed of servers, which are computers that share resources with other computers on a network.

The average annual power and cooling bill for 100 servers is about \$40,000—from Computer World, February 6, 2006. The U.S. server market is expected to grow from 2.8 billion servers in 2005 to 4.9 billion in 2009. Without improved efficiency, data center power costs could easily overtake hardware costs in the next few years—A. Fanara, EPA, technical workshop on server benchmarking, March 27, 2006.

Our bill would require the Administrator of EPA to study and analyze the growth and energy consumption of computer data centers. A critical goal

of the study is to develop a standard way to measure server efficiency. Energy efficient servers and data center designs are currently available. This analysis would help promote the use of efficient server technology through the Energy Star Program or the Department of Energy's buildings standards program and allow consumers to compare products on the basis of efficiency.

This legislation has broad support from the information technology sector and energy efficiency advocates, including the Alliance to Save Energy, the American Electronics Association, the American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy, the Electronic Industries Alliance, the Information Technology Industry Council, the Semiconductor Association, and leading companies such as Intel, AMD, Sun, and HP.

Mr. President, under the bipartisan leadership of Representative ESHOO, and Representative ROGERS, the House approved identical legislation last week. I hope that the Senate will also pass this needed legislation as soon as possible.

#### SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 534—CONDEMNING HEZBOLLAH AND HAMAS AND THEIR STATE SPONSORS AND SUPPORTING ISRAEL'S EXERCISE OF ITS RIGHT TO SELF-DEFENSE

Mr. FRIST (for himself, Mr. REID, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. SANTORUM, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. KYL, Mr. BOND, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. LEVIN, Mrs. DOLE, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. SMITH, Mr. TALENT, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. VITTER, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. COLEMAN, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. BAYH, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mrs. BOXER, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARPER, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. DAYTON, Mr. DODD, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. INOUE, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KERRY, Mr. KOHL, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, Mr. OBAMA, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. REED, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. MCCAIN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 534

Whereas Israel fully complied with United Nations Security Council Resolution 425 (adopted March 19, 1978) by completely withdrawing its forces from Lebanon, as certified by the United Nations Security Council and affirmed by United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan on June 16, 2000, when he said, "Israel has withdrawn from [Lebanon] in full compliance with Security Council Resolution 425.":

Whereas United Nations Security Council Resolution 1559 (adopted September 2, 2004)

calls for the complete withdrawal of all foreign forces and the dismantlement of all independent militias in Lebanon;

Whereas despite Resolution 1559, the terrorist organization Hezbollah remains active in Lebanon and has amassed thousands of rockets aimed at northern Israel;

Whereas the Government of Lebanon, which includes representatives of Hezbollah, has done little to dismantle Hezbollah forces or to exert its authority and control throughout all geographic regions of Lebanon;

Whereas Hezbollah receives financial, military, and political support from Syria and Iran;

Whereas the United States has enacted several laws, including the Syria Accountability and Lebanese Sovereignty Restoration Act of 2003 (22 U.S.C. 2151 note) and the Iran and Libya Sanctions Act of 1996 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note), that call for the imposition of sanctions on Syria and Iran for, among other things, their support for terrorism and terrorist organizations;

Whereas the Government of Israel has shown restraint in the past year even though Hezbollah has launched at least 4 separate attacks into Israel using rockets and ground forces;

Whereas, without provocation, on the morning of July 12, 2006, Hezbollah launched an attack into northern Israel, killing 7 Israeli soldiers and taking 2 hostage into Lebanon;

Whereas on June 25, 2006, despite Israel's evacuation of Gaza in 2005, the terrorist organization Hamas, which is also supported by Syria and Iran, entered sovereign Israeli territory, attacked an Israeli military base, killed 2 Israeli soldiers, and captured an Israeli soldier, and has refused to release that soldier;

Whereas rockets have been launched from Gaza into Israel since Israel's evacuation of Gaza in 2005; and

Whereas both Hezbollah and Hamas refuse to recognize Israel's right to exist and call for the destruction of Israel: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) reaffirms its steadfast support for the State of Israel;

(2) supports Israel's right of self-defense and Israel's right to take appropriate action to deter aggression by terrorist groups and their state sponsors;

(3) urges the President to continue fully supporting Israel as Israel exercises its right of self-defense in Lebanon and Gaza;

(4) calls for the immediate and unconditional release of Israeli soldiers who are being held captive by Hezbollah or Hamas;

(5) condemns the Governments of Iran and Syria for their continued support for Hezbollah and Hamas, and holds the Governments of Syria and Iran responsible for the acts of aggression carried out by Hezbollah and Hamas against Israel;

(6) condemns Hamas and Hezbollah for exploiting civilian populations as shields and locating their military activities in civilian areas;

(7) urges the President to use all available political and diplomatic means, including sanctions, to persuade the governments of Syria and Iran to end their support of Hezbollah and Hamas;

(8) calls on the Government of Lebanon to do everything in its power to find and free the kidnapped Israeli soldiers being held in its territory, and to fulfill its responsibility under United Nations Security Council Resolution 1559 (adopted September 2, 2004) to disband and disarm Hezbollah;

(9) calls on the United Nations Security Council to condemn these unprovoked acts and to demand compliance with Resolution

1559, which requires that Hezbollah and other militias be disbanded and disarmed, and that all foreign forces be withdrawn from Lebanon; and

(10) urges all sides to protect innocent civilian life and infrastructure and strongly supports the use of all diplomatic means available to free the captured Israeli soldiers.

(11) recognizes that thousands of American nationals reside peacefully in Lebanon, and that those American nationals in Lebanon concerned for their safety should receive the full support and assistance of the United States government.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I am proud to rise as a cosponsor of this resolution condemning Hezbollah and its state sponsors, and supporting Israel's exercise of its right to self-defense.

On July 12 Hezbollah militants launched an attack into northern Israel, killing seven Israeli soldiers and kidnapping two soldiers to hold hostage in Lebanon. On June 25, despite Israel's evacuation of Gaza almost a year ago, Hamas entered sovereign Israeli territory, attacked an Israeli military base, killed two Israeli soldiers and kidnapped one, who is still being held captive.

Hezbollah and Hamas are terrorist organizations supported by Syria and Iran. The Senate is on the record demanding that Syria and Iran abandon their sponsorship of terrorism, with legislation including the Syria Accountability and Lebanese Sovereignty Restoration Act of 2003 and the Iran and Libya Sanctions Act of 1996. Syria, Iran, and the Hezbollah terrorists that these states sponsor are responsible for the current violence in the Middle East. The kidnapping of Israeli soldiers from Israeli soil and the exploitation of civilian populations as shields are provocations to which any sovereign nation would be obligated to react. Israel has every right to respond to protect her citizens.

These terrorists must be stopped. Terrorists destroy lives. They destroy hope. They destroy the opportunity for peace. The independent militias in Lebanon must be dismantled and withdrawn. The Lebanese government must take steps to comply with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1559 and disarm the Hezbollah forces operating within its territory. The Israeli soldiers being held captive by Hezbollah or Hamas must be released immediately and unconditionally.

I urge President Bush to use all available political and diplomatic means to persuade the governments of Syria and Iran to end their support of Hezbollah and Hamas. We are united in our rejection and condemnation of the heinous acts of Hezbollah and Hamas and the governments of Syria and Iran are supporting them.

We are also united, Mr. President, in our steadfast support for Israel and Israel's right to self-defense. Israel is one of our closest allies. As Americans, we share with Israel both strategic interests and moral values. Today I am proud to stand with the people of Israel and support their right to defend themselves.

SENATE RESOLUTION 535—COM-  
MENDING THE PATRIOT GUARD  
RIDERS FOR SHIELDING MOURN-  
ING MILITARY FAMILIES FROM  
PROTESTERS AND PRESERVING  
THE MEMORY OF FALLEN SERV-  
ICE MEMBERS AT FUNERALS

Mr. CONRAD (for himself, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. BAYH, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. BROWBACK, Mr. LOTT, Mr. DORGAN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. CARPER, and Mr. TALENT) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 535

Whereas in 2005, a small group of American Legion Riders in Kansas calling themselves the "Patriot Guard" began a movement to shield the families and friends of fallen service members from interruptions by protesters appearing at military funerals;

Whereas individuals from Colorado, Oklahoma, and Texas later brought together diverse groups of motorcycle organizations across the country who rode to honor fallen service members, forming an organization known as the "Patriot Guard Riders";

Whereas the Patriot Guard Riders have since grown into a nationwide network, including both veterans and nonveterans and riders and nonriders, and is open to anyone who shares a respect for service members who have made the ultimate sacrifice for the Nation;

Whereas Patriot Guard Riders attend military funerals to show respect for fallen service members and to shield mourning family members and friends of the deceased from protestors who interrupt, or threaten to interrupt, the dignity of the event;

Whereas across the Nation, Patriot Guard Riders volunteer their time to come to the aid of military families in need, so as to allow the memories of the deceased service member to be remembered with honor and dignity;

Whereas regardless of one's opinion of the Nation's military commitments, the families, friends, and communities of the Nation's fallen soldiers deserve a peaceful time of mourning and should not be harassed and caused further suffering at a funeral;

Whereas Patriot Guard Riders appear at a funeral only at the invitation of the fallen soldier's family and participate in a non-violent, legal manner; and

Whereas the members of the Nation's Armed Forces willingly risk their lives to protect the American way of life and the freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate expresses its deepest appreciation to the Patriot Guard Riders who—

(1) attend military funerals across the country to show respect for fallen members of the Armed Forces and, when needed, shield mourning family members and friends of the deceased from protestors who interrupt, or threaten to interrupt, the dignity of a funeral; and

(2) in so doing, help to preserve the memory and honor of the Nation's fallen heroes.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, today Senator ROBERTS is joining me as I submit a resolution to commend the Patriot Guard Riders for all they have done to honor our Nation's fallen heroes and bring comfort to these soldiers' friends and family members.

The Patriot Guard Riders was established in August of 2005 when the American Legion Riders Chapter 136 from Kansas learned that the Westboro