

in their attempt to destroy us. It is unconscionable for us, a country that produces oil and gas cleaner and more efficiently than any other country in the world, to allow our enemy to hold us, not just hostage, but to gain resources to destroy us because we placate an interest group who funds, campaigns, and influences voters.

I know many in this Chamber and many in this country do not believe we are at war or do not believe this war is serious. Time will tell. I think, unfortunately, time will tell us in a relatively short period of time how serious this is, and we will look back on this time as we stood year after year for the past 10 years twiddling our thumbs, not doing what we can do to provide a more secure energy future for this country, and we will look back in horror of the blinders, of the scales we had on our eyes that we could not see the threat before us.

We must do something. The bill I am introducing today is a comprehensive package that does a lot to make America a safer country, first and foremost, from a national security perspective and, secondly, from an economic perspective.

I know we only have a week left. The Senator from Louisiana talked about trying to get a bill done. Let's get something done. I plead for us to get something done to create some new sources of energy for this country, to put some downward pressure on world market prices. It is essential for us to do so.

We need to make this commitment for the future of our country.

By Mrs. BOXER.

S. 3927. A bill to require the placement of blast-resistant cargo containers on all commercial passenger aircraft; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I was pleased that the Senate leadership finally agreed to consider a port security bill last week. It is high time we did more about security at our ports.

Our ports are a soft target. We knew this before 9/11 and many experts have warned us since that terrible day that our ports are vulnerable to attack.

Since the port security bill was signed into law at the end of 2002, we have not moved forward on port security, and it remains dangerously underfunded. Since the 9/11 attacks, we have spent only \$816 million on port security grants, despite Coast Guard estimates that \$5.4 billion is needed over 10 years.

Addressing port security is critical. However, security for other transportation modes is important, but the Republican leadership wanted us to do port security and nothing else.

Through the efforts of many Senators, provisions for rail and transit security were included. But, the final bill the Senate approved does not contain any major provisions for aviation security. Yes, aviation security has improved greatly in the last five years.

But, as we recently found out with the aviation terrorist plot uncovered by the British authorities, there are still holes in the system.

Transportation Security Administration, TSA, has implemented new security procedures since we learned of the London terror plot to detonate liquid explosives on flights from Great Britain to the United States. While I support these new procedures, TSA is asking passengers to give up their lip gloss, yet we are not examining cargo loaded on board our passenger planes.

I am pleased that the Department of Homeland Security will launch a pilot program at San Francisco Airport, SFO, this October to check all commercial cargo for explosives on passenger flights.

We should be doing this at every airport to ensure the security of the flying public and the solvency of the airline industry. But until that time, at the very least, we need to use at least one blast resistant cargo container on passenger planes that carry cargo. This was one of the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission.

For several years, I have been working to get these containers on planes.

Currently, TSA is undertaking a pilot project using these containers, some of which are made with Kevlar, for cargo. But we must move past pilot programs.

We should use blast-resistant containers for cargo on all passenger planes. That is why I am introducing a bill to do just that.

The 9/11 Commission recommended, TSA should require that every passenger aircraft carrying cargo deploy at least one hardened container to carry any suspect cargo. Therefore, all passenger planes should have at least one blast-resistant container for cargo.

To place one blast-resistant container on each plane, it would cost about \$75 million—this is equal to the cost of a little more than 5 hours in Iraq. Imagine the impact on the security of the country and the financial outlook for the airline industry if a plane were to explode during a flight.

We owe this to the American people. We cannot allow terrorists to exploit holes in our aviation security system.

By Mrs. BOXER:

S. 3928. A bill to provide for the Office of Domestic Preparedness of the Department of Homeland Security to provide grants to local governments for public awareness education relating to preparedness for natural disasters, terrorist attacks, and influenza pandemic; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, in the last 5 years, Americans have faced both devastating terrorist attacks and natural disasters. We have also been warned that an avian flu pandemic is a strong possibility.

In California, we have had fires, floods, mudslides, and earthquakes—thankfully not the big one.

We have learned that disasters are inevitable. Being prepared is crucial—especially when the American people cannot rely on the Federal Government, which was demonstrated by the poor Federal response in Hurricane Katrina. Department of Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff has even said, People should be prepared to sustain themselves for up to 72 hours after a disaster.

Therefore, being prepared and knowing how to respond in the days following a natural disaster is extremely important. However, people do not know how to prepare, and, unfortunately, local governments may lack the resources to educate their residents.

According to the Los Angeles Times, Los Angeles County officials could not afford to distribute pamphlets on earthquake preparedness for individuals with special needs.

That is why I am pleased to introduce legislation that will provide grants, through the Department of Homeland Security's Office of Domestic Preparedness, to local governments to educate the public about how to deal with natural disasters, terrorist attacks, and an influenza pandemic.

It is important that we work to make sure that local communities are able to prepare their citizens to deal with future disasters.

I hope my colleagues will support this legislation.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 578—RECOGNIZING THAT THE OCCURRENCE OF PROSTATE CANCER IN AFRICAN AMERICAN MEN HAS REACHED EPIDEMIC PROPORTIONS AND URGING FEDERAL AGENCIES TO ADDRESS THAT HEALTH CRISIS BY DESIGNATING FUNDS FOR EDUCATION, AWARENESS OUTREACH, AND RESEARCH SPECIFICALLY FOCUSED ON HOW THAT DISEASE AFFECTS AFRICAN AMERICAN MEN

Mr. KERRY submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 578

Whereas the incidence of prostate cancer in African American men is 60 percent higher than any other racial or ethnic group in the United States;

Whereas African American men have the highest mortality rate of any ethnic and racial group in the United States, dying at a rate that is 140 percent higher than other ethnic and racial groups;

Whereas that rate of mortality represents the largest disparity of mortality rates in any of the major cancers;

Whereas prostate cancer can be cured with early detection and the proper treatment, regardless of the ethnic or racial group of the cancer patient;

Whereas African Americans are more likely to be diagnosed earlier in age and at a

later stage of cancer progression than for all other ethnic and racial groups, thereby leading to lower cure rates and lower chances of survival; and

Whereas, according to a recent paper published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, researchers from the Dana Farber Cancer Institute and Harvard Medical School have discovered a variant of a small segment of the human genome that accounts for the higher risk of prostate cancer in African American men: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes that prostate cancer has created a health crisis for African American men; and

(2) declares the critical importance of the designation of increased funding for—

(A) research to address and attempt to end the health crisis created by prostate cancer; and

(B) efforts relating to education, awareness, and early detection at the grassroots levels to end that health crisis.

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, today, I am joining Congressman GREG MEEKS to submit a Senate resolution aimed at raising awareness of the prostate cancer crisis among African-American men. This Resolution urges Congress to provide the funds necessary to prevent and fight the disease, and to encourage African-American men to get screened.

Prostate cancer is the second leading cause of cancer related death for African-American men. They have the highest incidence and mortality rate due to prostate cancer of any ethnic or racial group. African-American men are dying at a rate of 140 percent—almost 2½ times—higher than other groups. That is the largest disparity for any major cancer.

No person of any race should have to suffer unnecessarily from a disease we have the medical science and moral obligation to prevent, detect, and treat. It should no longer rob sons, daughters, and wives of their fathers, husbands, and loved ones. Just as the doctrine of ‘separate but equal,’ was wrong in education, it is wrong in health care. We have to reform the system so that the quality of health care for every American never depends on the color of any American’s skin. We need to fund more research and greater outreach efforts. For this reason, I urge every member of Congress to support this resolution.

SENATE RESOLUTION 579—DESIGNATING DECEMBER 13, 2006, AS A DAY OF REMEMBRANCE TO HONOR THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE IMPOSITION OF MARTIAL LAW BY THE COMMUNIST GOVERNMENT IN POLAND

Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself and Mr. SANTORUM) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 579

Whereas, on May 9, 1945, Europe declared victory over the oppression of the Nazi regime;

Whereas Poland and other countries in Central, Eastern, and Southern Europe soon fell under the oppressive control of the Soviet Union;

Whereas for decades the people of Poland struggled heroically for freedom and democracy against that oppression, paying at times the ultimate sacrifice;

Whereas, in 1980, the Solidarity Trade Union was formed in Poland;

Whereas membership in the Solidarity Trade Union grew rapidly in size to 10,000,000 members, and the Union obtained unprecedented moral power that soon threatened the Communist government in Poland;

Whereas, on December 13, 1981, the Communist government in Poland crushed the Solidarity Trade Union, imprisoned the leaders of the Union, and imposed martial law on Poland;

Whereas, through his profound influence, Pope John Paul II gave the people of Poland the hope and strength to bear the torch of freedom that eventually lit up all of Europe;

Whereas the support of the Polish-American community while martial law was imposed on Poland was essential in encouraging the people of Poland to continue to struggle for liberty;

Whereas the people of the United States were greatly supportive of the efforts of the people of Poland to rid themselves of an oppressive government;

Whereas the people of the United States expressed their support on Christmas Eve 1981 by lighting candles in their homes to show solidarity with the people of Poland who were suffering under martial law;

Whereas, in 1989, the people of Poland finally won the right to hold free parliamentary elections, which led to the election of Poland’s first Prime Minister during the post-war era who was not a member of the Communist party, Mr. Tadeusz Mazowiecki; and

Whereas, in 2006, Poland is an important member of the European Union, one of the closest allies of the United States, a contributing partner in the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, and a reliable partner in the war on terrorism that maintains an active and crucial presence in Iraq and Afghanistan: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates December 13, 2006, the 25th anniversary of the imposition of martial law by the Communist government in Poland, as a Day of Remembrance honoring the sacrifices paid by the people of Poland during the struggle against Communist rule;

(2) honors the people of Poland who risked their lives to restore liberty in Poland and to return Poland to the democratic community of nations; and

(3) calls on the people of the United States to remember that the struggle of the people of Poland greatly contributed to the fall of Communism and the ultimate end of the Cold War.

SENATE RESOLUTION 580—RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF POLLINATORS TO ECOSYSTEM HEALTH AND AGRICULTURE IN THE UNITED STATES AND THE VALUE OF PARTNERSHIP EFFORTS TO INCREASE AWARENESS ABOUT POLLINATORS AND SUPPORT FOR PROTECTING AND SUSTAINING POLLINATORS BY DESIGNATING JUNE 24 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2007, AS “NATIONAL POLLINATOR WEEK”

Mr. CHAMBLISS submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 580

Whereas bees, butterflies, and other pollinator species have a critically important role in agriculture in the United States and help to produce a healthy and affordable food supply and sustain ecosystem health;

Whereas pollinators help to produce an estimated 1 out of every 3 bites of food consumed in the United States and to reproduce at least 80 percent of flowering plants;

Whereas commodities produced in partnership with animal pollinators generate significant income for agricultural producers, with domestic honeybees alone pollinating an estimated \$14,600,000,000 worth of crops in the United States each year produced on more than 2,000,000 acres;

Whereas it is in the strong economic interest of agricultural producers and consumers in the United States to help ensure a healthy, sustainable pollinator population;

Whereas possible declines in the health and population of pollinators pose what could be a significant threat to global food webs, the integrity of biodiversity, and human health;

Whereas the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign, managed by the Co-evolution Institute, is a tri-national, cooperative conservation, public-private collaboration of individuals from nearly 140 diverse stakeholder groups, including concerned landowners and managers, conservation and environmental groups, scientists, private businesses, and government agencies; and

Whereas the Pollinator Partnership™ web site (<http://www.pollinator.org>) has been created as the source for pollinator information: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved,

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION OF NORTH AMERICAN POLLINATOR APPRECIATION WEEK.

The Senate—

(1) recognizes the partnership role that pollinators play in agriculture and healthy ecosystems;

(2) applauds the cooperative conservation collaborative efforts of participants in the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign to increase awareness about the important role of pollinators and to build support for protecting and sustaining pollinators;

(3) designates June 24 through 30, 2007, as “National Pollinator Week”; and

(4) encourages the people of the United States to observe the week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 581—CONDEMNING THE ANTI-DEMOCRATIC ACTIONS OF PRESIDENT HUGO CHAVEZ AND ADMONISHING THE STATEMENTS MADE BY HIM TO THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON SEPTEMBER 20, 2006

Mr. BUNNING (for himself, Mr. INHOFE, and Mr. VITTER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 581

Whereas, to consolidate his powers, President Chavez rewrote the constitution of Venezuela after he was elected in 1988;

Whereas, in August 2004, President Chavez survived a recall vote through intimidation and other undemocratic actions;

Whereas President Chavez has decreed that all private property deemed “not in productive use” will be confiscated by the government of Venezuela and redistributed to third parties;

Whereas President Chavez has enacted a media responsibility law placing restrictions