

Office; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1542. A communication from the Acting Senior Procurement Executive, Office of the Chief Acquisition Officer, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation: Federal Acquisition Circular 2005-16" (FAC 2005-16) received on April 12, 2007; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1543. A communication from the Chairman, Postal Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to its implementation of the Sunshine Act during calendar year 2006; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1544. A communication from the Chief Administrative Officer, Patent and Trademark Office, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office's Annual Report for fiscal year 2006; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1545. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Diversion Control, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Control of a Chemical Precursor Used in the Illicit Manufacture of Fentanyl as a List I Chemical" (RIN1117-AB12) received on April 13, 2007; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-1546. A communication from the Secretary, Judicial Conference of the United States, transmitting, the report of draft legislation entitled "Civil Judicial Procedure, Administration, and Technical Amendments Act of 2007"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-1547. A communication from the Secretary, Judicial Conference of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Conference's determinations on four district courts that were subject to review under the Conference's Biennial Survey of Article III Judgeship Needs; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-1548. A communication from the Secretary, Judicial Conference of the United States, transmitting, a draft bill intended to create additional Article III judgeships and convert temporary judgeships to permanent ones in the U.S. courts of appeals and district courts; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-62. A joint resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the Legislature of the State of Idaho urging Congress to consider adoption of a resolution working toward the development of a federal bipartisan, long-term solution that addresses sustainable management of federal forest lands to stabilize payments, which help support roads and schools, to forest communities throughout the western states; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 4

Whereas, it has long been the intent and policy of the federal government to hold rural communities harmless from the creation of federal lands and in 1906 the Committee on Public Lands recognized that the presence of federal lands could create hardship for many counties as they provided little revenue or commerce at that time; and

Whereas, in 1908, the federal government promised rural counties twenty-five percent

of all revenues generated from the multiple-use management of the newly created national forests to support public roads and public schools; and

Whereas, in recent decades, the forest resources have not been managed in a manner to produce long-term sustainable revenue to share with schools and counties; and

Whereas, in 2000, Congress passed Public Law 106-393, the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act. The Act restored historical payment levels previously made to states and counties from the federal government for road and school purposes because of declining levels of actual forest receipts; and

Whereas, the reauthorization and appropriation of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act is pending before the United States Congress, and Idaho counties are on record as being strongly supportive of a fully funded approval of this Act; and

Whereas, federal land managers continue to be faced with funding shortages. In the event the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act is not reauthorized and appropriated, counties will be faced with higher property taxes or a reduction in services and, even if the Act is reauthorized and appropriated, it will likely be the last time, and the state of Idaho must seek a long-term solution; and

Whereas, in 2006, House Joint Memorial No. 21 was adopted by the members of the Second Regular Session of the Fifty-eighth Idaho Legislature to provide one option to address the problem of declining forest receipts by urging Congress to support federal legislation transferring management of National Forest System lands within Idaho to the state of Idaho to be managed for the benefit of the rural counties and schools; and

Whereas, in February 2007, a concurrent resolution was introduced in the Idaho House of Representatives and will be voted on by the First Regular Session of the Fifty-ninth Idaho Legislature authorizing Idaho's Legislative Council to appoint an interim committee to undertake and complete an assessment of the decline in receipts on National Forest System lands, which have historically been shared with counties. The goal of the interim committee's recommendations will be to develop a federal, bipartisan, long-term solution that addresses sustainable management of federal forest lands to stabilize payments to Idaho's forest counties, which help support roads and schools, and to provide projects that enhance forest ecosystem health, provide employment opportunities, and improve cooperative relationships among those who use and care about the lands the federal government manages. The resolution calls for the interim committee to work in cooperation and coordination with the state of Idaho, its counties, its school and highway districts, along with the recognized Indian tribes of the state of Idaho. The resolution also provides that the interim committee address National Forest System lands, but only those lands that do not have special designations. The interim committee is directed to formulate a solution that will protect all valid existing rights, existing public access and activities, including hunting, fishing and recreation, and that will not be construed to interfere with treaties or any other obligations to the Indian tribes, commitments to county governments, or the General Mining Law or Taylor Grazing Act: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the members of the First Regular Session of the Fifty-ninth Idaho Legislature, the House of Representatives and the Senate concurring therein, That the legislatures of all western states should consider the adoption of similar resolutions, working toward the

development of a federal, bipartisan, long-term solution that addresses sustainable management of federal forest lands to stabilize payments to forest counties throughout the western United States, which help support roads and schools, and to provide projects that enhance forest ecosystem health and provide employment opportunities, and to improve cooperative relationships among those who use and care about the lands the federal government manages; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives be, and she is hereby authorized and directed to forward a copy of this Memorial to the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House of Representatives of Congress, the congressional delegation representing the State of Idaho in the Congress of the United States and to the Legislatures of the states of Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington and Wyoming.

POM-63. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the Legislature of the State of Michigan expressing the Senate's opposition to Norfolk Southern Corporation's proposed sale of its rail lines from Ypsilanti to Kalamazoo and Grand Rapids to Kalamazoo and continuing to the Indiana border; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 34

Whereas, The Norfolk Southern Corporation is considering the sale of its Michigan lines from Grand Rapids to Kalamazoo and from Ypsilanti to Kalamazoo. The Ypsilanti to Kalamazoo line carries the state's busiest high-speed AMTRAK train, the Wolverine, which travels from Detroit to Chicago. The Wolverine travels on the Norfolk Southern Railroad's rail corridor from Ypsilanti to Kalamazoo until it connects with AMTRAK's own line. Ridership on this line increased six percent in 2006 to 142,185 passengers; and

Whereas, The Ypsilanti to Kalamazoo portion of the Norfolk Southern line is a vital link between Detroit and Chicago. Expanding the high-speed rail capacity on this line is vital to the future development of this area. New industry, including coal energy, biodiesel, and ethanol fuel plants are proposed for Michigan and specifically along the I-94 corridor located near the Ypsilanti to Kalamazoo rail line. Continued operation of this line by Norfolk Southern is essential to expansion of new industry in this area. Over 150 railroad employees' jobs are associated with the rail traffic along this line; and

Whereas, Norfolk Southern is a Class One railroad operator, earning revenue in excess of \$250 million annually. As a Class One operator, Norfolk Southern has the capacity to maintain and promote the use of these lines. The proposed sale of the Ypsilanti to Kalamazoo and Grand Rapids to Kalamazoo lines will almost certainly place the lines under the management of a Class Three operator, a rail company earning revenue of \$20 million or less annually. A Class Three operator will be far less likely to have the means to maintain the lines, thus increasing the chance of accidents. Class Three operators also rely on federal grants for line and equipment maintenance, grants that are not always guaranteed; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That we express opposition to Norfolk Southern's proposed sale of its rail lines from Ypsilanti to Kalamazoo and Grand Rapids to Kalamazoo and continuing to the Indiana border; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate; the Speaker of the United

States House of Representatives; members of the Michigan congressional delegation; the United States Department of Transportation, Surface Transportation Board; the Norfolk Southern Corporation; AMTRAK; and the Michigan Department of Transportation.

POM-64. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Maine memorializing the President and Congress to fully fund the State Children's Health Insurance Program; to the Committee on Finance.

JOINT RESOLUTION MEMORIALIZING THE PRESIDENT AND CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES TO FULLY FUND THE STATE CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM

Whereas, the State of Maine and at least 13 other states have used up much of the federal subsidies for child health care even though the fiscal year is still not ended, due in part to the great need for these funds and also to the inadequate formula by which the money is apportioned; and

Whereas, the State Children's Health Insurance Program, known as SCHIP, was started by Congress in 1998 and is funded by a combination of federal and state funds, as well as by the premiums of participants; and

Whereas, the program was envisioned as a way to provide health insurance to the children of the working poor and the current budget is \$5.5 billion, which is about \$745 million short of the needs of the states; and

Whereas, the State of Maine has used its SCHIP funds to help significantly with MaineCare, which has provided valuable and important health care to more than 14,850 children in our State, and without additional federal aid 3,500 to 4,000 Maine children will go uninsured; and

Whereas, the State of Maine needs at least \$6,500,000 to help the children at risk and to keep our children healthy, and other states have needs just as important: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That We, your Memorialists, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to request that the State Children's Health Insurance Program be fully funded not only for the children of the State of Maine, but for all of the children of the working poor in the United States; and be it further

Resolved, That official copies of this resolution, duly authenticated by the Secretary of State, be transmitted to President George W. Bush, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the President of the United States Senate and to each member of the Maine Congressional Delegation.

POM-65. A joint resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the Legislature of the State of Idaho urging Congress to use all efforts, energies, and diligence to withdraw the U.S. from any further participation in the Security and Prosperity Partnership of North America, or any other bilateral or multilateral activity that seeks to advance, authorize, fund or in any way promote the creation of any structure to create any form of the North American Union; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 5

Whereas, the U.S. Department of State, the U.S. Department of Commerce and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security participated in the formation of the Security and Prosperity Partnership of North America (SPP) on March 23, 2005, representing a trilateral agreement between Canada, Mexico and the United States designed, among other things, to facilitate common regulatory schemes between these countries; and

Whereas, reports issued by the SPP indicate that it has implemented regulatory

changes among the three countries that circumvent United States trade, transportation, homeland security and border security functions and that it is the intention of SPP to continue toward a North American Union in the future; and

Whereas, the actions taken by the SPP to coordinate border security by eliminating obstacles to migration between Mexico and the United States actually makes the United States-Mexico border less secure and more vulnerable to possible terrorist activities, and Mexico is the primary source country of illegal immigrants, illegal drug entry and illegal human smuggling into the United States; and

Whereas, according to the U. S. Department of Commerce, the United States trade deficits with Mexico and Canada have significantly increased since the implementation of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), and the volume of imports from Mexico has soared since NAFTA, straining security checks at the U.S. border; and

Whereas, the economic and physical security of the United States is impaired by the potential loss of control of its borders attendant to the full operation of NAFTA and the SPP; and

Whereas, the regulatory and border security changes implemented and proposed by the SPP violate and threaten United States sovereignty; and

Whereas, the NAFTA Superhighway System from the west coast of Mexico through the United States and into Canada has been suggested as part of a North American Union to facilitate trade between the SPP countries; and

Whereas, the stability and economic viability of the U.S. ports along the western coast will be seriously compromised by huge cargos off-loaded at cheaper labor cost from foreign traders into the ports of Mazatlan and Lazaro Cardenas; and

Whereas, the state of Texas has already approved and begun planning of the Trans-Texas Corridor, a major multi-modal transportation project beginning at the United States-Mexico border, which would serve as an initial section of the NAFTA Superhighway System; and

Whereas, plans of Asian trading powers to divert cargo from U.S. ports such as Los Angeles to ports in Mexico will only put pressure on border inspectors, interfering with their already overwhelming job of intercepting the flow of drugs and illegals flowing into this country; and

Whereas, future unrestricted foreign trucking into the United States can pose a safety hazard due to inadequate maintenance and inspection, and the Transportation Security Administration's (TSA) lack of background checks for violations in Mexico, lack of drug and alcohol testing, lack of enforcement of size and weight requirements and lack of national security procedures, which threaten the American people and undermine the very charge given to our homeland security agency to defend our borders against these threats; and

Whereas, the Eisenhower National Highway System was designed for the national security of the United States for movement of the military, purposes of commerce from state to state, not from foreign countries, and this highway system should not be compromised by treaties or agreements with other countries that would supplant the control and management of our nation's highways by our U.S. Department of Transportation and the various states; and

Whereas, we strongly object to any treaty or agreement, which threatens to violate national security, private property, United States commerce, constitutional rights and

American sovereignty and emphasize our commitment to the Pacific Northwest Economic Region (PNWER) and other cooperative working nations in mutual beneficial goals; and

Whereas, this trilateral partnership to develop a North American Union has never been presented to Congress as an agreement or treaty, and has had virtually no congressional oversight; and

Whereas, recent reports on internet news, Friday, January 26, 2007, WorldNetDaily, stating that Congressman Poe (R-Texas) asked about the U.S. Department of Transportation's work with the trade group North American Super-Corridor Coalition, Inc. (NASCO) and the department's plans to build the Trans-Texas Corridor, Congressman Poe was told that the NAFTA agreement superhighway corridor plans exist to move goods from Mexico through the United States to Canada; and

Whereas, American citizens and state and local governments throughout the United States would be negatively impacted by the SPP process: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the members of the First Regular Session of the Fifty-ninth Idaho Legislature, the House of Representatives and the Senate concurring therein, That we emphatically urge and petition the Congress of the United States and particularly the congressional delegation representing the state of Idaho to use all efforts, energies and diligence to withdraw the United States from any further participation in the Security and Prosperity Partnership of North America or any other bilateral or multilateral activity that seeks to advance, authorize, fund or in any way promote the creation of any structure to create any form of North American Union; and be it further

Resolved, That House Concurrent Resolution 40 of the First Session of the 110th Congress addresses the concern herein expressed by the state of Idaho; and be it further

Resolved, That we are asking our congressional delegation, our U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Mary E. Peters and President Bush to reject appropriated federal fuel tax dollars for such SPP or NAFTA when there is such a need for fuel tax dollars to be dedicated to the needs of the states in the U.S. in order to maintain our highway system; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives be, and she is hereby authorized and directed to forward a copy of this Memorial to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of Congress, and the congressional delegation representing the State of Idaho in the Congress of the United States.

POM-66. A joint resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the Legislature of the State of Idaho supporting the participation of Taiwan in a meaningful and appropriate way in the World Health Organization; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 2

Whereas, direct and unobstructed participation in international health cooperation forums and programs is crucial for all parts of the world, especially with today's greater potential for the cross-border spread of various infectious diseases such as AIDS; and

Whereas, Taiwan's achievements in the field of health care are substantial, including life expectancy levels that are some of the highest in Asia, maternal and infant mortality rates that are comparable to those of western countries, free hepatitis B vaccinations for children and the eradication of polio, cholera, smallpox and the plague; and

Whereas, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and its Taiwanese counterpart have enjoyed close collaboration on a wide range of public health issues; and

Whereas, in recent years Taiwan has expressed a willingness to give financial and technical assistance to the international aid and health activities supported by the World Health Organization; and

Whereas, Taiwan's population of twenty-three million is larger than that of seventy-five percent of World Health Organization member states; and

Whereas, the United States, in its 1994 Taiwan Policy Review, declared its intention to support Taiwan's participation in appropriate international organizations; and

Whereas, Taiwan's participation in the World Health Organization could bring many benefits to the state of health care, not only in Taiwan, but also regionally and globally: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the members of the First Regular Session of the Fifty-ninth Idaho Legislature, the House of Representatives and the Senate concurring therein, That we support the participation by Taiwan in a meaningful and appropriate way in the World Health Organization; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives be, and she is hereby authorized and directed to forward a copy of this Memorial to the President of the United States, to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of Congress, to the congressional delegation representing the State of Idaho in the Congress of the United States, to the Director-General of the World Health Organization and to the representative of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States.

POM-67. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the Legislature of the State of Michigan memorializing Congress to invest in Head Start and quality child care; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 27

Whereas, Head Start and high-quality child care prepare children for school and life success by narrowing the educational achievement gap between lower- and upper-income kids, increasing high school graduation rates, and reducing crime; and

Whereas, Studies show that at-risk children who attend Head Start and high-quality child care are better prepared for school. For example, Head Start narrows the literacy skills gap by nearly half between children in poverty and all children. The research is clear that quality early childhood education programs work to prevent crime. In Ypsilanti, Michigan, three- and four-year-olds from low-income families who were randomly assigned to a group that did not receive preschool preparation were five times more likely to have become chronic lawbreakers by age 27 than those who were assigned to the High/Scope Educational Research Foundation's Perry Preschool program; and

Whereas, Currently, only about half of eligible low-income children can attend Head Start due to state and federal funding limitations, and even fewer infants and toddlers. Less than five percent of eligible children three years old and younger are able to participate in Early Head Start. Moreover, only one in seven eligible children in working, low-income families receives help paying for quality child care through the Child Care and Development Block Grant. The combination of state and federal money for preschool has helped Michigan reach two of three at-risk four-year-olds and one of five at-risk three-year-olds; and

Whereas, Real dollar funding levels for Head Start and child care have been cut for the last several years, falling far behind the

rising costs that programs face. Instead of reaching more eligible kids with comprehensive health, nutrition, and early education services, Head Start programs have been forced to shorten program hours, cut back staff, reduce parent coaching, and reduce transportation and other services that help families participate: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That we memorialize the Congress of the United States to increase discretionary funding in the federal budget for 2008 by \$750 million in additional funding over current levels for Head Start and \$720 million in additional funding over current levels for the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG). This request does not address the unmet need in Head Start and CCDBG, but simply restores services to children to the Fiscal Year 2002 level. This is a crucial first step toward meeting the need to provide quality early childhood education and care for at-risk children. Investing in Head Start and quality child care now will improve education outcomes for our nation's at-risk children and will save lives and money down the road; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.

POM-68. A joint resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the Legislature of the State of Idaho affirming the state's support of the United States campaign to secure our country and urging members of Idaho's congressional delegation to support measures to repeal the federal REAL ID Act of 2005; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 3

Whereas, the state of Idaho recognizes the Constitution of the United States as our charter of liberty and the Bill of Rights as affirming the fundamental and inalienable rights of Americans, including freedom of privacy and freedom from unreasonable searches; and

Whereas, Idaho has a diverse population whose contributions are vital to the state's economy, culture and civic character; and

Whereas, Idaho is proud of its tradition of protecting the civil rights and liberties of all its residents, affirming the fundamental rights of all people and providing more expansive protections than are granted by the Constitution of the United States; and

Whereas, the federal REAL ID Act of 2005, Public Law 109-13, creates a national identification card by mandating federal standards for state driver's licenses and identification cards and requires states to share their motor vehicle databases; and

Whereas, the REAL ID Act mandates the documents that states must require to issue driver's licenses and requires states to place uniform information on every driver's license in a standard, machine-readable format; and

Whereas, the REAL ID Act prohibits federal agencies and federally-regulated commercial aircraft from accepting a driver's license or identification card issued by a state that has not fully complied with the act; and

Whereas, the REAL ID Act places a costly, unfunded mandate on states, with initial estimates for Idaho of more than thirty-nine million dollars with ongoing annual expenses of an estimated nine million three hundred thousand dollars and a national estimate of more than eleven billion dollars over the next five years; and

Whereas, the REAL ID Act requires the creation of a massive public sector database containing information on every American that is accessible to all motor vehicle em-

ployees and law enforcement officers nationwide and that can be used to gather and manage information on citizens. Such activities are not the business or responsibility of government; and

Whereas, the REAL ID Act enables the creation of additional massive private sector databases, combining both transactional information and driver's license information gained from scanning the machine-readable information contained on every driver's license; and

Whereas, these public and private databases are likely to contain numerous errors and false information, creating significant hardship for Americans attempting to verify their identities in order to travel on commercial aircraft, open a bank account or perform any of the numerous functions required to live in the United States today; and

Whereas, the federal trade commission estimates that ten million Americans are victims of identity theft annually, and because identity thieves are increasingly targeting motor vehicle departments, the REAL ID Act will enable the crime of identity theft by making the personal information of all Americans, including date of birth and signature, accessible from tens of thousands of locations; and

Whereas, the REAL ID Act requires a driver's license to contain a person's actual home address and makes no exception for individuals in potential danger, such as undercover law enforcement personnel or victims of stalking or criminal harassment; and

Whereas, the REAL ID Act contains onerous record verification and retention provisions that place unreasonable burdens on the motor vehicle division and on third parties required to verify records; and

Whereas, the REAL ID Act will place enormous burdens on consumers seeking new driver's licenses, such as longer lines, increased document requests, higher costs and a waiting period; and

Whereas, the REAL ID Act will place state motor vehicle staff on the front lines of immigration enforcement by forcing state employees to determine federal citizenship and immigration status, excessively burdening both foreign-born applicants and motor vehicle staff; and

Whereas, the REAL ID Act passed without sufficient deliberation by Congress and did not receive a hearing by any congressional committee or a vote solely on its own merits, despite opposition from more than six hundred organizations; and

Whereas, the REAL ID Act eliminated a process of negotiated rulemaking initiated under the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004, which had convened federal, state and local policymakers, privacy advocates and industry experts to solve the problem of the misuse of identity documents; and

Whereas, the REAL ID Act provides little security benefit and leaves identification systems open to insider fraud, counterfeit documentation and database failures: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the members of the First Regular Session of the Fifty-ninth Idaho Legislature, the House of Representatives and the Senate concurring therein, That we support the government of the United States in its campaign to secure our country, while affirming the commitment of the United States that this campaign not be waged at the expense of the essential civil rights and liberties of the citizens of this country; and be it further

Resolved, That it is the policy of the state of Idaho to oppose any portion of the REAL ID Act that violates the rights and liberties guaranteed under the constitutions of the State of Idaho and the United States, including the Bill of Rights. Be it further

Resolved, That the Idaho Legislature shall enact no legislation nor authorize an appropriation to implement the provisions of the REAL ID Act in Idaho, unless such appropriation is used exclusively for the purpose of undertaking a comprehensive analysis of the costs of implementing the REAL ID Act or to mount a constitutional challenge to the act by the state Attorney General. Be it further

Resolved, That the Idaho Legislature urges the Idaho congressional delegation to support measures to repeal the REAL ID Act. Be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives be, and she is hereby authorized and directed to forward a copy of this Memorial to the President of the United States George W. Bush, the United States Attorney General Alberto Gonzales, the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of Congress, the Governor of Idaho C. L. Otter and the congressional delegation representing the State of Idaho in the Congress of the United States.

POM-69. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the Legislature of the State of Massachusetts memorializing the President and Congress to recommend more funding to the Department of Veterans Affairs in the budget for fiscal year 2008; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

RESOLUTION MEMORIALIZING GEORGE W. BUSH, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, AND THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO RECOMMEND MORE FUNDING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS IN THE FISCAL YEAR 08 FEDERAL BUDGET.

Whereas, President George W. Bush has recommended 34.2 billion for the Department of Veterans Affairs in his proposed fiscal year 08 budget, which is an inadequate appropriation to adequately address the health of our veterans; and

Whereas, while the Bush Administration continues to tout its recommendation for an increase of \$2 billion over the previous fiscal year as a "landmark budget", the reality is that this 6% increase is barely enough to account for the cost of inflation and cannot fund the need for improvements in medical care and expansion of services; and

Whereas, more than 27,000 service members have returned home to Massachusetts since September 11, 2001, having faced a new type of warfare in the form of improvised explosive devices and are, upon return home, in need of specialized services and care; and

Whereas, the United States Government must provide to the Department of Veterans Affairs all the tools available to make this specialized care available, particularly for head, spinal cord and sight injuries and the growing need for mental health services; and

Whereas, in 2006, the Veterans Health Administration's Undersecretary for Health Policy and Coordination stated that some areas of the country did not have any mental health services available and that other areas had such long wait times that certain services were "virtually inaccessible"; and

Whereas, unfortunately, once again, Category 8 Veterans, those veterans deemed "high income" veterans by the Veterans Administration—some who make as little as \$28,000 a year—and who have been ineligible to enroll in the Veterans Administration Health Care System since 2003, may continue to be shut out of the Veterans Administration Health Care System if funding is not increased, adding to the approximately 1 million Category 8 Veterans who have been turned away since 2003; and

Whereas, while the Massachusetts State Senate has supported the Veterans Affairs'

recommendations for improvements in medical equipment and facility upgrades to medical centers, for two years, the Senate has fought hard to prevent the possible consolidation of the four existing Veterans Administration medical care facilities in the greater Boston area into one "mega-plex", since the negative impact of removing thousands of veterans from their familiar health care environment and forcing them to change physicians would have consequences that cannot be balanced by the creation of one modernized facility: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Massachusetts Senate hereby urges the President of the United States and Congress to address the Veterans Affairs Budget in a timely manner, include in the 2008 budget the Veterans Affairs' recommendations for improvements in medical equipment and facility upgrades to all Massachusetts Veterans Administration Medical Centers and to provide mandatory funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs Health Care system so as to appropriately honor and facilitate the healing of our veterans who selflessly risk their lives and well-being to protect our freedom; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of these resolutions be transmitted forthwith by the clerk of the Senate to the President of the United States, the Presiding Officer of each branch of Congress and to the Members thereof from the Commonwealth.

POM-70. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the Legislature of the State of Vermont urging Congress to enact legislation to assure federal funding for veterans' health care; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

SENATE RESOLUTION 13

Whereas, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) provides medical care for veterans, including men and women, who have risked their lives to protect the security of our nation, and

Whereas, Congress appropriates funding for VA health care each year as part of the discretionary federal budget, and

Whereas, each year's federal budget for veterans' health care has been very seriously under-funded, and

Whereas, this serious and now chronic shortfall affects the access to and the quality of medical care services that the VA provides for our veterans, and

Whereas, the priority of serving veterans must be absolute and irrevocable, and must serve as the foundation for the VA and of our nation's public policy: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That the Senate of the State of Vermont urgently requests that Congress enact legislation to assure Federal funding for veterans' health care, and be it further

Resolved, That Governor Douglas also request that Congress enact legislation to assure Federal funding for veterans' health care, and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Governor, the President, the Vice President, Secretary of Veterans Affairs, James Nicholson; Speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi; House Minority Leader, John Boehner; Senate Majority Leader, Harry Reid; Senate Minority Leader, Trent Lott; to the members of the Vermont Congressional delegation; and to Vermont veterans organizations.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first

and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. KYL (for himself, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. LOTT, Mr. ENSIGN, Mr. HATCH, Mr. THOMAS, Mr. SMITH, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. DEMINT, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. ENZI, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. BURR, and Mr. COBURN):

S. 14. A bill to repeal the sunset on certain tax rates and other incentives and to repeal the individual alternative minimum tax, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HARKIN (for himself, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. BINGAMAN, and Mr. LIEBERMAN):

S. 1120. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide grants for the training of graduate medical residents in preventive medicine and public health; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. COCHRAN):

S. 1121. A bill to authorize the cancellation of Perkins Loans for students who perform public service as librarians in low-income schools and public libraries; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. NELSON of Nebraska:

S. 1122. A bill to improve the calculation of highway mileage to medium and large hub airports, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. STABENOW:

S. 1123. A bill to provide an extension for filing a refund for the excise tax on toll telephone service, and to provide for a safe harbor for businesses claiming such a refund; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LEVIN (for himself and Mr. COLEMAN):

S. 1124. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to simplify, modernize, and improve public notice of and access to tax lien information by providing for a national, Internet accessible, filing system for Federal tax liens, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LOTT (for himself, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. SMITH, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. HAGEL, Ms. LANDRIEU, and Mr. CRAPO):

S. 1125. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide incentives to encourage investment in the expansion of freight rail infrastructure capacity and to enhance modal tax equity; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LOTT (for himself, Ms. LANDRIEU, and Mr. COCHRAN):

S. 1126. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to expand and strengthen cooperative efforts to monitor, restore, and protect the resource productivity, water quality, and marine ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. LEVIN:

S. 1127. A bill for the relief of Alexandra S. Banks Desutter and Nicholas S. Banks Desutter; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DODD (for himself, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. KERRY, and Mr. ROCKEFELLER):

S. 1128. A bill to amend the National and Community Service Act of 1990 to establish a Summer of Service State grant program, a