a storm that caused major flooding in most parts of the country, and certainly across Maine.

While countless Maine businesses have overcome obstacles and succeeded, Arline’s story sticks out as an outstanding example to all Maine business owners that they can persevere from any challenge that they face.

And so, I want to congratulate Arline Shea and the Inn at Long Sands for providing small businesses with a beacon to look forward to. She is truly a small business owner of whom we are all so proud. We wish her future success, and all of Maine’s small businesses, our complete assistance. Maine, and indeed the nation, can benefit from Arline Shea’s optimism, determination, and entrepreneurship.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The following message from the President of the United States was transmitted to the Senate by one of his secretaries:

REPORT ON THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO THE BLOCKING OF PROPERTY OF CERTAIN PERSONS AND PROHIBITING THE EXPORTATION AND REEXPORTATION OF CERTAIN GOODS TO SYRIA AS DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13338 OF MAY 11, 2004—PM 12

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the Federal Register and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the Federal Register for publication the enclosed notice, stating that the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13338 of May 11, 2004, and expanded in scope in Executive Order 13399 of April 25, 2006, authorizing the blocking of property of certain persons and prohibiting the exportation and reexportation of certain goods to Syria, is to continue in effect beyond May 11, 2007.

The actions of the Government of Syria in supporting terrorism, interfering in Lebanon, pursuing weapons of mass destruction and missile programs, and undermining United States and international efforts with respect to the stabilization of Iraq pose a continuing unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to continue in effect the national emergency declared with respect to this threat and to maintain in force the sanctions I have ordered to address this national emergency.

GEORGE W. BUSH


MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:50 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrent of the Senate:

H.R. 1294. An act to extend Federal recognition to the Chickahominy Indian Tribe, the Chickahominy Indian Tribe—Eastern Division, the Upper Mattaponi Tribe, the Rappahannock Tribe, Inc., the Monacan Indian Nation, and the Nansemond Indian Tribe; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolutions, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 105. Concurrent resolution supporting the goals and ideals of a National Suffragists Day to promote awareness of the importance of the women suffragists who worked for the right of women to vote in the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H. Con. Res. 117. Concurrent resolution commemorating the 400th Anniversary of the settlement of Jamestown; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bills were read the first time:

H.R. 1025. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to determine the feasibility of implementing a water supply and conservation project to improve water supply reliability, increase the capacity of water storage, and improve water management efficiency in the Republican River Basin between Harlan County Lake in Nebraska, and Millicent Lake in Kansas, to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 1294. An act to extend Federal recognition to the Chickahominy Indian Tribe, the Chickahominy Indian Tribe—Eastern Division, the Upper Mattaponi Tribe, the Rappahannock Tribe, Inc., the Monacan Indian Nation, and the Nansemond Indian Tribe; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

H.R. 1595. An act to implement the recommendations of the Guam War Claims Review Commission; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

The following concurrent resolutions were read, and referred as indicated:

H. Con. Res. 105. Concurrent resolution supporting the goals and ideals of a National Suffragists Day to promote awareness of the importance of the women suffragists who worked for the right of women to vote in the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H. Con. Res. 117. Concurrent resolution commemorating the 400th Anniversary of the settlement of Jamestown; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communication was laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and was referred as indicated:

EC-1875. A communication from the Secretary of Commerce, containing the report of a draft bill that would reauthorize the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act of 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

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-79. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of Pennsylvania urging Congress to provide equitable funding to the Department of Housing and Urban Development for the operation of quality affordable housing; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

POM-2. A concurrent resolution No. 45

Whereas, Pennsylvania’s public housing authorities are essential in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; and

Whereas, Pennsylvania is home to 90 public housing authorities serving an estimated 285,819 residents of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; and
Whereas, Pennsylvania’s public housing authorities provide high-quality affordable housing to residents in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania through the use of Federal programs; and

Whereas, Pennsylvania’s public housing authorities have successfully assisted residents of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania with employment, educational, and other preapprenticeship training, resulting in greater self-sufficiency and a reduced burden on Commonwealth resources; and

Whereas, developments built by Pennsylvania’s public housing authorities have in some instances increased the values of neighboring properties in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania by as much as 142%; and

Whereas, new funding guidelines developed by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development may result in reduced funding for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, its public housing authorities and the Pennsylvanians who rely on these services; and

Whereas, Pennsylvania’s public housing authorities are a major employer in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and funding cuts from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development may result in drastic layoffs and diminished services to the residents of public housing; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania recognize the importance of the quality services, support and housing provided by Pennsylvania’s public housing authorities and respectfully urge the Congress to provide equitable funding to the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development for the operation of quality affordable housing; 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-80. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of Michigan urging Congress to enact legislation to increase protections for the Great Lakes from Asian carp; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

SENATE RESOLUTION No 15

Whereas, two species of Asian carp, not native to the United States, are on the verge of invading the Great Lakes. Silver carp and bighead carp escaped from confinement at southern Illinois fish hatcheries and migrated up the Mississippi and the Illinois River to within less than 100 miles of the Great Lakes; and

Whereas, Asian carp could become a dominant species in the Great Lakes, threatening the $4.5 billion Great Lakes commercial and recreational fishery and recreational boating activities; and voracious feeders that compete with native fish and wildlife for food. In addition, silver carp can weigh up to 70 pounds and jump up to 10 feet out of the water by leaping electrical barriers. To help match federal spending, the state of Michigan has contributed funding, the state of Michigan has contributed

Whereas, the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal operating in the vicinity of which channels millions of dollars into tactically targeted programs that divert limited resources from public schools, programs, professional training, as well as the educational and physical environment of schools; and

Whereas, the requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act penalize schools who enroll students who have inherent educational deficits, the No Child Left Behind Act punishes schools that do not spend their time or money adopting the prohibition against states developing their own growth models has rendered this initiative almost meaningless; and

Whereas, the No Child Left Behind Act does not take into account a school’s adoption of meaningful educational innovation or judicious use of research; and

Whereas, the No Child Left Behind Act has channeled countless dollars into high-stake testing, which has largely benefitted national private testing companies, but at the expense of ignoring genuine student accomplishments; and

Whereas, the United States Department of Education has shown little or no interest in creating incentives among colleges and universities to incorporate innovative portfolios or project-based competencies into their admissions decisions, thus reinforcing the use of high-stake, multiple-choice private contractors; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007, That the United States Congress is strongly urged to set aside specific amendments to, or recommend the repeal of, the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001; and be it further

Resolved, That among the issues and amendments the United States Congress should address are the following:

(1) Improving teacher quality, preparation, and training by:

(A) Building support for a comprehensive incentives program to retain experienced, well-qualified teachers in high-need schools (e.g., high poverty, or geographically isolated communities);

(B) Providing significant support for teacher education, professional development, in-service training, and career opportunities;
(C) Improving the occupational status and compensation of teaching as a career; 

(D) Improving qualifications of teacher candidates at colleges of education; 

(E) Financial incentives for institutions of higher learning to incorporate portfolios and demonstrations of competency into their admissions decisions; 

(F) Strengthening teacher education preparation programs in areas such as science, mathematics, technology, measurement, data analysis, and evaluation; 

(G) Recognizing teachers who have achieved certification by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards as “highly qualified” in their fields; 

(H) Providing flexibility in recognizing certified secondary level special education teachers as qualified teachers in their own right. This is unrealistic expectation that such teachers be additionally certified in every single core subject area; 

(2) Improving assessment measures and systems by: 

(A) Refining student assessment instruments designed specifically for use in improving instruction as well as school accountability; 

(B) Encouraging states and school districts to utilize a wider range of useful assessments, including project-based competency and portfolios; 

(C) Developing more appropriate means of assessing the academic progress of English Language Learners, special education students, and those with behavioral health issues; and 

(D) Supporting the development and implementation of comprehensive statewide data collection and exchange systems that allow for more efficient support for student record keeping and informed educational policy decision making (e.g., electronic student transcript, longitudinal, and longitudinal analyses of growth in academic achievement); 

(3) Improving accountability models, indicators of performance, and consequences by: 

(A) Supporting states and the educational research community in research and development efforts to further the pioneering work required in refining the technology underlyng derelling growth (toward standards) analysis models; 

(B) Permitting each state to adopt and pilot a model to calculate adequate yearly progress under the No Child Left Behind Act to take advantage of inherent benefits that motivate students at all levels of the No Child Left Behind Act to cover the costs that states and districts will incur to carry out its recommendations; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. 

SUBSTITUTE SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8011 

Whereas, Washington State supports, believes in, and has been diligently working on the attainment of the goals of the No Child Left Behind Act to cover the costs that states and districts will incur to carry out its recommendations; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. 

SUBSTITUTE SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8011 

Whereas, Washington State supports, believes in, and has been diligently working on the attainment of the goals of the No Child Left Behind Act to cover the costs that states and districts will incur to carry out its recommendations; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. 

Whereas, the state welcomes the additional support No Child Left Behind Act has brought to the overall quality of education, the improvements needed to reach all children, and the emergency nationwide to close achievement gaps; and 

Whereas, the state supports a fair, feasible, and creditable accountability system; and 

Whereas, Washington State has attached approval and is in compliance with the requirements of the state's regulations; and 

Whereas, the reauthorization of the No Child Left Behind legislation will provide the opportunity for essential changes to be made to reach the goals and purposes of the law; and 

Whereas, students with limited English proficiency are in a program because they cannot speak, read, or write English and they must be provided appropriate and valid measures for accountability that are not in the overall, until such students develop English academic language proficiency, for a period of not more than three years; and 

Whereas, students with disabilities need appropriate assessments that meet the requirement of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, which would meet their individual educational plans and test according to students' ability and not limited to their grade level; and 

Whereas, all students, all schools, and all districts do not improve on a uniform basis across any state as required by the state uniform board, so that the state uniform board should be replaced with realistic requirements for consistent growth and improvement based on required years of percentage increase in performance at the school, district, and state levels which would provide fairness to accountability and an increased motivation for very low and high performing schools; and 

Whereas, the Act imposes a significant testing burden on states, schools, and districts and unless appropriate federal funding is provided for administering and scoring large scale assessments, new grade levels required, states should be allowed to continue to assess students annually in selected grades in elementary schools, middle schools, and high schools and even if funding is provided for these assessments in the new grade levels required, states should be able to use that funding to assess students in critical areas of Washington in improvements in instruction but would not have to meet the extensive technical standards now required; and 

Whereas, the adequate yearly progress provisions are overly prescriptive and rigid, and they identify too many schools “in need of improvement” by creating too many ways to fail, which reduces the opportunities and funding to assist schools that truly are in need of improvement; and 

Whereas, the Act requires all teachers to be highly qualified regardless of state systems of certification and licensure in place, states must continue to have authority to use flexibility in meeting these requirements so that the educational needs of the students and the diverse conditions in the state are met; and 

Whereas, career and technical education teachers are often hired from industries in which a bachelor’s degree is not the preferred level of certification; and 

Whereas, the Washington State Legislature passed legislation in 2006 that recognizes credit for core academic subjects learned through career and technical education incentives but if the student can have a bachelor’s degree the school district must report them to parents as “not highly qualified,” which places these teachers at a disadvantage in school district. 

Whereas, positive changes in the definition of highly qualified teachers will assist in the overall quality of education, credits should remove the stigma surrounding industry-certified teachers; and 

Whereas, providers of supplemental services to intact students and are funded with federal funds, therefore these providers must meet the same safety and qualification standards required of public school educators. 

Whereas, supplemental services are most appropriately provided by public schools,
public school educators should be allowed to offer supplemental services to qualifying students; and

Whereas, the Act imposes significant costs on the nation's school districts, teachers, and paraprofessionals; and

Whereas, these costs include the administration of newly required assessments, and the costs of state development, certification upgrades, and coursework; now, therefore, your Memorialists respectfully request that the President and Congress of the United States work together with state legislatures and the United States Department of Education to raise authorized funding levels of the No Child Left Behind Act to cover the costs of state development, which will carry out these recommendations, and fully fund the law at those levels without reducing expenditures for other education programs and to improve local language and the Act and regulations concerning its implementation, to make improvements to address the issues raised in this Memorial, and to grant the time, flexibility, and changes that will ensure successful nationwide implementation of the No Child Left Behind Act; be it

Resolved, That copies of this Memorial be immediately transmitted to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, each member of Congress from the State of Washington, and the Governor of the State of Washington.

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 Mrs. LINCOLN (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. KOHL, Mr. KERRY, Mrs. MIKULSKI, Mrs. CLINTON, Mrs. BOXER, and Mr. CASEY):

S. 1340. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide Medicare beneficiaries with access to geriatric assessments and chronic care coordination services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KYL (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN):

S. 1341. A bill to provide for the exchange of certain Bureau of Land Management land in Pima County, Arizona, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. HARKIN:

S. 1342. A bill to improve the health of Americans and reduce health care costs by rewarding the Nation's health care system toward prevention, wellness, and self-care; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. CLINTON (for herself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 1343. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to prevention and treatment of diabetes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. MURRAY:

S. 1344. A bill to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs outpatient clinic in Wenatchee, Washington, as the Elwood "Bud" Link Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. AKAKA (for himself, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. FEINGOLD, and Mrs. CLINTON):

S. 1345. A bill to affirm that Federal employees are protected from discrimination on