

and other emergency assistance for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 2082. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Intelligence.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 2206. An act making emergency supplemental appropriations and additional supplemental appropriations for agricultural and other emergency assistance for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes.

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-83. A joint resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the Legislature of the State of Maine urging Congress to increase funding for Community Development Block Grants; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

JOINT RESOLUTION

Whereas, the primary objective of the Community Development Block Grant program is the development of viable communities by providing decent housing and a suitable living environment and expanding economic opportunities, principally for persons of low income and moderate income; and

Whereas, the State of Maine and the Maine entitlement communities receive direct allocations from the Community Development Block Grant program annually for a wide variety of community and economic development activities that principally benefit low-income and moderate-income persons, including the elderly, children and those who are at risk; and

Whereas, in Maine and in communities throughout the nation, 33 years of Community Development Block Grant program funding has developed a strong network of relationships among local governments, residents, businesses and nonprofit organizations; and

Whereas, the Community Development Block Grant program has been cut every year since fiscal year 2001, and President Bush has released his fiscal year 2008 federal budget to Congress proposing only \$2,986,000,000 in formula funding for the Community Development Block Grant program, a reduction of \$736,000,000 from last year that would present a severe hardship to Maine communities; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That we, your Memorialists, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to indicate that this valuable program has made a tremendous contribution to the viability of the housing stock, in-

frastructure, public services and economic vitality of the State and that we respectfully urge and request that the President of the United States and the Congress of the United States recognize the outstanding work being done locally and nationally by the Community Development Block Grant program by supporting increased funding for the program in fiscal year 2008; and be it further

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

POM-84. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Michigan expressing 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.

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 56

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, bio-diesel, 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 House of Representatives, 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 Representative; 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-85. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of Michigan urging Congress to restore funding for the Weatherization Assistance Program in fiscal year 2008 and to consider increasing future funding for this important federal program; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 36

Whereas, the Federal Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP), created in 1976 during the nation's oil crisis and administered by the United States Department of Energy (DOE), provides funding to states to operate programs that pay for weatherization improvements for low-income homes. Weatherization refers to a wide variety of measures and technologies, such as weather stripping, caulking, insulation, and energy-efficient appliances that reduce a building's energy consumption. The WAP is the country's longest running and perhaps most successful energy-efficiency program. During the last 30 years, the WAP has provided weatherization services to more than 5.5 million low-income families; and

Whereas, the WAP is a proven and effective program that helps not only low-income households, but the nation as a whole. The WAP empowers low-income families by enabling them to reduce energy costs and take responsibility for their energy bills. Weatherization reduces heating bills by an average of 31 percent. Low-income families receiving WAP retrofits commonly save about \$200 to \$300 each year in energy costs. In addition to the direct benefits that low-income families receive, a recent study by Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) documents a multitude of indirect benefits to local economies, the nation's energy security, and the environment. These benefits include job creation, increased property values, reduced national energy consumption, and a reduction in carbon dioxide emissions by an average of one ton per weatherized house. The ORNL study concludes that for each \$1 of investment in the WAP program, the nation receives \$3.71 worth of benefits. Surely, no other program receives such bang for its buck; and

Whereas, the effectiveness of the WAP program is threatened by recent DOE funding decisions. The DOE recently cut the Fiscal Year 2007 budget for the WAP by about 16 percent or about \$38 million less than it was a year ago. Local communities and state weatherization directors throughout the nation were dismayed by this decision; and

Whereas, under the Fiscal Year 2007 budget, Michigan is receiving almost \$2 million less than it did a year ago, and it could not have come at a worse time. The state is suffering through disturbingly high unemployment rates and a weakened economy and is in the midst of its most devastating and prolonged economic downturn since the Great Depression. Losing about \$1.9 million in WAP funds and the associated job stimulus that WAP generally provides is a hard pill for the state to swallow; and

Whereas, as the Fiscal Year 2008 federal budget is hammered out, the WAP program should be recognized and celebrated for its immense effectiveness rather than having its budget slashed. Clearly, it is fiscally wise to invest in the energy-saving WAP program; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That we urge the President of the United States, the United States Congress, and the United States Department of Energy to restore funding for

the Weatherization Assistance Program in Fiscal Year 2008 and to consider increasing future funding for this important federal program; and be it further

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

POM-86. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Montana urging Congress to reauthorize the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act and work toward a permanent solution to compensate states and local governments for lost tax revenue on federal land within Montana; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 4

Whereas, the stability of Montana's economy has historically been dependent on use of our abundant natural resources; and

Whereas, the natural resource harvest has historically contributed billions of dollars to Montana's economy by providing employment opportunities to members of our communities, supporting our business communities, and contributing to the health of our schools; and

Whereas, revenue from industries related to the natural resource harvest has produced taxes for the support of local and state governments; and

Whereas, the amount of money generated by national forests has dropped more than 85% between 1986 and 2005, creating a financial crisis for rural forest communities in Montana and around the country; and

Whereas, Congress passed the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 to provide a safety net for these communities, and the purpose of the Act was to stabilize payments to states and counties to help support roads and schools, provide projects that enhance forest ecosystem health, provide employment opportunities, and improve cooperative relationships among federal land management agencies and those who use and care about the lands that the agencies manage; and

Whereas, counties in Montana received more than \$14 million in the last year to maintain schools and roads; and

Whereas, the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act has expired; and

Whereas, if the Act is not reauthorized, many counties will suffer severe financial impacts resulting in significant reduction in services, including but not limited to public safety and education; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the State of Montana:

(1) That the Legislature of the State of Montana urge the U.S. Congress to reauthorize the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 and work toward a permanent solution to compensate states and local governments for lost tax revenue on federal land within Montana.

(2) That the Secretary of State send copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, the Secretary of State of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the Western Governors' Association, and the Montana Congressional Delegation.

POM-87. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Michigan urging Congress to establish a "Marshall Plan" for the United States automotive in-

dustry; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 31

Whereas, at a time when our country's auto sector is facing untold, and often unfair, challenges, it is in our national interest to establish a "Marshall Plan," similar to the plan instituted to jump-start the decimated post-WWII European economy, to help accelerate the domestic production of alternative fuel and advanced technology vehicles. Providing assistance to the automobile manufacturers and auto parts suppliers to dramatically accelerate the domestic production of alternative fuel and advanced technology (hybrid, clean diesel, and fuel cell) vehicles and their key components is of paramount importance to our entire economy; and

Whereas, only through action of the federal government could a comprehensive plan be developed to help retain and create tens of thousands of jobs for American workers, and assure that American companies are producing the cars and trucks of the future right here in the United States. Providing the opportunity for the automotive sector to retool and expand existing facilities, and helping to make sure that there is a level playing field among all automotive companies with respect to corporate taxes and health care costs, will produce tremendous benefits for years to come; and

Whereas, indeed, a Marshall Plan would have any number of direct and indirect benefits. It would reduce our dependence on foreign oil, thereby reducing our dangerous reliance on foreign oil and increasing our energy security. It would also improve the environment by reducing global warming emissions. The plan would further generate additional revenue for federal, state, and local governments because of the jobs that would be created for American workers. Moreover, it would benefit consumers through lower costs for flex fuel and advanced technology vehicles, and lower overall fuel costs. Finally, the plan would help corporate profitability and help ensure that workers and retirees receive the health care and retirement benefits they have earned; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we hereby memorialize the Congress of the United States to establish a "Marshall Plan" for the United States automotive industry; 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-88. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Michigan urging Congress to reauthorize the State Children's Health Insurance Program for the State of Michigan; to the Committee on Finance.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 50

Whereas, the House of Representatives regard the health of our children to be of paramount importance to families in our state. Poor child health is a threat to educational achievement as well as the social and psychological well-being of the children of our state; and

Whereas, the members of the Michigan Legislature consider protecting the health of our children to be essential to improving the lives of our youngest citizens and the quality of life in this state. The Michigan SCHIP program, which has enrolled uninsured children since its inception, is an integral part of the arrangements for health benefits for the children of the State of Michigan. We recognize the value of the Michigan SCHIP

in preserving child wellness, preventing and treating childhood disease, and improving health outcomes, including overall health costs; and

Whereas, the federal funding available to the State of Michigan through SCHIP is an invaluable source of funding to provide health benefits for children of modest means. Furthermore, we encourage all components of state government to work with educators, health care providers, social workers, and parents to ensure that all available public and private assistance to provide health benefits for uninsured children be garnered and used to the maximum extent; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we memorialize the United States Congress to ensure timely reauthorization of the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) to assure federal funding for Michigan SCHIP; 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-89. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Georgia urging Congress to continue to press for strong measures to end the violence in Sudan and urging the Securities and Exchange Commission to provide guidance to public pension fund managers in order to avoid investments which may be supporting nations involved in the support of terrorism or human rights violations; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 273

Whereas, Sudan's government and southern rebels have come to an historic, long-awaited agreement that ends Africa's longest civil war and brings hope to millions of exiled Sudanese yearning to return home; and

Whereas, continued violence in the troubled region of Darfur, Sudan, previously described by the Bush administration as genocide, casts a shadow over the agreement that does not cover the Darfur conflict; and

Whereas, the government of Sudan appears to have sponsored a militia composed of a loose collection of fighters, apparently of Arab background, known as the "Janjaweed"; and with the active support of the regular army, the Janjaweed have attacked villages and committed numerous human rights violations; and

Whereas, the humanitarian consequences of the situation in Darfur are grave, with an estimated over 100,000 innocent civilians brutally murdered; and according to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees 2004 statistics, 662,302 people have been internally displaced and 730,650 people have been forced from their homes to flee to neighboring countries; and

Whereas, the citizens of the State of Georgia abhor this violence and desire that their tax dollars neither directly nor indirectly support these human rights violations through investment in companies aiding the government of Sudan in these acts of terror; and

Whereas, the United States Congress established the Office of Global Security Risk in the Securities and Exchange Commission to provide information to United States investors, including public pension plans, to ascertain whether their funds are invested in corporations with ties to governments that support terrorism; and

Whereas, the National Conference of State Legislatures, the National Association of State Retirement Administrators, the National Association of State Auditors, Comptrollers and Treasurers, and the National

Council on Teacher Retirement have joined in urging the Securities and Exchange Commission to assist investors by requiring companies to disclose business conducted in states designated by the State Department as sponsoring terrorism: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the President, the United States Congress, the United Nations, and the African Union are urged to continue to work with the international community to press the government of Sudan to halt these ongoing human rights violations; and be it further

Resolved, That the Securities and Exchange Commission is urged to issue guidance to public pension fund managers so that the state may be assured that its funds are not invested in companies that are not in compliance with relevant U.S. laws and are not contributing to terrorism; be it further

Resolved, That the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized and directed to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to the Clerk of the House of Representatives of the United States, the Clerk of the Senate of the United States, each member of the Georgia delegation to the Congress of the United States, Christopher Cox, Chairman, Securities and Exchange Commission, the Secretary General of the United Nations, and the President of the African Union.

POM-90. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of Massachusetts commending Taiwan on its contributions to promote world health; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

RESOLUTION

Whereas, good health is essential to every person and access to the highest standards of health information and services is necessary to improve public health, especially in view of such world health crises as HIV/AIDS, severe acute respiratory syndrome, Avian flu, Tuberculosis and Malaria; and

Whereas, public health knows neither borders nor politics; and

Whereas, there is a genuine need to improve management and surveillance, foster communications and improve laboratory capabilities among nations; and

Whereas, the World Health Organization set forth, in the first chapter of its charter, the objective of attaining the highest possible level of health for all people; and

Whereas, Taiwan's achievements in the field of health are substantial including, having one of the highest life expectancy levels in Asia, maternal and infant mortality rates comparable to those of western countries, having eradicated diseases such as cholera, smallpox and the plague and being the first to eradicate polio and providing children with Hepatitis-B vaccinations; and

Whereas, Taiwan's population of 23.5 million is larger than that of three-quarters of the member states in the World Health Organization; and

Whereas, the great potential of cross-border spread of diseases has made it crucial for all countries, including Taiwan, to have direct and unobstructed access to information and assistance from the World Health Organization in order to successfully limit the spread of various infectious diseases and achieve world health; and

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

Whereas, Taiwan has been eagerly and voluntarily assisting, financially and technically, in international health activities supported by the World Health Organization and donating generously to disaster areas; and

Whereas, in 2001, President George W. Bush and senior members of his administration vocalized support for Taiwan's participation in the World Health Organization; and

Whereas, in 2002, the European Parliament called on the World Health assembly to accept observer status for Taiwan, and its member states to support the application of Taiwan as an observer to the World Health Organization; and

Whereas, in 2002, the United States House of Representatives and Senate authorized the Secretary of State to endorse observer status for Taiwan at the World Health assembly; and

Whereas, in 2002, the United States House of Representatives passed H.R. 441, entitled "WHO for Taiwan", in support of Taiwan's participation as an observer in the World Health Organization; Now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Massachusetts General Court hereby commends the Republic of China, Taiwan, on its many contributions to promote world health and supports its application as an observer to the World Health Organization; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be transmitted forthwith by the Clerk of the Senate to President George W. Bush, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Massachusetts Congressional Delegation, President Chen Shui-Bian on behalf of the 23 million citizens of Taiwan, the Director-General of the World Health Organization and Director-General Kuo-Tung Yang of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Boston.

POM-91. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Pennsylvania designating April 24, 2007, as "Pennsylvania's Day of Remembrance of the Armenian Genocide of 1915-1923"; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 25

Whereas, one and one-half million men, women and children of Armenian descent were victims of the brutal genocide perpetrated by the Turkish Ottoman Empire from 1915 to 1923; and

Whereas, the Armenian genocide and massacres of the Armenian people have been recognized as an attempt to eliminate all traces of a thriving and noble civilization more than 3,000 years old; and

Whereas, revisionists still inexplicably deny the existence of these horrific events; and

Whereas, modern Turkey continues to deny and distort the facts of the Armenian genocide and honors the perpetrators of that crime against humanity as national heroes; and

Whereas, before the implementation of the Holocaust of European Jews, in order to encourage his followers, Adolf Hitler asked, "Who remembers the Armenians?"; and

Whereas, by consistently remembering and openly condemning the atrocities committed against the Armenians, Pennsylvanians affirm the need for constant vigilance to prevent similar atrocities in the future; and

Whereas, the Armenian people have not received reparations for their losses; and

Whereas, recognition of the 92nd anniversary of the Armenian genocide and education about past horrors is crucial to ensuring against future genocide; and

Whereas, Armenia is now a free and independent republic, having embraced democracy following nearly 70 years of oppressive Soviet domination; and

Whereas, Armenian Americans living in Pennsylvania have greatly enriched this Commonwealth through their leadership in business, agriculture, academia, government and the arts; Therefore be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

designate April 24, 2007, as "Pennsylvania's Day of Remembrance of the Armenian Genocide of 1915-1923"; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives transmit copies of this resolution to the Pennsylvania congressional delegation and to the Armenian National Committee of Pennsylvania.

POM-92. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Pennsylvania urging the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee of the United States Postal Service to issue a commemorative stamp honoring coal miners; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 197

Whereas, our entire nation owes our coal miners a great deal more than we could ever repay them for the difficult and dangerous job which they perform so that we can have the fuel we need to operate our industries and to heat our homes; and

Whereas, coal mining is as much a culture as it is an industry; and

Whereas, coal miners sacrifice life and limb for little recognition, and it would be proper and fitting for our nation to recognize our coal miners, past and present, for their contributions; Therefore be it

Resolved, That the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania memorialize the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee of the United States Postal Service to issue a commemorative stamp honoring our coal miners and their contributions to our nation and its citizens; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be delivered to the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee, c/o Stamp Development, United States Postal Service, 1735 North Lynn Street, Room 5013, Arlington, VA 22209-6432, to the presiding officers of each house of Congress and to each member of Congress from Pennsylvania.

POM-93. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Montana opposing the relaxation of mail delivery standards under consideration by the President's Commission on the U.S. Postal Service; requesting that the U.S. Postal Service maintain current levels of service; and requesting that the U.S. Postal Service maintain current overnight delivery standards and not centralize Montana's mail sorting operations; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 4

Whereas, the United States Postal Service, founded in 1775, provides dependable, affordable mail service to Montana communities; and

Whereas, the United States Postal Service remains an important part of the nation's economic infrastructure through which nearly \$1 trillion of economic activity is conducted each year and in which 9 million people are employed; and

Whereas, many Montanans, especially in rural areas, do not have easy access to the Internet or to electronic banking and bill paying and are heavily dependent on the United States Postal Service for communication and conducting business transactions; and

Whereas, Americans currently enjoy the most extensive postal service at the lowest postage rates of any major industrialized nation in the world; and

Whereas, the President's Commission on the United States Postal Service has recommended changes to postal operations that could sever postal employees from federal employee health, retirement, and workers' compensation programs and has recommended repeal of laws that could pave the

way toward reducing rank-and-file wages and benefits while simultaneously eliminating the current salary cap on executive level postal positions; and

Whereas, the Commission has recommended a new Presidentially appointed, corporate-style board of directors and a new postal regulatory board and has proposed giving these new politically appointed governing bodies broad authority to set rates; and

Whereas, the Commission has proposed to refine the scope of the United States Postal Service's "universal service" obligation and uniform rate structure and change and restrict the scope of services currently protected under postal monopoly regulations; and

Whereas, the new board's broad authority could allow post offices to be closed and prices to be set with a complicated postage rate structure or could turn over postal operations to private, for-profit enterprises; and

Whereas, replacing the United States Postal Service's public service obligation with a profit-seeking mandate would undermine the United States Postal Service's historical "universal service" obligation and weaken its national infrastructure; and

Whereas, in the interim period prior to legislated postal reform, the United States Postal Service may move forward with initiatives to close postal facilities in Montana; and

Whereas, the United States Postal Service is requesting that the United States Postal Rate Commission investigate relaxation of overnight delivery standards; and

Whereas, the United States Postal Service could consolidate the processing of mail in Montana, including moving all Helena outgoing mail-sorting operations to Great Falls; and

Whereas, this consolidation would not serve the public's best interest because of the decrease in productivity compared to the current processing of mail in Helena; and

Whereas, the consolidation could result in the elimination of the agency's current obligation to deliver local mail overnight and could relax other mail delivery standards across Montana; and

Whereas, the economy of the Helena area would be negatively impacted as a result of the relaxation of overnight delivery standards; and

Whereas, the public health and the public services provided by state agencies would be negatively impacted as a result of the relaxation of overnight delivery standards: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the State of Montana, That the Montana Legislature urges the President, the Congress of the United States, and the United States Postal Service to continue to maintain affordable, dependable mail service at current levels because of its social and economic importance to our nation; and Be it further

Resolved, That any recommendation from the President's Commission on the United States Postal Service or the United States Postal Rate Commission that curtails public services in the current postal service be rejected; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature of the State of Montana opposes any changes that would harm the public and workers of the United States Postal Service, including legislated or United States Postal Service initiatives to close or consolidate postal facilities, relax overnight delivery standards, centralize mail-sorting operations, take away or modify the collective bargaining system of postal workers, or change the current bargaining system for employee benefits; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be sent by the Secretary of State to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the Majority and Minority Leaders of the United States Senate and House of Representatives, the Postmaster General of the United States Postal Service, the United States Postal Rate Commission, the President's Commission on the United States Postal Service, the Committee on Ways and Means, the Committee on Rules, and the Committee on the Budget of the United States House of Representatives, the Budget Committee of the United States Senate, and each member of the Montana Congressional Delegation.

POM-94. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of Michigan urging Congress to enact the Second Chance Act to help juvenile and adult ex-offenders to successfully reenter their communities; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 45

Whereas, the transition from confinement to release presents both great risks and opportunities for young ex-offenders and the communities in which they live. Unsuccessful transitions into the community can result in an alarmingly high recidivism rate for offenders. Effective reentry programs can reduce recidivism rates by providing the necessary support and resources to guide ex-offenders through a successful transition from confinement to community life; and

Whereas, comprehensive reentry programs are especially effective among young people. With their development still in progress, young ex-offenders are more amenable to effective behavior modification interventions, thus saving lives, anguish, and public tax dollars. An example of an effective program that reduces recidivism is Multidimensional Treatment Foster Care (MTFC). This program provides services to youth and their families to assist in the transition from confinement to reentry into the community. MTFC includes ongoing supervision, frequent contact, and coordination of services with the youth's probation officer, teachers, and other involved adults. Studies show that youths in MTFC were less likely to turn back to crime compared to ex-offenders in residential group homes; and

Whereas, research-based reentry programs such as MTFC not only reduce crime, but they are also cost effective. Currently, many young people are released unconditionally when they "age-out" of juvenile court jurisdiction and are not provided access to family reunification or aftercare services. Such unconditional releases increase the likelihood that ex-offenders will return to crime. MTFC and similar programs could save taxpayers thousands of dollars and could save innocent people the heartache of suffering from a criminal attack; and

Whereas, the Second Chance Act calls for an authorization of around \$200 million over two years to assist ex-offenders in making a successful transition from confinement to release into the community. The United States Department of Justice would administer demonstration grants to states and local governments to provide and coordinate reentry programs for juvenile and adult offenders. This legislation includes family reunification services, job training, education, housing, and substance abuse and mental health services. This legislation would establish a federal interagency task force on offender reentry, provide research on reentry, and create a national resource center to collect and disseminate information on best practices in offender reentry: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That we memorialize the United States Congress to enact the Second Chance Act to help juvenile and adult ex-offenders to successfully reenter their communities; 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.

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. BINGAMAN (for himself and Mr. THUNE):

S. 1376. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to revise and expand the drug discount program under section 340B of such Act to improve the provision of discounts on drug purchases for certain safety net providers; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. REID (for himself and Mr. ENSIGN):

S. 1377. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey to the City of Henderson, Nevada, certain Federal land located in the City, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mrs. MURRAY:

S. 1378. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to the distribution of the drug dextromethorphan, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. BAUCUS, and Mr. TESTER):

S. 1379. A bill to amend chapter 35 of title 28, United States Code, to strike the exception to the residency requirements for United States attorneys; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SALAZAR (for himself and Mr. ALLARD):

S. 1380. A bill to designate as wilderness certain land within the Rocky Mountain National Park and to adjust the boundaries of the Indian Peaks Wilderness and the Arapaho National Recreation Area of the Arapaho National Forest in the State of Colorado; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mrs. BOXER:

S. 1381. A bill to require the Federal Trade Commission to monitor and investigate gasoline prices under certain circumstances; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. REID:

S. 1382. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide the establishment of an Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Registry; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SESSIONS (for himself, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. CORNYN, and Mr. SALAZAR):

S. 1383. A bill to reduce the disparity in punishment between crack and powder cocaine offenses, to more broadly focus the punishment for drug offenders on the seriousness of the offense and the culpability of the offender, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. AKAKA:

S. 1384. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to repeal authority for adjustments to per diem payments to homeless veterans service centers for receipt of other