

Whereas, in his speech before the Palestinian Legislative Council on February 18, 2006, Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas said, "We are confident that there is no military solution to the conflict. Negotiations between us as equal partners should put a long-due end to the cycle of violence . . . Let us live in two neighboring states";

Whereas, in June 2002, the President of the United States presented his vision of "two states, living side by side in peace and security", and has since repeatedly reaffirmed this position;

Whereas a robust and high-level American diplomatic presence on the ground is critical to bringing Israelis and Palestinians together to make the tough decisions necessary to achieving a permanent resolution to the conflict;

Whereas June 2007 marks the 40th anniversary of the Six-Day War between Israel and a coalition of Arab states;

Whereas all parties should use the occasion of this anniversary to redouble their efforts to achieve peace; and

Whereas achieving Israeli-Palestinian peace could have significant positive impacts on security and stability in the region: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) reaffirms its commitment to a true and lasting solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, based on the establishment of 2 states, the State of Israel and Palestine, living side by side in peace and security, and with recognized borders;

(2) denounces the use of violence and terror and reaffirms its unwavering commitment to Israel's security;

(3) calls on President Bush to pursue a robust diplomatic effort to engage the State of Israel and the Palestinian Authority, begin negotiations, and make a 2-state settlement a top priority;

(4) urges President Bush to consider appointing as Special Envoy for Middle East Peace an individual who has held cabinet rank or someone equally qualified, with an extensive knowledge of foreign affairs generally and the Middle East region in particular;

(5) calls on the Hamas-led Palestinian Authority to recognize the State of Israel's right to exist, to renounce and end all terror and incitement, and to accept past agreements and obligations with the State of Israel;

(6) calls on moderate Arab states in the region to intensify their diplomatic efforts toward a 2-state solution and welcomes the Arab League Peace Initiative; and

(7) calls on Israeli and Palestinian leaders to embrace efforts to achieve peace and refrain from taking any actions that would prejudice the outcome of final status negotiations.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today with Senator LUGAR, Senator DODD, and Senator HAGEL to introduce a resolution calling for a lasting solution to the Israeli-Palestinian dispute.

Our resolution reaffirms the Senate's commitment to a true and lasting solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, based on the establishment of two States, Israel and Palestine, living side by side in peace and security, and with recognized borders; denounces the use of violence and terror and reaffirms our unwavering commitment to Israel's security; calls on President Bush to pursue a robust diplomatic effort to engage the Israelis and Palestinians, re-

invigorate negotiations, and make a two-state settlement a top priority; urges President Bush to consider appointing a high-level Special Envoy for Middle East Peace; calls on the Hamas-led Palestinian Authority to recognize Israel's right to exist, renounce and end all terror and incitement, and accept past agreements and obligations with Israel; calls on moderate Arab states in the region to intensify their diplomatic efforts toward a two-state solution and welcomes the Arab League Peace Initiative, and; calls on Israeli and Palestinian leaders to embrace efforts to achieve peace and refrain from taking any actions that would prejudice the outcome of final status negotiations.

Senator BAUCUS, Senator BYRD, Senator WHITEHOUSE and Senator SUNUNU have also joined us as original cosponsors.

We are this week marking the the 40th anniversary of the start of the Six-Day War between Israel and a coalition of Arab states which lasted from June 5 to June 10, 1967. Israel's stunning triumph in that conflict, when its very existence was at stake, sent a powerful and unambiguous message to its neighbors and the international community that the existence of a Jewish homeland in the Middle East was a fact that could not be denied.

Since then, Israel, with the support and active engagement of the United States, has signed peace agreements with two of its adversaries from that war, first with Egypt in 1979 and then with Jordan in 1994.

Both treaties greatly enhanced Israel's security and brought hope to its people.

Yet a comprehensive Israeli-Palestinian peace agreement has remained elusive, resulting in the loss of numerous innocent lives and destroying the hopes and dreams of Israelis and Palestinians alike.

Since September 2000 and the start of the second Intifada, violence and terror have engulfed the region and devastated the prospects for peace.

It has become quite clear to me that the current impasse is not sustainable. There is no military solution to this conflict. The lack of any movement in the peace process only emboldens the opponents of peace, strengthens the hands of the extremists, and puts the vital interests of Israel, the Palestinian people, and the United States at risk.

Yet the vast majority of Israelis and Palestinians have made it clear that they want to end this conflict and live side by side in peaceful coexistence, mutual dignity, and security.

We owe it to them and ourselves to do everything in our power to make this vision a reality.

Indeed, a just resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian dispute and a comprehensive Arab-Israeli peace agreement should be our top priorities in the region.

They will open the door to new opportunities, enabling us to tackle other

seemingly intractable challenges in the region: the civil war in Iraq, the influence of Syria and Hezbollah in Lebanon, and Iran's uranium enrichment program.

As the Iraq Study Group report argued, "The United States will not be able to achieve its goals in the Middle East unless the United States deals directly with the Arab-Israeli conflict."

We cannot achieve these goals by sitting on the sidelines or sending low-level envoys to the region.

We need a vigorous and sustained high level American presence on the ground in the Middle East to make this happen.

I know that Secretary of State Rice is personally committed to bringing both sides together so they will take on the tough issues and find the right solutions, and she has my full support.

She has already made four trips to the region and I hope she will return again soon.

President Bush should also become engaged in this process and consider appointing a Special Envoy for Middle East peace who has extensive experience dealing with this issue and has served in a high-level government capacity.

We all know what a final peace agreement will look like. The drafters of the Geneva accord showed us that with courage and determination, the tough decisions can be made that will bring peace and prosperity to both sides.

While it is critical that the United States take a leadership role on this issue, it is also critical that moderate voices in the Arab world be a voice for peace.

That is why the Arab League Peace Initiative is important. It is an example where Arab leaders have stepped forward Hamas must also step forward and fulfill the demands of the international community by recognizing Israel's right to exist, renouncing and end all terror and incitement, and accepting past agreements between Israel and the Palestinian Authority.

Now is as good a time as ever to work for peace. There will always be excuses for those who don't want peace. But it is incumbent on those who wish for peace to work through the difficult issues.

As a United States Senator, I have stood by Israel and the Israeli people and will continue to do so. We will not waiver in our efforts to ensure their safety, stability, and prosperity. Achieving a just and lasting peace in the Middle East is the cornerstone of that endeavor.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

SENATE RESOLUTION 225—DESIGNATING THE MONTH OF AUGUST 2007 AS "NATIONAL MEDICINE ABUSE AWARENESS MONTH"

Mr. BIDEN (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 225

Whereas over-the-counter and prescription medicines are extremely safe, effective, and potentially lifesaving when used properly, but the abuse and recreational use of these medicines can be extremely dangerous and produce serious side effects;

Whereas 6,400,000 individuals who are age 12 or older reported using prescription medicines non-medically in a recently sampled month, and abuse of prescription medications such as pain relievers, tranquilizers, stimulants, and sedatives is second only to marijuana, the number 1 illegal drug of abuse in the United States;

Whereas, recent studies indicate that 1 in 10 youth ages 12 through 17, or 2,400,000 children, has intentionally abused cough medicine to get high from its dextromethorphan ingredient, and 1 in 5 young adults (4,500,000) has used prescription medicines non-medically;

Whereas, according to research from the Partnership for a Drug-Free America, more than 1/3 of teens mistakenly believe that taking prescription drugs, even if not prescribed by a doctor, is much safer than using street drugs;

Whereas teens' and parents' lack of understanding of the potential harms of these powerful medicines makes it more critical than ever to raise public awareness about the dangers of their misuse;

Whereas, when prescription drugs are misused, they are most often obtained through friends and relatives, but are also obtained through rogue Internet pharmacies;

Whereas parents should be aware that the Internet gives teens access to websites that promote medicine misuse;

Whereas National Medicine Abuse Awareness Month promotes the message that over-the-counter and prescription medicines are to be taken only as labeled or prescribed, and when used recreationally or in large doses can have serious and life-threatening consequences;

Whereas National Medicine Abuse Awareness Month will encourage parents to educate themselves about this problem and talk to their teens about all types of substance abuse;

Whereas observance of National Medicine Abuse Awareness Month should be encouraged at the national, State, and local levels to increase awareness of the rising misuse of medicines;

Whereas some groups, such as the Consumer Healthcare Products Association and the Community Anti-Drug Coalition of America, have taken important proactive steps like creating educational toolkits, such as "A Dose of Prevention: Stopping Cough Medicine Abuse Before it Starts", which includes guides to educate parents, teachers, law enforcement officials, doctors and healthcare professionals, and retailers about the potential harms of cough and cold medicines and over-the-counter drug abuse;

Whereas the nonprofit Partnership for a Drug-Free America and its community alliance and affiliate partners have undertaken a nationwide prevention campaign utilizing research-based educational advertisements, public relations and news media, and the Internet to inform parents about the negative teen behavior of intentional abuse of medicines so that parents are empowered to effectively communicate the facts of this dangerous trend with their teens and to take necessary steps to safeguard prescription and over-the-counter medicines in their homes; and

Whereas educating the public on the dangers of medicine abuse and promoting prevention is a critical component of what must be a multi-pronged effort to curb this dis-

turbing rise in over-the-counter and cough medicine misuse: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—
(1) designates the month of August 2007 as "National Medicine Abuse Awareness Month"; and

(2) urges communities to carry out appropriate programs and activities to educate parents and youth of the potential dangers associated with medicine abuse.

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce a resolution marking August 2007 as National Medicine Abuse Awareness Month. The intentional misuse of prescription and over-the-counter drugs has reached troubling levels. This resolution takes an important step in raising teens' and parents' awareness of the problem.

While recent studies indicate that the use of illegal drugs has declined somewhat over the past 5 years, the excessive use of legally available drugs has skyrocketed during the same period. The figures speak for themselves: 1 in 5 teens has misused prescription drugs, and more people age 12 or older have recently started misusing prescription pain relievers than smoking marijuana.

The numbers are also troubling for abuse of over-the-counter cough and cold medicines. While over-the-counter and prescription medicines are safe, effective, and potentially lifesaving when used properly, the abuse and recreational use of these medicines can be lethal. Recent studies indicate that 1 in 10 young people aged 12 through 17, or 2.4 million kids, have intentionally abused cough medicine to get high off of its active ingredient, Dextromethorphan. This trend is dangerous, and it must stop.

The problem is multifaceted, but one critical element of the solution is clear: educating teens and parents about the grave dangers of medicine abuse.

The way I see it, the problem of non-medical use of prescription and over-the-counter drugs can be chalked up to two key factors. First, too many teens are under the impression that "legal" drugs are safe anytime, in any dose, and even without a prescription or doctor supervision. They are gravely mistaken. Excessive prescription drug use can lead to dependency, overdose, and even death, if not prescribed and monitored by a physician.

Second, these drugs are cheap and easy to obtain. A bottle of cough syrup costs a few dollars and a prescription drug can be taken from a medicine cabinet for free. A February 2007 report released by the Office of National Drug Control Policy reveals that a shocking 47 percent of youth interviewed said they got their prescription drugs for free from a relative or friend. The last thing a parent wants is to become his or her child's "dealer." But that is precisely what happens when they leave medications lying around at home. Hence, these two factors, a false perception of the dangers and a cheap, readily accessible high, have put our teens in danger, and we must act to protect them.

National Medicine Abuse Awareness Month takes an important step to raise public awareness about the dangers that misuse of these drugs pose by promoting the message that over-the-counter and prescription medicines must be taken only as labeled or prescribed, and that when used recreationally or in large doses they can have serious and life-threatening consequences. It reminds parents to educate themselves about this problem and talk to their children about all types of substance abuse, and it encourages national, State, and local officials to increase awareness of this disturbing trend.

I have worked and continue to work in consultation with the Consumer Health Care Products Association and the Community Anti-Drug Coalition of America, to reverse this trend, and I applaud the important steps that these groups have taken. Among other initiatives, they have created educational toolkits, such as A Dose of Prevention: Stopping Cough Medicine Abuse Before It Starts, which include guides to educate parents, teachers, law enforcement officials, doctors and healthcare professionals, and retailers about the potential harms of cough and cold medicines and over-the-counter drug abuse.

I also commend the nonprofit Partnership for Drug-Free America and its community alliance and affiliate partners for undertaking a nationwide prevention campaign. Their campaign utilizes research-based educational advertisements, public relations, news media and the Internet to inform parents about the prevalence of intentional abuse of medicines among teens, empowering parents to effectively communicate the facts of this dangerous trend to their children and to take necessary steps to keep prescription and over-the-counter medicines safely in their homes.

Prevention is a key component of the solution, and education is a key component of prevention. We've got to do our best to raise awareness on this matter, and reverse the worrisome trend of increasing over-the-counter and prescription drug misuse. This resolution takes an important step towards achieving that goal.

SENATE RESOLUTION 226—RECOGNIZING THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER AS "NATIONAL HOMELESS YOUTH AWARENESS MONTH"

Mr. LAUTENBERG (for himself, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. BROWN, Mr. INOUE, Mr. OBAMA, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. BAYH, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. CASEY, Mr. NELSON of Florida, and Mr. KENNEDY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 226

Whereas between 1,300,000 and 2,800,000 children and teens are homeless in the