

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUPPORTING THE WORK OF FIREFIGHTERS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 345.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 345) supporting the work of firefighters to educate and protect the Nation's communities, and the goals and ideals of Fire Prevention Week, October 7-13, 2007, as designated by the National Fire Protection Association.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 345) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 345

Whereas firefighters have maintained their dedication to the health and safety of the American public since the first American fire departments were organized in the colonial era;

Whereas today's firefighters provide a multitude of services, including emergency medical services, special rescue response, hazardous material and terrorism response, and public safety education;

Whereas more than 1,130,000 firefighters protect the United States through their heroic service;

Whereas the Nation's fire departments respond to emergency calls nearly once per second and dispatch to fire emergencies every 20 seconds;

Whereas approximately 1,600,000 fires are reported annually;

Whereas firefighters respond with courage to all disasters, whether they be acts of terrorism, natural disasters, or other emergencies;

Whereas 343 firefighters sacrificed their lives responding heroically to the events of September 11, 2001;

Whereas firefighters from across the Nation responded with remarkable selflessness throughout the areas affected by Hurricane Katrina;

Whereas 89 firefighters lost their lives in 2006, and over 80,000 were injured in the line of duty;

Whereas we have honored firefighters for educating the American public since President Harding declared the first Fire Prevention Week in 1922;

Whereas the National Fire Protection Association has designated the week of October 7-13, 2007 as Fire Prevention Week; and

Whereas educating Americans on methods of fire prevention and escape planning continues to be a priority for all firefighters: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the work of firefighters to educate and protect the Nation's communities; and

(2) supports the goals and ideals of Fire Prevention Week, October 7-13, 2007, as designated by the National Fire Protection Association.

NATIONAL TEEN DRIVER SAFETY WEEK

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Commerce Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Con. Res. 36, and the Senate then proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 36) supporting the goals and ideals of National Teen Driver Safety Week.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 36) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The concurrent resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

Whereas motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for adolescents and young adults in the United States, and many of these deaths are preventable;

Whereas almost 7,500 drivers between the ages of 15 and 20 years were involved in fatal crashes in 2005 throughout the United States;

Whereas the fatality rate in the United States for drivers between the ages of 16 and 19 years, based on miles driven, is 4 times the fatality rate for drivers between the ages of 25 and 69 years;

Whereas the majority of teen driver crashes in the United States are due to driver error and speeding, and 15 percent of the crashes are due to drunk driving;

Whereas roughly two-thirds of the teenagers killed in motor vehicle accidents in the United States each year do not use seatbelts;

Whereas approximately 63 percent of teen passenger deaths in the United States occur while other teenagers are driving;

Whereas it is necessary to explore effective ways to reduce the crash risk for young drivers by focusing research and outreach efforts on areas of teen driving that show the most promise for improving safety;

Whereas the National Teen Driver Survey, developed with input from teenagers and administered by The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, demonstrates a national need to increase overall awareness about the safe use of electronic handheld devices, the risk of nighttime and fatigued driving, the importance of consistent seatbelt use, and the practice of gradually increasing driver privileges over time as a young driver gains more experience under supervised conditions;

Whereas in 2005, 1,553 crash fatalities involving a teen driver occurred in the fall, when teenagers are in the first months of the school year and faced with many decisions involving driving, including whether to drive with peer passengers and other distractions; and

Whereas designating the third week of October as National Teen Driver Safety Week is expected to increase awareness of these important issues among teenagers and adults in communities throughout the United States, as additional research is conducted to develop and test effective interventions that will help teenagers become safe drivers: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Teen Driver Safety Week; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to observe the week with appropriate activities that promote the practice of safe driving among the Nation's licensed teenage drivers.

DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE AND JUSTICE, AND SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPRO- PRIATIONS ACT, 2008—Continued

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we have on this bill that is now before the Senate—the Commerce-Justice appropriations bill—about eight amendments that Democrats have pending or wish to offer, and we have 26 Republican amendments. Everyone should understand we are going to finish this bill tomorrow. It does not matter what events are going on around town, we are going to work and finish this bill. If it takes until 8 o'clock tomorrow night, fine; there will be no windows. We are going to work right through this. If people try to hold this up, we will have a bunch of votes. We will have the Sergeant at Arms instructed. We are going to move through this.

I am told we want to finish appropriations bills. This is our second week on this bill. We are going to finish this bill tomorrow or sometime early Wednesday morning. We are going to continue working on this until it is completed or until we find there is such intransigence by the Republicans that they do not want us to finish this bill. I hope that is not the case.

We have had on our appropriations bills some decent cooperation from the Republicans, for which I am appreciative, but we have other bills we have to do. If we finish this legislation, we will still have seven appropriations bills to do.

I am aware we have had to file cloture 49 different times this year to defeat Republican filibusters or to turn them around, and if it is necessary to file the 50th, we will do that. I think that would be a shame to have to do that.

We have a finite number of amendments now, and we need to try to work through them. What we could do, of course, here—there are more Democrats than Republicans—we could move to table all the Republican amendments. It would take a lot of time to do that. I hope we do not have to do that. I hope we can work through these amendments and some of them will be accepted and some will be voted upon.

I want to be as reasonable as possible, but I have the Nation's business to be concerned about. We have to