

In Mr. James's case, as I indicated, he is employed, works for the cargo department of a major airline in Alaska, but he would have to demonstrate there is financial hardship as a consequence of this terminal diagnosis.

It makes you wonder why this 5-month period. The capriciousness of a 5-month waiting period is evidenced by looking at the legislative history. In 1972, the House Ways and Means Committee report sought to reduce the waiting period from at that time 6 months to 5 months. At the time the Senate Finance Committee was pushing for a shorter period. They were pushing for a 4-month period.

So back in 1972, you had a 6-month period. Some wanted it to go to 4 months. Eventually they agreed upon a 5-month waiting period. But it begs the question: Should it be 4 months, 5 months? Should it only be 1 month?

My legislation would give the Social Security Commissioner the discretion to waive the waiting period if the terminally ill individual can demonstrate a financial hardship. This will alleviate the financial burden or help to offset the financial burden of a terminal illness on the disabled individuals and their families and will also provide for a financial offset for paying medical bills after he or she is deceased.

I would ask that in honor of my constituent, Mr. JONES, my colleagues support this bill because there are people who become disabled. We know they are unable to work. They need that monthly support to help offset the costs of their terminal illness.

For this reason, it is imperative that the Social Security Commissioner have that ability on a case-by-case basis to make a determination for disability benefits. Mr. James's chemotherapy costs, we understand, are about between \$10,000 and \$15,000 per monthly session, and this does not include the other medical bills he is facing.

I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation so that Robert James and Americans like Mr. James have the ability to qualify for disability benefits to offset these costly expenses without having to complete an arbitrary 5-month waiting period.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 433—HONORING THE BRAVE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD WHOSE TIRELESS WORK, DEDICATION, AND SELFLESS SERVICE TO THE UNITED STATES HAVE LED TO MORE THAN 1 MILLION LIVES SAVED OVER THE COURSE OF ITS LONG AND STORIED 217-YEAR HISTORY

Mr. STEVENS (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 433

Whereas, since 1867 the United States Coast Guard has been a vital piece of Alas-

kan history, providing lifesaving medical treatment to native villages along its coasts, protecting its fisheries resources, and courageously rescuing those who face peril on the seas;

Whereas, in 2007 the men and women of the United States Coast Guard stationed in Alaska valiantly responded to 696 calls for assistance and saved the lives of 463 mariners in distress;

Whereas, the actions of Petty Officer Willard L. Milam personify the proud history of courage and public service of the United States Coast Guard on the 10th of February, 2007, when, on a pitch-black winter morning, Petty Officer Milam launched aboard a Coast Guard HH-65 helicopter in near-zero visibility to locate the source of a distress signal approximately 50 miles southwest in Makushin Bay, Alaska;

Whereas, Petty Officer Milam bravely deployed into storm tossed, 40-degree seas and swam to a life raft to find four survivors hypothermic and soaked in unprotected clothing;

Whereas, Petty Officer Milam heroically overcame exhaustion and hypothermia to pull each survivor from a life raft and assist them through the raging seas, placing them into a rescue basket to be hoisted into the rescue helicopter;

Whereas, Petty Officer Milam's courageous rescue off the coast of Alaska has earned him the 2007 Coast Guard Foundation Award for Heroism and the 2007 Captain Frank Erickson Aviation Rescue Award;

Whereas, through extraordinary teamwork, airmanship, and courage, the crew of the Coast Guard rescue helicopter saved four lives from the treacherous Bearing Sea: Now, therefore, be it
Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors the heroic accomplishments of Petty Officer Willard Milam, who represented the finest traditions of the United States Coast Guard during the dramatic rescue of four survivors from the treacherous Bering Sea; and

(2) honors the United States Coast Guard, America's lifesavers and guardians of the sea, for its unflinching determination and proud 217-year history of maritime search and rescue resulting in over 1 million lives saved; and

(3) recognizes the tireless work, dedication, and commitment of Coast Guard men and women, many of them stationed in Alaska, far away from family and friends, who commit themselves every day to executing this noble mission hundreds of miles from our shores with honor, respect, and devotion to duty.

SENATE RESOLUTION 434—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 10–16, 2008, AS “NATIONAL DRUG PREVENTION AND EDUCATION WEEK”

Mr. BIDEN (for himself, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. KERRY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. CASEY, and Mr. LAUTENBERG) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 434

Whereas recent survey data suggests that illegal drug use among youth has declined by 24 percent since 2001;

Whereas, despite the reduction in drug use among youth, the number of 8th, 10th, and 12th graders who use drugs remains too high and the rates of prescription and over-the-counter drug abuse are alarming;

Whereas the overall rate of current illegal drug use among persons aged 12 or older is 8.3 percent, which has remained stable since 2002;

Whereas ecstasy (methylenedioxyamphetamine, or MDMA) use among high school age youth has been rising since 2004;

Whereas, while methamphetamine use is down among 8th, 10th, and 12th graders, many counties across the country still report that methamphetamine is a serious drug problem;

Whereas 25 percent of youth in the 10th grade reported the use of marijuana during the past year;

Whereas youth who first smoke marijuana under the age of 14 are more than 5 times as likely to abuse drugs in adulthood;

Whereas nearly 6 percent of 12th graders have used over-the-counter cough and cold medications in the past year for the purpose of getting high;

Whereas Vicodin remains one of the most commonly abused drugs among 12th graders, with 1 in 10 reporting nonmedical use within the past year;

Whereas teenagers' and parents' lack of understanding of the potential harms of these powerful medicines makes it even more critical to raise public awareness about the dangers associated with their non-medical use;

Whereas the rates of use for any illegal drug are directly related to the perception of harm and social disapproval;

Whereas more than 20 years of research has demonstrated that prevention interventions, designed and tested to reduce risk and enhance protective factors, can help children at every step along their developmental path, from early childhood into young adulthood;

Whereas prevention efforts should be flexible enough to address and prevent local problems before they become national trends;

Whereas research has demonstrated that there are 4 major targets of prevention: youth, parents, schools (including colleges and universities), and communities and social environments that must be reinforced by each other to have the greatest effect in deterring the consequences of drug use;

Whereas a comprehensive blend of individually and environmentally focused efforts must be adopted and a variety of strategies must be implemented across multiple sectors of a community to reduce drug use;

Whereas community anti-drug coalitions are an essential component of any drug prevention and education campaign because they are data driven, know their community epidemiology, and are capable of understanding and implementing the multi-sector interventions required to reduce the availability and use of drugs;

Whereas community anti-drug coalitions help to change community norms, laws, policies, regulations, and procedures to create an environment that discourages the use of drugs;

Whereas school-based prevention programs should be part of a comprehensive community wide approach to deal with drug use;

Whereas the more successful we are at general prevention of drug use in younger adolescents, the less we will have to deal with the concomitant economic and societal consequences of their use;

Whereas the total economic cost of drug, alcohol, and tobacco abuse in the United States is more than \$500,000,000,000;

Whereas the savings per dollar spent on substance abuse prevention rather than on substance abuse treatment are substantial, and can range from \$2.00 to \$20.00;

Whereas there will always be new and emerging drug trends that require additional prevention and education efforts;