

health hotlines, and the public needs to be educated on when to use those services in addition to or instead of 9-1-1;

Whereas international visitors and immigrants make up an increasing percentage of the United States population each year, and visitors and immigrants may have limited knowledge of our emergency calling system;

Whereas people of all ages use 9-1-1 and it is critical to educate those people on the proper use of 9-1-1;

Whereas senior citizens are at high risk for needing to access to 9-1-1 and many senior citizens are learning to use new technology;

Whereas thousands of 9-1-1 calls are made every year by children properly trained in the use of 9-1-1, which saves lives and underscores the critical importance of training children early in life about 9-1-1;

Whereas the 9-1-1 system is often misused, including by the placement of prank and nonemergency calls;

Whereas misuse of the 9-1-1 system results in costly and inefficient use of 9-1-1 and emergency response resources and needs to be reduced;

Whereas parents, teachers, and all other caregivers need to play an active role in 9-1-1 education for children, but will do so only after being first educated themselves;

Whereas there are many avenues for 9-1-1 public education, including safety fairs, school presentations, libraries, churches, businesses, public safety answering point tours or open houses, civic organizations, and senior citizen centers;

Whereas children, parents, teachers, and the National Parent Teacher Association contribute importantly to the education of children about the importance of 9-1-1 through targeted outreach efforts to public and private school systems;

Whereas we as a Nation should strive to host at least 1 educational event regarding the proper use of 9-1-1 in every school in the country every year;

Whereas programs to promote proper use of 9-1-1 during National 9-1-1 Education Month could include—

(1) public awareness events, including conferences and media outreach, training activities for parents, teachers, school administrators, other caregivers and businesses;

(2) educational events in schools and other appropriate venues; and

(3) production and distribution of information about the 9-1-1 system designed to educate people of all ages on the importance and proper use of 9-1-1; and

Whereas the people of the United States deserve the best education regarding the use of 9-1-1: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates April 2008 as “National 9-1-1 Education Month”; and

(2) urges Government officials, parents, teachers, school administrators, caregivers, businesses, nonprofit organizations, and the people of the United States to observe the month with appropriate ceremonies, training events, and activities.

CONDEMNING THE VIOLENCE IN TIBET AND CALLING FOR RESTRAINT

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate Foreign Relations Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 504, and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 504) condemning the violence in Tibet and calling for restraint by the Government of the People's Republic of China and the people of Tibet.

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

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Madam President, I rise to speak in support of a resolution condemning the violence in Tibet and calling for restraint by the Government of the People's Republic of China and the people of Tibet.

Cosponsoring this resolution with me is Senator GORDON SMITH of Oregon.

The measure is also cosponsored by Senator JOE BIDEN, the Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and Senators KLOBUCHAR, BROWN, CANTWELL, DOLE, OBAMA, SNOWE, MENENDEZ, VOINOVICH, SCHUMER, COLLINS, BYRD, MURRAY, DURBIN, LIEBERMAN, STABENOW, SANDERS, REED, CLINTON and FEINGOLD.

The resolution also calls for dialogue between the leadership of China and His Holiness the Dalai Lama on meaningful religious and cultural autonomy for Tibet within China; the release of individuals who protested in a peaceful manner; a cessation of China's efforts to “reeducate” Tibetan Buddhist monks and nuns; China to open Tibet to international journalists, as it promised the international community it would do during the lead up to the Olympic games; and asks for a full accounting of the protests in Tibet which began in March.

Starting on March 10, Tibetan Monks and other Tibetans began protesting in Tibetan autonomous areas of Western China.

The protests, begun peacefully by monks who marched in their robes, were an expression of these religious people's desire to practice their religion freely and without government interference.

The protesters took this action at great personal risk. Many monks and marchers carried pictures of the Dalai Lama, the most revered figure in Tibetan Buddhism. Possession of such a picture is considered a crime in China.

Unfortunately and tragically, on March 14 protests in Lhasa, the capital of the Tibet Autonomous Region, turned violent. Long suppressed animosity boiled over. Innocent people were killed in the violence. Homes and businesses were burned in what appears to have been a riot.

Over the days and weeks that followed, the protests spread. Protests reportedly occurred in 42 separate Chinese counties. Most were peaceful, and in some case they were met with brute force by the Chinese police.

This resolution condemns the violence on both sides.

The Chinese government has now begun the punishment process.

Thousands of paramilitary police and possibly the People's Liberation Army are in Tibet rounding up protest participants.

International journalists and official representatives are still being kept

out, making accurate information difficult to obtain.

But we know that dozens of people or more have died. And we know that more than 1,000 people have been incarcerated. We know that the monasteries have been surrounded by armed force.

On Monday I spoke about the underlying issues including a lack of religious freedom and economic opportunity that have caused Tibetans to take to the streets.

I also spoke about my long standing work to open the door between China and San Francisco and about my sincere friendship with China and its leaders.

Most importantly, I discussed my efforts since 1991 to establish dialogue between the Chinese Leadership and the Dalai Lama.

I read from letters that I carried from the Dalai Lama to the President of China in 1992, 1997, and 1998.

In those letters, the Dalai Lama expressed that he does not seek Independence as China's leaders assert.

In the Dalai Lama's 1998 letter, he wrote:

I would like to reiterate here that I am not seeking independence for Tibet. My main concern is for the six million Tibetan people . . . to be able to enjoy the opportunity to fully preserve their civilisation and the distinct Tibetan culture, religion, and language. I am convinced that this could be achieved through genuine autonomy or self-rule within the framework of the People's Republic of China.

The Dalai Lama neither calls for independence nor supports the use of violence. He has encouraged the Tibetan people to use restraint both in Tibet and also in the cities, such as San Francisco, where the Olympic torch visits.

On Sunday, The Dalai Lama reiterated his call. In a message to the Tibetan people, he said:

I want to urge my fellow Tibetans who live in freedom outside Tibet to be extra vigilant as they voice their feelings on the developments in Tibet. We should not engage in any action that could be even remotely interpreted as violent. Even under the most provocative of situations we must not allow our most precious and deeply held values to be compromised. I firmly believe that we will achieve success through our nonviolent path. We must be wise to understand where the unprecedented affection and support for our cause stems from.

I sincerely hope the people of San Francisco will heed the Dalai Lama's call.

I would like to commend the people of my city for holding a peaceful rally and candlelight vigil at San Francisco's United Nations Plaza.

And I call on the people of San Francisco that plan to take to the streets today to embrace the nonviolence advocated by the Dalai Lama.

As a friend of China and the Dalai Lama, I am saddened to see the situation in Tibet deteriorate to this point.

Violence cannot solve this matter.

The United States must use its influence to bring the Government of China and the people of Tibet together to

begin the process of reconciliation and dialogue.

To bring this issue to a settlement, the leaders must be involved.

It is in the interest of both the Chinese government and the Tibetan people for the leaders to sit down and negotiate how to bring about meaningful cultural and religious autonomy for the Tibetan people and faith.

For nearly three decades, I have worked to bring this about.

The events in Tibet over the past month have been tragic.

But they renew my commitment and belief.

China has an opportunity to negotiate with a moderate leader capable of quelling the anger within the new generation of Tibetans.

I hope that China's leaders will see this as an opportunity to open the long overdue dialogue with the Dalai Lama.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and any statements be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 504) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 504

Whereas, beginning on March 10, 2008, Tibetans and Tibetan Buddhist monks began demonstrations in Lhasa, the capital of the Tibet Autonomous Region in the People's Republic of China;

Whereas those protests spread to elsewhere in the Tibet Autonomous Region and to Tibetan autonomous areas in the Sichuan, Gansu, and Qinghai provinces of China;

Whereas long-suppressed resentment prompted violent clashes between demonstrators and government forces in the streets of Lhasa, resulting in innocent civilian casualties, the burning of buildings, and extensive property damage;

Whereas Chinese and Tibetan sources report dozens of fatalities and the arrest of more than 1,000 protesters in the Tibet Autonomous Region and surrounding Tibetan areas of China;

Whereas Tibet is the center of Tibetan Buddhism and the Dalai Lama is the most revered figure in Tibetan Buddhism;

Whereas the Government of China continues to restrict the rights of Tibetan Buddhists to practice their religion freely;

Whereas the Dalai Lama has condemned the violence that began on March 14, 2008, and announced his continuing support for the Olympic Games to be held in Beijing, China;

Whereas the Dalai Lama has specifically stated that he does not seek independence for Tibet from China and has called for negotiations to bring about meaningful autonomy for Tibet that allows Tibetans to maintain their distinctive identity within China;

Whereas the Constitution of the People's Republic of China guarantees freedom of religious belief for all citizens, but the 2007 Annual Report on International Religious Freedom of the Department of State states that "[d]uring the period covered by this report, the Government [of China]'s respect for freedom of religion remained poor"; and

Whereas, following the demonstrations that began on March 10, 2008, the Government of China began severely restricting access to journalists and diplomats and creating a shortage of independent verification of the situation on the ground in Tibet: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns the violence in Tibet and calls for restraint by the Government of the People's Republic of China and the people of Tibet;

(2) calls for a dialogue between the leadership of the Government of China and His Holiness the Dalai Lama on meaningful religious and cultural autonomy for Tibet within China and urges that these discussions take place with all deliberate speed;

(3) calls for the release of individuals who protested in a peaceful manner and for medical care for those injured and wounded in the violence that followed the protests;

(4) calls on the Government of China to cease its efforts to enter monasteries to 're-educate' monks and nuns, to respect the right of the people of Tibet to speak of the Dalai Lama and possess his photograph, and to respect and protect basic human rights, as provided in the Constitution of the People's Republic of China;

(5) calls on the Government of China to honor its commitment to allow international journalists free access to China from mid-2007 to October 17, 2008;

(6) calls on the Government of China to provide a full accounting of the March 2008 protests in Tibet, the response of the Government of China, and the manner and number of detentions and deaths that occurred following the protests; and

(7) both—

(A) calls on the United States Department of State to fully implement the Tibetan Policy Act of 2002 (22 U.S.C. 6901 note), including the stipulation that the Secretary of State seek "to establish an office in Lhasa, Tibet, to monitor political, economic, and cultural developments in Tibet", and also to provide consular protection and citizen services in emergencies; and

(B) urges that the agreement to permit China to open further diplomatic missions in the United States should be contingent upon the establishment of a United States Government office in Lhasa, Tibet.

CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate now proceed to consideration of S. Res. 508, which was submitted earlier today.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 508) congratulating the University of Tennessee women's basketball team for winning the 2008 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I Women's Basketball Championship.

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

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid on the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 508) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 508

Whereas, on April 8, 2008, before a crowd of over 21,000 fans, the University of Tennessee women's basketball team (referred to in this preamble as the "Lady Vols") defeated the Cardinal of Stanford by a score of 64-48 to win the 2008 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I Women's Basketball Championship;

Whereas that victory marked the second national title for the Lady Vols in 2 years, and the 8th national title of the Lady Vols in the last 20 years;

Whereas the University of Tennessee became the first school to accomplish back-to-back national titles twice, having previously achieved that feat during its 3-peat from 1996 through 1998;

Whereas the Lady Vols were successful due to the leadership of Head Coach Pat Summitt, the Nation's all-time winningest National Collegiate Athletic Association basketball coach among men's and women's teams, with 983 wins over 34 seasons at the University of Tennessee;

Whereas Joan Cronan, the Women's Athletics Director of the University of Tennessee, has—

(1) shown vision and leadership throughout her 25-year career at the University of Tennessee; and

(2) created 1 of the most visible and respected athletic programs in the country;

Whereas the Lady Vols compiled an impressive overall record of 36 wins and 2 losses, avenging 1 of those losses against Stanford in the championship game;

Whereas the Lady Vols were guided all season long by—

(1) the leadership of the seniors on the team, including—

- (A) Nicky Anosike;
- (B) Alberta Auguste;
- (C) Shannon Bobbitt; and
- (D) Alexis Hornbuckle; and

(2) the outstanding play of the 2008 Naismith Trophy winner, Candace Parker;

Whereas Candace Parker, while playing with an injured shoulder, tallied 17 points, 9 rebounds, and 4 steals, and was selected as the Most Outstanding Player for the 2008 tournament, becoming—

(1) the 4th player in history to achieve that honor 2 years in a row; and

(2) the 5th member of the University of Tennessee women's basketball team to be so honored, following in the footsteps of—

- (A) Chamique Holdscaw, who was honored in 1997 and 1998;
- (B) Michelle Marciniak, who was honored in 1996;
- (C) Bridgette Gordon, who was honored in 1989; and
- (D) Tonya Edwards, who was honored in 1987;

Whereas Shannon Bobbitt, who at only 5 feet, 2 inches, is the shortest player ever to play on the University of Tennessee women's basketball team, and whose 3 first half 3-pointers and transition defense helped establish an early lead, finished the game with 13 points, and was named to the 2008 All-Tournament Team;

Whereas Nicky Anosike, who finished the game with 12 points, 8 rebounds, and a game-high 6 steals, was named to the 2008 All-Tournament Team;

Whereas Alberta Auguste scored 7 points to go along with 7 rebounds;

Whereas Alexis Hornbuckle, whose dogged defense helped hold the Stanford team to a season-low 48 points and a season-high 25 turnovers, finished with 6 points and 3 assists;