

“(A) PARENT BORROWERS.—Whenever”; and (2) by adding at the end the following:

“(B) EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of determining if a borrower has an adverse credit history under paragraph (1)(A) on the basis of a delinquency or foreclosure related to a mortgage loan, an extenuating circumstance exists if, during the period beginning January 1, 2007 and ending December 31, 2012, the borrower is 90 or more days delinquent on mortgage loan payments, or foreclosure proceedings have been initiated, with respect to the primary residence of the borrower.

“(ii) DEFINITION.—The term ‘mortgage loan’ means an extension of credit that is secured by the primary residence of the borrower.”.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 523—EXPRESSING THE STRONG SUPPORT OF THE SENATE FOR THE DECLARATION OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION AT THE BUCHAREST SUMMIT THAT UKRAINE AND GEORGIA WILL BECOME MEMBERS OF THE ALLIANCE

Mr. BIDEN (for himself, Mr. LUGAR, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. OBAMA, and Mr. MCCAIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 523

Whereas, prior to the Bucharest Summit in April 2008, the Government of Georgia and the Government of Ukraine each expressed the desire to join the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), have committed their countries to programs of reforms consistent with membership in the Euro-Atlantic community, and have worked consistently for membership in NATO; and

Whereas, in April 2008 at the Bucharest Summit, the assembled leaders of NATO issued the following statement: “NATO welcomes Ukraine’s and Georgia’s Euro-Atlantic aspirations for membership in NATO. We agreed today that these countries will become members of NATO. Both nations have made valuable contributions to Alliance operations. We welcome the democratic reforms in Ukraine and Georgia and look forward to free and fair parliamentary elections in Georgia in May. MAP is the next step for Ukraine and Georgia on their direct way to membership. Today we make clear that we support these countries’ applications for MAP. Therefore we will now begin a period of intensive engagement with both at a high political level to address the questions still outstanding pertaining to their MAP applications. We have asked Foreign Ministers to make a first assessment of progress at their December 2008 meeting. Foreign Ministers have the authority to decide on the MAP applications of Ukraine and Georgia.”: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the declaration of the Bucharest Summit, which stated that Ukraine and Georgia will become members of NATO;

(2) reiterates its support for the commitment to further enlargement of NATO to include democratic governments that are able and willing to meet the responsibilities of membership; and

(3) urges the foreign ministers of NATO member states at their meeting in December 2008 to consider favorably the applications of the governments of Ukraine and Georgia for Membership Action Plans.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 77—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH 2008

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

S. CON. RES. 77

Whereas, on average, a person is sexually assaulted in the United States every 2½ minutes;

Whereas the Department of Justice reports that 191,670 people in the United States were sexually assaulted in 2005;

Whereas 1 in 6 women and 1 in 33 men have been victims of rape or attempted rape;

Whereas the Department of Defense received 2,688 reports of sexual assault involving members of the Armed Forces in fiscal year 2007;

Whereas children and young adults are most at risk of sexual assault, as 44 percent of sexual assault victims are under the age of 18, and 80 percent are under the age of 30;

Whereas sexual assault affects women, men, and children of all racial, social, religious, age, ethnic, and economic groups in the United States;

Whereas only 41 percent of sexual assault victims pursue prosecution by reporting their attacks to law enforcement agencies;

Whereas ⅔ of sexual crimes are committed by persons who are not strangers to the victims;

Whereas sexual assault survivors suffer emotional scars long after the physical scars have healed;

Whereas prevention education programs carried out by rape crisis and women’s health centers have the potential to reduce the prevalence of sexual assault in their communities;

Whereas, because of recent advances in DNA technology, law enforcement agencies now have the potential to identify the rapists in tens of thousands of unsolved rape cases;

Whereas aggressive prosecution can incarcerate rapists and therefore prevent them from committing further crimes;

Whereas free, confidential help is available to all survivors of sexual assault through the National Sexual Assault Hotline, more than 1,000 rape crisis centers across the United States, and other organizations that provide services to assist survivors of sexual assault; and

Whereas April is recognized as “National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month”: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) it is the sense of Congress that—

(A) National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month provides a special opportunity to educate the people of the United States about sexual violence and to encourage the prevention of sexual assault, the improved treatment of its survivors, and the prosecution of its perpetrators;

(B) it is appropriate to properly acknowledge the more than 20,000,000 men and women who have survived sexual assault in the United States and salute the efforts of survivors, volunteers, and professionals who combat sexual assault;

(C) national and community organizations and private sector supporters should be recognized and applauded for their work in promoting awareness about sexual assault, providing information and treatment to its survivors, and increasing the number of successful prosecutions of its perpetrators;

(D) public safety, law enforcement, and health professionals should be recognized and applauded for their hard work and innovative strategies to increase the percentage of sexual assault cases that result in the prosecution and incarceration of the offenders;

(2) Congress strongly recommends that national and community organizations, businesses in the private sector, colleges and universities, and the media promote, through National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month, awareness of sexual violence and strategies to decrease the incidence of sexual assault; and

(3) Congress supports the goals and ideals of National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month 2008.

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about a resolution Senator SPECTER and I have introduced supporting the goals and ideals of National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month, which occurs this month of April.

In the U.S. a person is sexually assaulted on average every two and a half minutes. One in six women and one in 33 men have been victims of rape or attempted rape. According to the Department of Justice, 191,670 people in the United States were sexually assaulted in 2005. These are disturbing statistics.

National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month serves many valuable purposes. It provides a special opportunity to educate people about sexual violence and increase public awareness about the impact of this crime that changes many lives forever and sometimes irrevocably.

It pays tribute to the many survivors of sexual violence and honors their compassionate efforts to help others in the face of their own anguish. Many courageous individuals, themselves survivors of sexual assault, rise above their own suffering to help assuage the pain of others and assist in the prevention of sexual assault.

This resolution also recognizes and applauds the work of community organizations and other supporters who help survivors and promote prevention and awareness. These are important and vital services in the lives not only of those who have been assaulted but all of us. Increasing public awareness helps in the fight to prevent sexual assault and reduce the number of people who are sexually assaulted, saving those individuals from the nightmare others know all too well.

Sexual violence is a crime we must all work to eradicate. While women comprise the majority of victims, this crime is perpetrated against women, children, and men. It is my goal that this resolution helps us to understand our role in assisting these individuals and preventing this crime from happening in the future.

I ask all my colleagues to support this important resolution and encourage communities across our country to pay tribute to all those whose lives have been touched by sexual assault and those who have dedicated their lives to work to end it.