

use cluster grants to build on the strengths of their particular regions by utilizing the skills and knowledge base of local businesses, economic developers, colleges and universities, scientists, nonprofits, and the public sector.

In order to secure the future of America's economy we must create new, good-paying jobs here at home. Investing in new technologies and industries will expand our workforce, ensuring America remains competitive in the global economy and putting us on a course toward growth and prosperity for future generations.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. FEINGOLD, and Mr. BROWN):

S.J. Res. 37. A joint resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the United States should sign the Declaration of the Oslo Conference on Cluster Munitions and future instruments banning cluster munitions that cause unacceptable harm to civilians; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I am pleased to join with my friend from California, Senator FEINSTEIN, in sponsoring this joint resolution calling on the administration to sign the Convention on Cluster Munitions when it is open for signature in December.

This treaty is the product of a year of negotiations among many of our closest allies and other nations that came together to prohibit the use of cluster munitions that cause unacceptable harm to civilians.

I regret that the United States did not participate in the negotiations. The Pentagon continues to insist that cluster munitions are necessary, but the country with the world's most powerful military should not be on the sidelines while others are trying to protect the lives and limbs of civilians in war.

Any weapon, whether cluster munitions, landmines or even poison gas, has some military utility. But anyone who has seen the indiscriminate devastation cluster munitions cause over a wide area understands the unacceptable threat they pose for civilians. These are not the laser guided weapons that were shown destroying their targets during the invasion of Baghdad.

And there is the insidious problem of cluster munitions that do not explode as designed, and remain as active duds, like landmines, until they are triggered by whoever comes into contact with them. Often it is an unsuspecting child, or a farmer.

This resolution follows an amendment I sponsored which prohibits U.S. sales and exports of cluster munitions that do not meet strict criteria, which became law as part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2008. These criteria are no different from what the Pentagon set for itself 7 years ago for new procurements of cluster munitions, applied also to those in existing U.S.

stockpiles. Senator FEINSTEIN and I have also introduced legislation that would apply these same criteria to the use of cluster munitions. That legislation now has 20 cosponsors.

I want to express my appreciation to the Government of Norway for its leadership in initiating the process that led to the agreement on the treaty in Dublin, and to the Cluster Munitions Coalition, a group of some 200 nongovernmental organizations that worked diligently in support of the treaty.

I traveled to Dublin last week to meet with delegates to the negotiations, including the president of the Conference Daithi O'Ceallaigh. He did a masterful job of guiding the discussions to a successful conclusion.

There are some who have dismissed this effort as a "feel good" exercise, since it does not have the support of the United States and other major powers such as Russia, China, Pakistan, India and Israel. These are the same critics of the Ottawa treaty banning antipersonnel landmines, which the U.S. and the other countries I named have also refused to sign. But that treaty has dramatically reduced the number of landmines produced, used, sold and stockpiled, and the number of mine victims has fallen sharply. Any government that contemplates using landmines today does so knowing that it will be condemned by the international community. I suspect it is only a matter of time before the same is true for cluster munitions.

The administration insists that the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, known as the CCW, is the right place to negotiate limits on cluster munitions because all countries are represented. I don't doubt their intentions, but it is what they said about landmines, and nothing happened because Russia and China were opposed. The same is likely for cluster munitions. It is a way to make it appear as if you are doing something, when you are not.

It is important to note that the U.S. today has the technological ability to produce cluster munitions that would not be prohibited by the treaty. What is lacking is the political will to expend the necessary resources. There is no other excuse for continuing to use cluster munitions that cause unacceptable harm to civilians.

Finally, I want to thank Senator FEINSTEIN who has shown a real passion for this issue and has sought every opportunity to protect civilians from these weapons.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 581—DESIGNATING JUNE 6, 2008, AS "NATIONAL HUNTINGTON'S DISEASE AWARENESS DAY"

Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. DODD) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 581

Whereas Huntington's Disease is a progressive degenerative neurological disease that causes total physical and mental deterioration over a 12 to 15 year period;

Whereas each child of a parent with Huntington's Disease has a 50 percent chance of inheriting the Huntington's Disease gene;

Whereas Huntington's Disease typically begins in mid-life, between the ages of 30 and 45, though onset may occur as early as the age of 2;

Whereas children who develop the juvenile form of the disease rarely live to adulthood;

Whereas the average lifespan after onset of Huntington's Disease is 10 to 20 years, and the younger the age of onset, the more rapid the progression of the disease;

Whereas Huntington's Disease affects 30,000 patients and 200,000 genetically "at risk" individuals in the United States;

Whereas, since the discovery of the gene that causes Huntington's Disease in 1993, the pace of Huntington's Disease research has accelerated;

Whereas, although no effective treatment or cure currently exists, scientists and researchers are hopeful that breakthroughs will be forthcoming;

Whereas researchers across the Nation are conducting important research projects involving Huntington's Disease; and

Whereas the Senate is an institution that can raise awareness in the general public and the medical community of Huntington's Disease: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates June 6, 2008, as "National Huntington's Disease Awareness Day";

(2) recognizes that all people of the United States should become more informed and aware of Huntington's Disease; and

(3) respectfully requests the Secretary of the Senate to transmit a copy of this resolution to the Huntington's Disease Society of America.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 86—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT THE UNITED STATES, THROUGH THE INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION, SHOULD USE ALL APPROPRIATION MEASURES TO END COMMERCIAL WHALING IN ALL OF ITS FORMS AND SEEK TO STRENGTHEN MEASURES TO CONSERVE WHALE SPECIES

Mr. KERRY (for himself and Mrs. BOXER) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. CON. RES. 86

Whereas 78 countries have adopted the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling, signed at Washington December 2, 1946 (TIAS 1849) (in this preamble referred to as the "Convention"), which established the International Whaling Commission (in this preamble referred to as the "Commission") to provide for the conservation of whale stocks;

Whereas the Commission has adopted a moratorium on commercial whaling in order to conserve and promote the recovery of whale stocks, many of which had been hunted to near extinction by the whaling industry;

Whereas the United States was instrumental in the adoption of the moratorium and has led international efforts to address the threat posed by commercial whaling for more than 3 decades;