

grant program established by this section. The report shall include a description of—

“(A) the eligible entities receiving funding;“(B) the activities carried out by the eligible entities;“(C) how the eligible entities were selected to receive funding under this section; and“(D) an assessment of the results achieved by the grant program including findings from the annual reviews described in paragraph (4)(A).

“(i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—“(1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section such sums as may be necessary for fiscal year 2009 and for each succeeding fiscal year.

“(2) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations under paragraph (1) for the fiscal year shall remain available until the end of the second fiscal year following the fiscal year in which such amounts were first appropriated.”.

SEC. 3. FEDERAL AGENCY COORDINATION.

(a) INTERAGENCY COOPERATION.—The head of each Federal department or agency whose funding, regulations, or other policies impact workers shall cooperate with the Secretary of Labor to—

(1) maintain up-to-date information on jobs, wages, benefits, skills, and careers of workers impacted by the actions of such agency or department;

(2) develop and implement policies that would improve the jobs and careers of workers impacted by the actions of such agency or department; and

(3) report the department or agency's job creation and economic development strategies to the Secretary.

(b) ALIGNMENT.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary and the heads of other Federal departments or agencies shall work together to align existing education and training programs with the demonstrated needs of industry or sector partnerships, as defined in section 174A(b) of the Workforce Investment Act. These collaborative efforts shall include the following:

(1) DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE.—The Secretary of Commerce shall advise the Secretary of Labor of the Department of Commerce's workforce and economic development strategies, programs, and initiatives.

(2) JUSTICE DEPARTMENT.—The Attorney General shall—

(A) align federally funded programs offering training for inmates with industry clusters (as defined in section 174A(b) of the Workforce Investment Act) and high-priority occupations, and annually review these training programs to assure that the training programs prepare individuals for high-priority occupations; and

(B) align federally funded reentry programs to take advantage of information and career opportunities provided by industry and sector partnerships.

(3) DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.—The Secretary of Education shall—

(A) develop and support career ladders for high-priority occupations critical to targeted industry clusters served by a grant under section 174A of the Workforce Investment Act;

(B) develop and support innovative programs to address literacy (including English as a second language) and numeracy shortcomings, especially in those occupations critical to such targeted industry clusters;

(C) develop and support programs and strategies to reduce barriers to adult education;

(D) develop and support career education initiatives in middle and high schools; and

(E) support initiatives to develop industry-recognized credentials and new credit-bear-

ing programs in public and private postsecondary educational institutions, especially in occupations critical to such targeted industry clusters.

(4) DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall—

(A) develop and support innovative programs that connect qualified individuals receiving assistance under the State temporary assistance for needy families program funded under part A of title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 601 et seq.) with employment opportunities in the targeted industry clusters served by a grant under section 174A of the Workforce Investment Act;

(B) develop and support strategies to prepare individuals receiving assistance under the State temporary assistance for needy families programs funded under part A of title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 601 et seq.) for success in postsecondary education and training programs; and

(C) develop and support career education initiatives that provide such individuals with information to guide the clients' education and training plans.

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I rise today, with Senator SHERROD BROWN, to introduce the Selecting Employment Clusters to Organize Regional Success, SECTORS, Act. This legislation would amend the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 and establish a new industry or sector partnership grant program administered by the Department of Labor.

As Co-Chair of the bipartisan Senate Task Force on Manufacturing, one of my key goals is to ensure that manufacturers are able to find a capable workforce. Unfortunately, many manufacturers across the country have raised significant concerns about whether the next generation of workers is being trained to meet the needs of an increasingly high-tech workplace. It is critical that we ensure that our Nation has a sufficient workforce to meet the needs of the U.S. manufacturing sector.

This legislation provides grants to help industry clusters—which are interrelated group of businesses, service providers, and associated institutions—establish and expand industry partnerships. Existing partnerships, which are similar to those created by this bill, have long been recognized as key strategic elements within some of the most successful economic development initiatives throughout the country. Unfortunately, current Federal policy does not provide sufficient support for these critical ventures.

In my home State of Maine, the number of manufacturing jobs has dropped dramatically over the past decade. Between 1998 and 2008, manufacturing employment in Maine went from 81,000 to 59,000, a 27 percent decrease! A key reason manufacturing job losses have dramatically affected Maine is that the average manufacturing salary is \$10,000 more than the average annual State wage. The statistics for the whole of New England are no better. From January 1998 through December 2006, the region witnessed a decline of roughly 25 percent of its manufacturing workforce.

For those who have lost manufacturing jobs, it is vital to help improve

their skills, preparing them for available U.S. jobs. This legislation provides a crucial link between establishing worker training programs and fostering new employment opportunities for those who have been affected by the manufacturing industry's decline. By promoting this innovative partnership we will take a crucial step toward rejuvenating our economy.

Groups, such as the National Governors Association, the Aspen Institute, and the National Network of Sector Partners have promoted and documented the success of sector partnerships. Throughout the country, sector partnerships are being used to promote the long-term competitiveness of industries and advancing employment opportunities. For example, the State of Maine has recently created the North Star Alliance Initiative. The alliance has brought together Maine's boat builders, the University of Maine's Advanced Engineered Wood Composites Centers, Maine's marine and composite trade association, economic development groups, and investment organizations for the purpose of advancing workforce training.

Out Nation's capacity to innovate is a key reason why our economy continues to grow and remains the envy of the world. Ideas by innovative Americans in the private and public sector have paid enormous dividends, improving the lives of millions throughout the world. We must continue to encourage all avenues for advancing this vital sector if America is to compete at the forefront of innovation.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 632—CALLING ON THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO USE THE UPCOMING OLYMPIC GAMES AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO PUSH FOR THE PARTIES TO THE CONFLICTS IN SUDAN, CHAD, AND THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC TO CEASE HOSTILITIES AND REVIVE EFFORTS TOWARD A PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF THEIR NATIONAL AND REGIONAL CONFLICTS

Mr. FEINGOLD (for himself, Mr. COLEMAN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. LANDRIEU, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. KERRY, Mr. BROWNBACK, and Mr. JOHNSON) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 632

Whereas, since the conflict in Darfur, Sudan, began in 2003, hundreds of thousands of people across the region have been murdered, tortured, and raped, with more than 2,500,000 people driven from their homes as a result of ongoing violence, and all parties to the conflict continue to attack civilians throughout the region, while impeding access of humanitarian workers;

Whereas armed groups move freely among Sudan, Chad, and the Central African Republic, committing murder, banditry, forced recruitment, mass displacement, gender-based violence, and other crimes undermining regional security and exacerbating a cross-border humanitarian crisis;

Whereas, on July 31, 2007, the United Nations Security Council passed Security Council resolution 1769 (2007), authorizing a joint United Nations-African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) to implement the Darfur Peace Agreement and protect civilians;

Whereas only one-third of UNAMID peacekeepers have been deployed to the region and those deployed remain under-equipped to protect civilians and are the target of deliberate attacks by armed militias;

Whereas a new joint African Union-United Nations chief mediator, Burkina Faso's foreign minister, Djibril Bassole, has been appointed to reignite stalled peace talks between the parties in Darfur and help establish a cessation of hostilities;

Whereas fighting erupted in Sudan's oil-rich Abyei region on May 13 and 21, 2008, leaving 18 civilians dead and giving rise to concerns about a breakdown of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), which could ruin progress made over the last three years toward lasting peace in southern Sudan and ensnare the wider region into overlapping conflicts;

Whereas the Chief Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court charged the President of Sudan on July 14, 2008, with orchestrating genocide and crimes against humanity in Darfur, elevating hopes for accountability but also fears of retaliation against peacekeepers, humanitarian workers, and civilians;

Whereas the Government of the People's Republic of China has long-standing economic and military ties with Sudan, giving it significant influence on the Government of Sudan;

Whereas, from August 8 to August 24, 2008, China will host the Olympic Summer Games, the most venerated and prestigious international sporting event;

Whereas there is a tradition of an Olympic Truce, originating in ancient Greece, to ensure the safety of athletes traveling to the ancient Olympic Games, the importance of which was reaffirmed in 2003 by the United Nations;

Whereas the Olympic Truce traditionally begins one week before the Olympic Games and extends one week after the end of the Paralympic Games;

Whereas, on October 16, 2007, the United Nations General Assembly passed resolution G/A 62/L.2, "Building a better and more peaceful world through sport," which urges Member States to observe, within the framework of the Charter of the United Nations, the Olympic Truce, individually and collectively, during the Games of the XXIX Olympiad in Beijing, and to cooperate with the International Olympic Committee in its efforts to use sport as an instrument to promote peace, dialogue, and reconciliation in areas of conflict during and beyond the Olympic Games period; and

Whereas the situation in Sudan and the neighboring region remains highly volatile as the Olympics approach: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses its continued support and sympathy for the hundreds of thousands of civilians of Sudan, Chad, and the Central African Republic who have been affected by the ongoing violence and regional instability;

(2) recognizes the unique opportunity presented by the Olympics and calls on the United Nations, the African Union, and other international leaders to use it to promote

peace, dialogue, and reconciliation in areas of conflict and commends those Olympic and Paralympic athletes seeking to advance that cause;

(3) recognizes the close relationship between the Governments of People's Republic of China and Sudan, and strongly urges the Government of the People's Republic of China to use its full influence to press the Government of Sudan to commit to a cessation of hostilities, allow the full deployment of UNAMID peacekeeping forces, and engage in good faith in efforts to rejuvenate peace talks;

(4) calls upon the Government of Sudan and other armed actors in the region to immediately adopt a cessation of hostilities, during which they allow unfettered humanitarian access and the full deployment of UNAMID peacekeeping forces as well as engage in good faith efforts to rejuvenate peace talks;

(5) welcomes the efforts of the new joint African Union-United Nations mediator, Mr. Djibril Bassole, to revive a comprehensive peace process with all stakeholders to end the violence, demobilize militias, and promote voluntary return of internally displaced persons and refugees;

(6) urges the President and the international community to ensure that mediation efforts are supported and backed by credible leverage through targeted pressure and an enforced arms embargo;

(7) calls upon the United Nations and African Union to use the opportunity presented by a cessation of hostilities to fully deploy and equip UNAMID as well as strengthen the United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) to better monitor the Abyei region; and

(8) encourages the United Nations Secretary-General and other international leaders to publicly promote the principles reflected in the Olympic Truce among all the warring parties in Sudan, Chad, the Central African Republic, and other areas of conflict around the world.

SENATE RESOLUTION 633—EX-PRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE ON THE DETERIORATION OF RESPECT FOR PRIVACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA BEFORE THE 2008 OLYMPIC GAMES IN BEIJING

Mr. BROWNBACK (for himself and Mr. BUNNING) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 633

Whereas, on July 13, 2001, the International Olympic Committee announced the awarding of the 2008 Olympic Games to Beijing, People's Republic of China;

Whereas, prior to that announcement, the bidding documents submitted by the Government of the People's Republic of China to the International Olympic Committee stated, "We are confident that the Games coming to China not only promotes our economy, but also enhances . . . human rights.";

Whereas those documents also stated, "There will be no restrictions on journalists in reporting on the Olympic Games. . . . There will be no restriction concerning the use of media material produced in China and intended principally for broadcast outside.";

Whereas Beijing's Action Plan for the Olympics states, "In the preparation for the Games, we will be open in every aspect to the rest of the country and the whole world.";

Whereas, on April 23, 2002, after the Olympic Games had been awarded to Beijing, the

President of the International Olympic Committee, Jacques Rogge, said, "We are convinced that the Olympic Games will improve the human rights record [in China].";

Whereas, on March 13, 2008, the United States Department of State released the annual Country Reports on Human Rights Practices;

Whereas the report on the People's Republic of China states that in 2007 the Government of the People's Republic of China "tightened restrictions on freedom of speech and the press, particularly in anticipation of and during sensitive events, including increased efforts to control and censor the Internet";

Whereas that report also states that in 2007 authorities of the People's Republic of China "monitored telephone conversations, facsimile transmissions, e-mail, text messaging, and Internet communications";

Whereas, on July 29, 2008, Amnesty International released a report entitled "People's Republic of China: The Olympics Countdown—Broken Promises", which finds, regarding the promises of the Government of the People's Republic of China to the International Olympic Committee in 2001, "[T]here has been no progress towards fulfilling these promises, only continued deterioration. . . . In fact, the crackdown on human rights defenders, journalists and lawyers has intensified because Beijing is hosting the Olympics.";

Whereas, that report also states, "Chinese journalists continue to operate in a climate of official censorship and control, with many still languishing in jail for reporting on issues deemed politically sensitive. Internet controls have been increasingly tightened as the Olympics approach with control, regulation and censorship extending to various categories of internet users, including Internet Service Providers, bloggers and website owners. Numerous websites have been closed down for providing information deemed sensitive by the authorities. Internet users who post such information risk detention, prosecution and imprisonment.";

Whereas, in April 2008, the Government of the People's Republic of China issued an order requiring hotels to allow the Public Security Bureau to install hardware devices and new software programs on the hotel networks that are designed to send sensitive information about users, including foreign visitors and journalists, to the Public Security Bureau;

Whereas, on July 29, 2008, Agence France-Presse reported that "China will censor the Internet used by foreign media during the Olympics . . . reversing a pledge to offer complete media freedom at the games"; citing confirmation by Sun Weide, spokesman for the Beijing Olympic Organizing Committee;

Whereas the Olympic Charter states that the mission of the International Olympic Committee is "to promote a positive legacy from the Olympic Games to the host cities and host countries";

Whereas, on December 25, 2007, the Vice-President of the International Olympic Committee, Thomas Bach, stated, "The Games can act as a catalyst and contribute to the opening of a society."; and

Whereas, on March 23, 2008, the President of the International Olympic Committee, Jacques Rogge, stated that the Olympic Games are a "force for good": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) calls upon the Government of the People's Republic of China—

(A) to rescind the order requiring hotels to allow the Public Security Bureau to install hardware and software on the hotel networks; and