

Whereas an essential element of an effective democracy is the ability of each eligible and qualified citizen to be able to vote in fair and open elections;

Whereas Congress has passed important election laws such as the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) of 2002, the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (NVRA—Motor Voter Act), and the Voting Rights Act of 1965, dedicated to increasing the transparency of the election process, strengthening our voting systems, and protecting the right of all citizens to vote;

Whereas the 26th amendment of the Constitution requires that “the right of citizens of the United States, who are eighteen years of age or older, to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on the account of age”;

Whereas Minnesota, Maine, New Hampshire, Idaho, Wisconsin, and Wyoming allow same day registration of voters at the polls, and also experience the highest voter turnout rates in the country;

Whereas most States have 30-day voter registration deadlines, and the public must be informed of their local and State election laws in September in order to participate fully in the Federal elections in November;

Whereas experts estimate that more than 20 percent of voters nationwide will cast their ballots before election day by mail or at early-voting locations, a proportion of the electorate that is rising with each election;

Whereas many election officials note that early voting is convenient for voters, increases turnout, and reduces the strain on polling places and poll workers on election day;

Whereas, according to the Fair Vote Center for Voting and Democracy, voter turnout in the United States is lower than in most other developed nations, with the United States coming 20th out of 21 in voter turnout among established democracies; and

Whereas S. 1901, introduced in the 102nd Congress, would have amended section 6103 of title 5, United States Code, to establish Democracy Day as a legal public holiday on election day, in recognition of the need for increased participation of an educated electorate to preserve the legitimacy of democracy: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates the last week of September 2008 as “National Voter Awareness Week”;

(2) calls upon the people of the United States to observe such a week with appropriate programs and activities, including helping State and local institutions deliver sample ballots, voter registration forms, absentee ballots, and other educational materials to all eligible voters; and

(3) encourages all grassroots organizations and educational, cultural, and community institutions to promote voter awareness and registration programs that befit local election procedure.

#### AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 5645. Mr. REID (for Mr. KYL) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 3296, to extend the authority of the United States Supreme Court Police to protect court officials off the Supreme Court Grounds and change the title of the Administrative Assistant to the Chief Justice.

SA 5646. Mr. REID (for Mr. BIDEN) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 5057, to reauthorize the Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Grant Program, and for other purposes.

SA 5647. Mr. NELSON, of Florida (for Mr. DORGAN) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 2786, to reauthorize the programs for housing assistance for Native Americans.

SA 5648. Mr. NELSON, of Florida (for himself and Mr. VITTER) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 6063, to authorize the programs of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and for other purposes.

SA 5649. Mr. NELSON, of Florida (for Mr. LEVIN (for himself and Mr. VOINOVICH)) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 6460, to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to provide for the remediation of sediment contamination in areas of concern, and for other purposes.

SA 5650. Mr. DURBIN (for Mr. BIDEN (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. HATCH, Mr. BROWN, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. CARPER, Mr. AL-LARD, Mr. CASEY, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. DODD, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. NELSON, of Nebraska, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. NELSON, of Florida, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. OBAMA, Mr. COBURN, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. ENZI, Mr. TESTER, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. KYL, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. SMITH, Mr. SUNUNU, Mr. THUNE, Mr. VITTER, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. SPECTER, and Mr. REID)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1738, to require the Department of Justice to develop and implement a National Strategy Child Exploitation Prevention and Interdiction, to improve the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, to increase resources for regional computer forensic labs, and to make other improvements to increase the ability of law enforcement agencies to investigate and prosecute child predators.

SA 5651. Mr. DURBIN (for Mr. BIDEN) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1738, *supra*.

SA 5652. Mr. DURBIN (for Mr. LEAHY) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2982, to amend the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act to authorize appropriations, and for other purposes.

SA 5653. Mr. DURBIN (for Mr. LEAHY (for himself and Mr. HATCH)) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 1777, to amend the Improving America’s Schools Act of 1994 to make permanent the favorable treatment of need-based educational aid under the anti-trust laws.

#### TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 5645. Mr. REID (for Mr. KYL) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 3296, to extend the authority of the United States Supreme Court Police to protect court officials off the Supreme Court Grounds and change the title of the Administrative Assistant to the Chief Justice; as follows:

At the end of the bill, add the following:

#### SEC. 2. LIMITATION ON ACCEPTANCE OF HONORARY CLUB MEMBERSHIPS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) GIFT.—The term “gift” has the meaning given under section 109(5) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.).

(2) JUDICIAL OFFICER.—The term “judicial officer” has the meaning given under section 109(10) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.).

(b) PROHIBITION ON ACCEPTANCE OF HONORARY CLUB MEMBERSHIPS.—A judicial officer may not accept a gift of an honorary club membership with a value of more than \$50 in any calendar year.

SA 5646. Mr. REID (for Mr. BIDEN) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 5057, to reauthorize the Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Grant Program, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Debbie Smith Reauthorization Act of 2008”.

#### SEC. 2. GENERAL REAUTHORIZATION.

Section 2 of the DNA Analysis Backlog Elimination Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 14135) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)(3), by—

(A) striking subparagraphs (A) through (D);

(B) redesignating subparagraph (E) and subparagraph (A); and

(C) inserting at the end the following:

“(B) For each of the fiscal years 2010 through 2014, not less than 40 percent of the grant amounts shall be awarded for purposes under subsection (a)(2).”; and

(2) by amending subsection (j) to read as follows:

“(j) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Attorney General for grants under subsection (a) \$151,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2009 through 2014.”.

#### SEC. 3. TRAINING AND EDUCATION.

Section 303(b) of the DNA Sexual Assault Justice Act of 2004 (42 U.S.C. 14136(b)) is amended by striking “2005 through 2009” and inserting “2009 through 2014”.

#### SEC. 4. SEXUAL ASSAULT FORENSIC EXAM GRANTS.

Section 304(c) of the DNA Sexual Assault Justice Act of 2004 (42 U.S.C. 14136a(c)) is amended by striking “2005 through 2009” and inserting “2009 through 2014”.

SA 5647. Mr. NELSON of Florida (for Mr. DORGAN) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 2786, to reauthorize the programs for housing assistance for Native Americans; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Reauthorization Act of 2008”.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Congressional findings.

Sec. 3. Definitions.

#### TITLE I—BLOCK GRANTS AND GRANT REQUIREMENTS

Sec. 101. Block grants.

Sec. 102. Indian housing plans.

Sec. 103. Review of plans.

Sec. 104. Treatment of program income and labor standards.

Sec. 105. Regulations.

#### TITLE II—AFFORDABLE HOUSING ACTIVITIES

Sec. 201. National objectives and eligible families.

Sec. 202. Eligible affordable housing activities.

Sec. 203. Program requirements.

Sec. 204. Low-income requirement and income targeting.

Sec. 205. Availability of records.

Sec. 206. Self-determined housing activities for tribal communities program.

#### TITLE III—ALLOCATION OF GRANT AMOUNTS

Sec. 301. Allocation formula.

#### TITLE IV—COMPLIANCE, AUDITS, AND REPORTS

Sec. 401. Remedies for noncompliance.

Sec. 402. Monitoring of compliance.

Sec. 403. Performance reports.