

and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO).

Jim Campen, Executive Director, Americans for Fairness in Lending.

Linda Sherry, Director, National Priorities, Consumer Action.

Mike Calhoun, President, Center for Responsible Lending.

Travis Plunkett, Legislative Director, Consumer Federation of America.

Rosemary Shahan, President, Consumers for Auto Reliability and Safety.

Pamela Banks, Policy Counsel, Consumers Union.

Tamara Draut, Vice President of Policy & Programs, Demos.

Alan Reuther, Legislative Director, International Union, United Automobile, Aerospace & Agricultural Implement Workers of America (UAW).

Wade Henderson, President & CEO, Leadership Conference on Civil Rights.

Hilary O. Shelton, Vice President for Advocacy/Director, NAACP Washington Bureau.

Ricardo C. Byrd, Executive Director, National Association of Neighborhoods.

John Taylor, President and CEO, National Community Reinvestment Coalition.

Lauren Saunders, Managing Attorney, National Consumer Law Center.

Sally Greenberg, Executive Director, National Consumers League.

Janis Bowdler, Associate Director, Wealth-Building Policy Project, National Council of La Raza.

Shanna L. Smith, President and CEO, National Fair Housing Alliance.

David Arkush, Director, Public Citizen's Congress Watch.

Alison Reardon, Director of Legislation, Service Employees International Union.

Ed Mierzwinski, Consumer Programs Director, U.S. PIRG.

STATE ORGANIZATIONS

Kimble Forrister, Statewide Coordinator, Alabama Arise

Leslie Kyman Cooper, Executive Director, Phyllis Rowe, President Emeritus, Arizona Consumers Council

Diane E. Brown, Executive Director, Arizona PIRG

Albert Sterman, Secretary/Treasurer, Democratic Processes Center, Arizona

H. C. "Hank" Klein, Founder, Arkansans Against Abusive Payday Lending

Alan Fisher, Executive Director, California Reinvestment Coalition

Jim Bliesner, Director, San Diego City/County Reinvestment Task Force, California

Lynn Drysdale, Managing Attorney, Consumer Law Unit, Jacksonville Area Legal Aid, Inc., Florida

Bill Newton, Executive Director, Florida Consumer Action Network

Brad Ashwell, Consumer & Public Health Advocate, Florida Public Interest Research Group

Dan McCurry, Coordinator, Chicago Consumer Coalition, Illinois

Lynda DeLaFargue and William McNary, Co-Executive Directors, Citizen Action/Illinois

Brian C. White, Executive Director, Lakeside Community Development Corporation, Illinois

Rose Mary Meyer, Director, Project IRENE, Illinois

Larry M. McGuire, Field Missionary Coordinator, Community of Christ and Inter-Religious Council of Linn County, Iowa

Jason Selmon, Executive Director, Sunflower Community Action, Kansas

Richard Seckel, Director, Kentucky Equal Justice Center

Charles Shafer, President, Maryland Consumer Rights Coalition

Debra Gardner, Legal Director, Public Justice Center, Maryland

Paul Schlaver, Chair, Massachusetts Consumers' Coalition

Paheadra B. Robinson, Staff Attorney, Mississippi Center for Justice

Mike Cherry, President/CEO, Consumer Credit Counseling of Springfield, Missouri, Inc.

Dan L. Wulz, Deputy Executive Director, Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada, Inc.

Peter Skillern, Executive Director, Community Reinvestment Association of North Carolina

Al Ripley, Counsel for Consumer and Housing Affairs, NC Justice Center

Jim McCarthy, President/CEO, Miami Valley Fair Housing Center, Inc., Ohio

Sue Berkowitz, Director, South Carolina Applesed Legal Justice Center

Corby Neale, Director of Research, Memphis Responsible Lending Collaborative, Tennessee

Don E. Baylor, Jr., Senior Policy Analyst—Economic Opportunity, Center for Public Policy Priorities, Texas

Alex R. Gulotta, Executive Director, Legal Aid Justice Center, Virginia

Michael H. Lane and Ward R. Scull, Co-Founders, Virginians Against Payday Loans

Irene E. Leech, President, Virginia Citizens Consumer Council

Janice "Jay" Johnson, Chairperson, Virginia Organizing Project

James W. (Jay) Speer, Executive Director, Virginia Poverty Law Center

Bruce D. Neas, Legislative Coordinator, Columbia Legal Services on behalf of clients, Washington

Catherine M. Doyle, Chief Staff Attorney, Legal Aid Society of Milwaukee, Inc., Milwaukee, Wisconsin

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 72—EX-PRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING DRUG TRAFFICKING IN MEXICO

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. KERRY, Mr. DODD, and Mr. LUGAR) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 72

Whereas Mexico is 3 times the size of the State of Texas and has a population of approximately 110,000,000 people;

Whereas Mexico has the 12th largest economy in the world, with an annual gross domestic product of just under \$1,000,000,000,000;

Whereas Mexico is the 8th largest exporter of crude oil in the world and provides approximately 1/3 of the oil imported by the United States;

Whereas Mexico is the 2nd largest buyer of exports from the United States;

Whereas Mexico has the largest Spanish-speaking population of any country in the world;

Whereas there is a tragically consistent demand for heroin, marijuana, methamphetamines, and cocaine from drug users in the United States;

Whereas the Government of Mexico is locked in an extremely violent struggle against drug trafficking organizations that produce and transport narcotics;

Whereas the drug trafficking organizations in Mexico are well organized, heavily armed, and wealthy criminal enterprises, with estimated criminal earnings of more than \$25,000,000,000 every year;

Whereas it is estimated that Mexican drug trafficking organizations produce 8 metric

tons of heroin and 10,000 metric tons of marijuana each year;

Whereas, in confrontations with the Government of Mexico and with each other, the drug trafficking organizations have adopted tactics intended to intimidate the public at large, corrupt law enforcement officials, and create a perception of increased violence among the people of Mexico;

Whereas, in 2008, approximately 6,200 people in Mexico died as the result of violence related to drug trafficking, more than twice as many as in 2007;

Whereas drug-related killings continued in Mexico during 2009, and on February 9, 2009, a total of 35 people were killed in drug-related violence in Mexico;

Whereas drug trafficking organizations in Mexico have brazenly targeted and executed many high-ranking public officials in Mexico;

Whereas more than 800 police officers and soldiers in Mexico have been killed in the line of duty since late 2006;

Whereas efforts by the Government of Mexico and the United States Government to combat drug trafficking organizations and power struggles between the drug trafficking organizations themselves have resulted in growing violence along the 2000-mile border between the United States and Mexico;

Whereas drug-related violence affects cities and towns on both sides of the border, as drug trafficking organizations from Mexico form partnerships with criminal organizations based in the United States;

Whereas law enforcement authorities in the United States have reported an increase in the number of killings, kidnappings, and home invasions linked to Mexican drug trafficking organizations in a number of cities in the United States, some of which are thousands of miles from the Mexican border;

Whereas a 2008 report by the Department of Justice indicated that Mexican drug trafficking organizations now operate in 195 cities in the United States;

Whereas the 2008 National Drug Threat Assessment by the Department of Justice identified drug organizations from Mexico as the greatest criminal threat to the United States;

Whereas the Government of Mexico is strengthening the institutions of a democratic state that adheres to the rule of law, supports a free press, and is committed to human rights;

Whereas the inauguration of President Felipe Calderón in December 2006 represented another step forward in the process of strengthening institutions in Mexico;

Whereas President Calderón has made defeating drug trafficking organizations a top priority of his administration, increasing the security budget of Mexico from \$2,000,000,000 in 2006 to \$4,000,000,000 in 2008 and deploying nearly 36,000 federal troops to carry out anti-drug operations;

Whereas the Government of Mexico has undertaken reforms that, together with significant changes to the code of criminal procedure and the penal code, could transform the justice system in Mexico to be more open and transparent, protect human rights, and devote resources to investigating and prosecuting crimes;

Whereas President Calderón has taken significant steps to crack down on corruption within the police forces and other government institutions of Mexico;

Whereas officers of the Government of Mexico have succeeded in seizing record quantities of narcotics from drug trafficking organizations;

Whereas law enforcement officials in Mexico are cooperating with law enforcement agencies in the United States at unprecedented levels, with Mexico extraditing 83

major drug traffickers to stand trial in the United States in 2007, and another 93 major drug traffickers in 2008;

Whereas the police and army units of Mexico are often outgunned by members of the drug trafficking organizations, who employ heavy machine guns, high-powered assault weapons such as the AK-47, 0.50 caliber sniper rifles, military hand grenades, rocket-propelled grenade launchers, and sophisticated technology like night vision goggles and communication interception devices;

Whereas a large majority of the weapons and ammunition used by the drug trafficking organizations come from sources in the United States, particularly gun dealers and gun shows in Texas, Arizona, and California;

Whereas approximately 90 percent of all firearms recovered at crime scenes in Mexico are illicitly trafficked across the border from the United States to Mexico;

Whereas the people of Mexico and the military and civilian officials of the Government of Mexico have demonstrated tremendous courage in confronting the drug trafficking organizations;

Whereas the United States Government, along with law enforcement agencies in the United States and Mexico, has escalated its efforts to disrupt the trafficking of narcotics, money, people, and arms across the border and to combat drug trafficking organizations;

Whereas the United States Government can and should do more to reduce the demand for illegal drugs in the United States and stop the illegal exportation of money and weapons;

Whereas the efforts by the United States Government to combat trafficking are outlined in the National Drug Control Strategy (2008), the Southwest Border Counter-narcotics Strategy (2007), and the U.S. Strategy for Combating Criminal Gangs from Central America and Mexico (2007);

Whereas, on October 22, 2007, the United States Government and the Government of Mexico announced a multiyear security agreement called the "Merida Initiative", which is intended to combat drug trafficking and other criminal activity along the border of the United States and Mexico and in Central America; and

Whereas Congress has appropriated \$465,000,000 for the Merida Initiative, allocating to the Government of Mexico a total of \$400,000,000 in equipment, technical assistance, and training in fiscal year 2008, which is now in the process of being delivered: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) Mexico is a key strategic partner of the United States;

(2) a secure, prosperous, and democratic Mexico is indispensable to the goal of the United States to have prosperity and peace throughout the Americas and the world;

(3) the people and the Government of Mexico have launched a sustained attack on drug trafficking organizations based in Mexico;

(4) the increasing violence and criminality of drug trafficking organizations threaten the well-being of the people of the United States and Mexico and pose security challenges to cities and towns in the United States;

(5) drug-related violence is a "cross-border" problem that requires close cooperation between the Government of Mexico and the United States Government;

(6) the United States Government and the Government of Mexico have a shared interest and responsibility in defeating drug trafficking organizations, and a comprehensive strategy, jointly conceived and executed, is required for significant progress to be made;

(7) the Senate applauds and fully supports efforts by President Felipe Calderón, the people of Mexico, and the Government of Mexico to confront the drug trafficking organizations, apprehend their members, and bring them to justice;

(8) the Department of State should—

(A) ensure prompt delivery of the equipment, technical assistance, and training for which Congress appropriated funds in fiscal year 2008 as part of the Merida Initiative;

(B) continue to support the Government of Mexico in its efforts to strengthen institutions and the rule of law, root out corruption, and protect human rights; and

(C) ensure full accountability for all assistance and equipment provided by the United States Government to the Government of Mexico; and

(9) the United States Government should employ its broad diplomatic and law enforcement resources, in partnership with the Government of Mexico and governments throughout the Americas, to defeat drug-related criminal enterprises.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 73—AUTHORIZING EXPENDITURES BY COMMITTEES OF THE SENATE FOR THE PERIODS MARCH 1, 2009, THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2009, AND OCTOBER 1, 2009, THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2010, AND OCTOBER 1, 2010, THROUGH FEBRUARY 28, 2011**

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

S. RES. 73

*Resolved*,

**SECTION 1. AGGREGATE AUTHORIZATION.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—For purposes of carrying out the powers, duties, and functions under the Standing Rules of the Senate, and under the appropriate authorizing resolutions of the Senate there is authorized for the period March 1, 2009, through September 30, 2009, in the aggregate of \$69,152,989, for the period October 1, 2009, through September 30, 2010, in the aggregate of \$121,593,254, and for the period October 1, 2010, through February 28, 2011, in the aggregate of \$51,787,223, in accordance with the provisions of this resolution, for standing committees of the Senate, the Special Committee on Aging, the Select Committee on Intelligence, and the Committee on Indian Affairs.

(b) **AGENCY CONTRIBUTIONS.**—There are authorized such sums as may be necessary for agency contributions related to the compensation of employees of the committees for the period March 1, 2009, through September 30, 2009, for the period October 1, 2009, through September 30, 2010, and for the period October 1, 2010, through February 28, 2011, to be paid from the appropriations account for "Expenses of Inquiries and Investigations" of the Senate.

**SEC. 2. COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY.**

(a) **GENERAL AUTHORITY.**—In carrying out its powers, duties, and functions under the Standing Rules of the Senate, in accordance with its jurisdiction under rule XXV of such rules, including holding hearings, reporting such hearings, and making investigations as authorized by paragraphs 1 and 8 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry is authorized from March 1, 2009, through February 28, 2011, in its discretion—

(1) to make expenditures from the contingent fund of the Senate;

(2) to employ personnel; and

(3) with the prior consent of the Government department or agency concerned and the Committee on Rules and Administration, to use on a reimbursable, or nonreimbursable, basis the services of personnel of any such department or agency.

(b) **EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2009.**—The expenses of the committee for the period March 1, 2009, through September 30, 2009, under this section shall not exceed \$2,735,622, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed \$200,000, may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 72a(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$40,000, may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

(c) **EXPENSES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010 PERIOD.**—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2009, through September 30, 2010, under this section shall not exceed \$4,809,496, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed \$200,000, may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 72a(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$40,000, may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

(d) **EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING FEBRUARY 28, 2011.**—For the period October 1, 2010, through February 28, 2011, expenses of the committee under this section shall not exceed \$2,048,172, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed \$200,000, may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946); and

(2) not to exceed \$40,000, may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

**SEC. 3. COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES.**

(a) **GENERAL AUTHORITY.**—In carrying out its powers, duties, and functions under the Standing Rules of the Senate, in accordance with its jurisdiction under rule XXV of such rules, including holding hearings, reporting such hearings, and making investigations as authorized by paragraphs 1 and 8 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee on Armed Services is authorized from March 1, 2009, through February 28, 2011, in its discretion—

(1) to make expenditures from the contingent fund of the Senate;

(2) to employ personnel; and

(3) with the prior consent of the Government department or agency concerned and the Committee on Rules and Administration, to use on a reimbursable, or nonreimbursable, basis the services of personnel of any such department or agency.

(b) **EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2009.**—The expenses of the committee for the period March 1, 2009, through September 30, 2009, under this section shall not exceed \$4,639,258, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed \$75,000, may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 72a(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$30,000, may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).