

the facility is required to provide as a requirement for participation”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to items and services furnished on or after the date that regulations relating to payment for physicians' services for calendar year 2010 take effect, but in no case later than the first day of the third month beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 83—DESIGNATING MARCH 25, 2009, AS “NATIONAL CEREBRAL PALSY AWARENESS DAY”

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

S. RES. 83

Whereas the term “cerebral palsy” refers to any number of neurological disorders that appear in infancy or early childhood and permanently affect body movement and the muscle coordination necessary to maintain balance and posture;

Whereas cerebral palsy is caused by damage to 1 or more specific areas of the brain, which usually occurs during fetal development, before, during, or shortly after birth, or during infancy;

Whereas the majority of children who have cerebral palsy are born with the disorder, although cerebral palsy may remain undetected for months or years;

Whereas 75 percent of people with cerebral palsy also have 1 or more developmental disabilities, including epilepsy, intellectual disability, autism, visual impairments, and blindness;

Whereas the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recently released information indicating that cerebral palsy is increasingly prevalent and that about 1 in 278 children have cerebral palsy;

Whereas approximately 800,000 people in the United States are affected by cerebral palsy;

Whereas, although there is no cure for cerebral palsy, treatment often improves the capabilities of a child with cerebral palsy;

Whereas scientists and researchers are hopeful that breakthroughs in cerebral palsy research will be forthcoming;

Whereas researchers across the United States are conducting important research projects involving cerebral palsy; and

Whereas the Senate is an institution that can raise awareness in the general public and the medical community of cerebral palsy: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates March 25, 2009, as “National Cerebral Palsy Awareness Day”;

(2) encourages all people in the United States to become more informed and aware of cerebral palsy; and

(3) respectfully requests the Secretary of the Senate to transmit a copy of this resolution to Reaching for the Stars: A Foundation of Hope for Children with Cerebral Palsy.

SENATE RESOLUTION 84—URGING THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA TO END THE COMMERCIAL SEAL HUNT

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

S. RES. 84

Whereas the Government of Canada permits an annual commercial hunt for seals in the waters off the east coast of Canada;

Whereas an international outcry regarding the plight of the seals hunted in Canada resulted in the 1983 ban by the European Union of whitecoat and blueback seal skins and the subsequent collapse of the commercial seal hunt in Canada;

Whereas the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1361 et seq.) bars the import into the United States of any seal products;

Whereas, in recent years, the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans of Canada has authorized historically high quotas for harp seals;

Whereas more than 1,000,000 seals have been killed during the past 4 years;

Whereas harp seal pups can legally be hunted in Canada as soon as they have begun to molt their white coats, at approximately 12 days of age;

Whereas 97 percent of the seals killed are pups between just 12 days and 12 weeks of age;

Whereas, in 2007, an international panel of experts in veterinary medicine and zoology was invited by the Humane Society of the United States to observe the commercial seal slaughter in Canada;

Whereas the report by the panel noted that sealers failed to comply with sealing regulations in Canada and that officials of the Government of Canada failed to enforce such regulations;

Whereas the report also concluded that the killing methods permitted during the commercial seal hunt in Canada are inherently inhumane and should be prohibited;

Whereas many seals are shot in the course of the hunt and escape beneath the ice where they die slowly and are never recovered;

Whereas such seals are not properly counted in official kill statistics, increasing the likelihood that the actual kill level is far higher than the level that is reported;

Whereas the few thousand fishermen who participate in the commercial seal hunt in Canada earn, on average, only a tiny fraction of their annual income from killing seals;

Whereas members of the fishing and sealing industries in Canada continue to justify the seal hunt on the grounds that the seals in the Northwest Atlantic are preventing the recovery of cod stocks, despite the lack of any credible scientific evidence to support this claim;

Whereas the consensus in the international scientific community is that culling seals will not assist in the recovery of fish stocks and that seals are a vital part of the fragile marine ecosystem of the Northwest Atlantic;

Whereas polling consistently shows that the overwhelming majority of people in Canada oppose the commercial seal hunt;

Whereas the vast majority of seal products are exported from Canada, and the sealing industry relies on international markets for its products;

Whereas 10 countries have prohibited trade in seal products in recent years, and the European Union is now considering a prohibition on trade in seal products; and

Whereas the persistence of this cruel and needless commercial hunt is inconsistent with the well-earned international reputation of Canada: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) urges the Government of Canada to prohibit the commercial hunting of seals; and

(2) strongly supports an unconditional prohibition by the European Union on trade in seal products.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, on March 18th, 2009, just weeks before its hunting season was scheduled to begin, Russia

announced that it would ban the hunting and killing of baby seals. Yuri Trutnev, Russia's Minister of Natural Resources, who was quoted in the New York Times last week, graphically depicted the shameful practice, saying: “The bloody sight of the hunting of seals, the slaughter of these defenseless animals, which you cannot even call a real hunt, is banned in our country, just as well as in most developed countries.”

In addition, the Internal Markets and Consumer Protection Committee (IMCO) of the European Parliament approved a prohibition on trade in seal products in the European Union. This measure may now be considered by the full European Parliament in the coming months.

Yet, in Canada, the largest commercial slaughter of marine mammals in the world continues. According to the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), over one million seals have been killed over the past four years. In Canada, seal pups as young as 12 days old can legally be killed. The vast majority of seals killed in these hunts are between 12 days and 12 weeks of age.

Canada has officially opened another seal hunting season, paving the way for hundreds of thousands of baby seals to be killed for their fur in the coming weeks, when the harp seal hunt begins in earnest. So today I am pleased to be joined by Senator COLLINS in submitting a resolution that urges the Government of Canada to end this senseless and inhumane slaughter.

The U.S. Government has opposed this senseless slaughter, as noted in the January 19, 2005, letter from the U.S. Department of State, in response to a letter Senator COLLINS and I wrote to President Bush, urging him to raise this issue during his November 30, 2004, visit with Canadian Prime Minister Paul Martin.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that support material be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,

Washington, DC, January 19, 2005.

DEAR SENATOR LEVIN: This is in response to your letter to the President of November 24, 2004, regarding Canadian commercial seal hunting. The White House has requested that the Department of State respond. We regret the delay in responding. Unfortunately, this letter was not received in the Department of State until mid-December, well after the referenced meeting between President Bush and Prime Minister Paul Martin of Canada.

We are aware of Canada's seal hunting activities and of the opposition to it expressed by many Americans. Furthermore, we can assure you that the United States has a long-standing policy opposing the hunting of seals and other marine mammals absent sufficient safeguards and information to ensure that the hunting will not adversely impact the affected marine mammal population or the ecosystem of which it is a part. The United States policy is reflected in the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 (MMPA) which generally prohibits, with narrow and specific exceptions, the taking of marine