

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record should send it to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, Washington, DC 20510-6150, or by email to anna_fox@energy.senate.gov.

For further information, please contact David Brooks at (202) 224-9863 or Anna Fox at (202) 224-1219.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. BINGAMAN: Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a hearing has been scheduled before the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

The hearing will be held on Tuesday, July 21, 2008, at 10 a.m., in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The purpose of the hearing is to consider the preparedness of Federal land management agencies for the 2009 wild-fire season and to receive testimony on S. 561 and H.R. 1404, the Federal Land Assistance, Management and Enhancement Act.

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record should send it to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, Washington, DC 20510-6150, or by e-mail to anna_fox@energy.senate.gov.

For further information, please contact Anna Fox at (202) 224-1219 or Scott Miller at 202-2245488.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, July 7, 2009, at 10 a.m. in room 328A of the Russell Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON ARMED FORCES

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, July 7, 2009, at 9:30 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, July 7, 2009, at 9:30 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Environment and Public Works be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, July 7, 2009.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Environment and Public Works be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, July 7, 2009, at 10 a.m. in room 406 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building to hold a hearing entitled, "Moving America toward a Clean Energy Economy and Reducing Global Warming Pollution: Legislative Tools."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, July 7, 2009, at 10 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, July 7, 2009, at 2:15 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, July 7, 2009, at 3 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, July 7, 2009, at 10 a.m., in room 325 of the Russell Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ANTITRUST, COMPETITION POLICY, AND CONSUMER RIGHTS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Antitrust, Competition Policy, and Consumer Rights, be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, on July 7, 2009, at 2:30 p.m., in room SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled "The Bowl Championship Series: Is it Fair and In Compliance with Antitrust Law?"

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FEDERAL FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT, GOVERNMENT INFORMATION, FEDERAL SERVICES, AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs' Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management, Government Information, Federal Services, and International Security be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, July 7, 2009, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing entitled, "From Strategy to Implementation: Strengthening U.S.-Pakistan Relations."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON OCEANS, ATMOSPHERE, FISHERIES, AND COAST GUARD

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, July 7, 2009, at 9:30 a.m., in room 253 of the Russell Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. DURBIN. I ask unanimous consent that Arex Avanni, a detailee from the Coast Guard to the Homeland Security Subcommittee, be granted the privilege of the floor during debate on the pending legislation, the fiscal year 2010 Department of Homeland Security Appropriations bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. VOINOVICH. I ask unanimous consent that Carol Cribbs on the Appropriations Committee staff be granted the privilege of the floor during the consideration of the fiscal year 2010 Homeland Security Appropriations bill and any votes in relation thereto.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Tara Magner, a consultant on the staff of Senator LEAHY's Judiciary Committee staff, be granted the privileges of the floor for the remainder of this work period, until August 8, 2009.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNIZING THE NATIONAL EYE INSTITUTE AND SUPPORTING THE DECADE OF VISION

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate now proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 209, which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 209) recognizing the 40th anniversary of the National Eye Institute and expressing support of the designation of the years 2011 through 2020 as the "Decade of Vision."

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. BROWN. I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid on the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 209) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 209

Whereas vision impairment and eye disease are major public health problems, especially due to the aging of the population;

Whereas there is a disproportionate incidence of eye disease in minority populations;

Whereas vision loss as a result of diabetes and other chronic diseases costs the people of the United States \$68,000,000,000 each year in health care expenses, lost productivity, reduced independence, diminished quality of life, increased depression, and accelerated mortality;

Whereas approximately 38,000,000 people in the United States over 40 years of age currently experience blindness, low-vision, or an age-related eye disease, and this number is expected to grow to 50,000,000 by 2020, as the tidal wave of approximately 78,000,000 baby boomers who will begin to reach 65 years of age in 2010, many of whom will continue working well beyond age 65, crashes;

Whereas, in public opinion polls conducted during the past 40 years, people in the United States have consistently identified fear of vision loss as second only to fear of cancer, and, as recently as 2008, a study by the National Eye Institute showed that 71 percent of respondents indicated that a loss of eyesight would have the greatest impact on their life;

Whereas, with wisdom and foresight, Congress passed an Act entitled "An Act to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the establishment of a National Eye Institute in the National Institutes of Health" (Public Law 90-489; 82 Stat. 771), which was signed into law by President Johnson on August 16, 1968;

Whereas the National Eye Institute (in this resolution referred to as the "NEI") held the first meeting of the National Advisory Eye Council on April 3, 1969;

Whereas the NEI leads the Federal commitment to basic and clinical research, research training, and other programs with respect to blinding eye diseases, visual disorders, mechanisms of visual function, preservation of sight, and the special health problems and needs of individuals who are visually-impaired or blind;

Whereas the NEI disseminates information aimed at the prevention of blindness, specifically through public and professional education facilitated by the National Eye Health Education Program;

Whereas the NEI maximizes Federal funding by devoting 85 percent of its budget to extramural research that addresses a wide variety of eye and vision disorders, including "back of the eye" retinal and optic nerve disease, such as age-related macular degeneration, glaucoma, and diabetic retinopathy, and concomitant low vision, and "front of the eye" disease, including corneal, lens, cataract, and refractive errors;

Whereas research by the NEI benefits children, including premature infants born with retinopathy and school children with amblyopia (commonly known as "lazy eye");

Whereas the NEI benefits older people in the United States by predicting, preventing, and preempting aging eye disease, thereby enabling more productive lives and reducing Medicare costs;

Whereas the NEI has been a leader in basic research, working with the Human Genome Project of the National Institutes of Health to translate discoveries of genes related to eye disease and vision impairment, which make up ¼ of genes discovered to date, into diagnostic and treatment modalities;

Whereas the NEI has been a leader in clinical research, funding more than 60 clinical trials (including a series of Diabetic Retinopathy Clinical Trials Networks, in association with the National Institute for Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Disorders) which have developed treatment strategies that have been determined by the NEI to be 90 percent effective and to save an estimated \$1,600,000,000 each year in blindness and vision impairment disability costs;

Whereas the NEI has been a leader in prevention research, having reported from the first phase of its Age-Related Eye Disease Study that high levels of dietary zinc and anti-oxidant vitamins reduced vision loss in individuals at high risk for developing advanced age-related macular degeneration by 25 percent, and, in the second phase of Age-Related Eye Disease Study, studying the impact of other nutritional supplements;

Whereas the NEI has been a leader in epidemiologic research, identifying the basis and progression of eye disease and the disproportionate incidence of eye disease in minority populations, so that informed public health policy decisions can be made regarding prevention, early diagnosis, and treatment;

Whereas the NEI has been a leader in collaborative research across the National Institutes of Health, working with the National Cancer Institute and the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute to identify factors that promote or inhibit new blood vessel growth, which has resulted in the first generation of ophthalmic drugs approved by the Food and Drug Administration to inhibit abnormal blood vessel growth in the form of age-related macular degeneration commonly known as the "wet" form of age-related macular degeneration, thereby stabilizing, and often restoring, vision;

Whereas the NEI has been a leader in collaborative research with other Federal entities, and its bioengineering research partnership with the National Science Foundation and the Department of Energy has resulted in a retinal chip implant, referred to as the "Bionic Eye", that has enabled individuals who have been blind for decades to perceive visual images;

Whereas the NEI has been a leader in collaborative research with private funding entities, and its human gene therapy trial with the Foundation Fighting Blindness for individuals with Leber Congenital Amaurosis, a rapid retinal degeneration that blinds infants in their first year of life, has demonstrated measurable vision improvement even within the initial safety trials;

Whereas, from 2011 through 2020, the people of the United States will face unprecedented public health challenges associated with aging, health disparities, and chronic disease; and

Whereas Federal support by the NEI and related agencies within the Department of Health and Human Services is essential for prevention, early detection, access to treatment and rehabilitation, and research associ-

ated with vision impairment and eye disease: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the 40th anniversary of the NEI, commends the NEI for its leadership, and supports the mission of the NEI to prevent blindness and to save and restore vision;

(2) supports the designation of the years 2011 through 2020 as the "Decade of Vision", to—

(A) maintain a sustained awareness of the unprecedented public health challenges associated with vision impairment and eye disease; and

(B) emphasize the need for Federal support for prevention, early detection, access to treatment and rehabilitation, and research; and

(3) commends the National Alliance for Eye and Vision Research, also known as the "Friends of the National Eye Institute", for its efforts to expand awareness of the incidence and economic burden of eye disease through its Decade of Vision 2011–2020 Initiative.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, JULY 8, 2009

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:30 a.m. tomorrow, July 8; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and there be a period of morning business for 1 hour with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with the Republicans controlling the first half and the majority controlling the final half, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each; further, following morning business, the Senate resume consideration of H.R. 2892, the Homeland Security appropriations bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, tomorrow we will resume consideration of the Homeland Security appropriations bill. Under the previous order, there will be two votes tomorrow morning around 10:40 a.m. in relation to two amendments: Sessions No. 1371 and DeMint No. 1399. As we continue working on the Homeland Security appropriations bill, additional votes are possible throughout the day.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. BROWN. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent the Senate adjourn under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:06 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, July 8, 2009, at 9:30 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate: