

Whereas expanding access to the mainstream financial system will provide individuals with less expensive and more secure options for managing finances and building wealth;

Whereas quality personal financial education is essential to ensure that individuals are prepared to manage money, credit, and debt, and to become responsible workers, heads of households, investors, entrepreneurs, business leaders, and citizens;

Whereas increased financial literacy empowers individuals to make wise financial decisions and reduces the confusion caused by an increasingly complex economy;

Whereas a greater understanding of, and familiarity with, financial markets and institutions will lead to increased economic activity and growth;

Whereas, in 2003, Congress found it important to coordinate Federal financial literacy efforts and formulate a national strategy; and

Whereas, in light of that finding, Congress passed the Financial Literacy and Education Improvement Act of 2003 (Public Law 108-159; 117 Stat. 2003) establishing the Financial Literacy and Education Commission and designating the Office of Financial Education of the Department of the Treasury to provide support for the Commission: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates April 2010 as “Financial Literacy Month” to raise public awareness about—

(A) the importance of personal financial education in the United States; and

(B) the serious consequences that may result from a lack of understanding about personal finances; and

(2) calls on the Federal Government, States, localities, schools, nonprofit organizations, businesses, and the people of the United States to observe the month with appropriate programs and activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 486—SUPPORTING THE MISSION AND GOALS OF THE 2010 NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS’ RIGHTS WEEK TO INCREASE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE RIGHTS, NEEDS, AND CONCERNS OF VICTIMS AND SURVIVORS OF CRIME IN THE UNITED STATES, NO MATTER THE COUNTRY OF ORIGIN OR CREED OF THE VICTIM, AND TO COMMEMORATE THE NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS’ RIGHTS WEEK THEME REFERRED TO AS “CRIME VICTIMS’ RIGHTS: FAIRNESS, DIGNITY, RESPECT.”

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

S. RES. 486

Whereas more than 25,000,000 individuals in the United States are victims of crime each year, including more than 6,000,000 individuals who are victims of violent crime;

Whereas a just society acknowledges the impact of crime on individuals, families, neighborhoods, and communities by ensuring that rights, resources, and services are available to help rebuild the lives of the victims;

Whereas, although the United States has steadily expanded rights, protections, and services for victims of crime, too many victims are still not able to realize the hope and promise of the expanded rights, protections, and services;

Whereas, despite impressive accomplishments realized during the past 40 years in crime victims’ rights and services, there remain many challenges to ensuring that all victims are—

(1) treated with fairness, dignity, and respect;

(2) offered support and services regardless of whether the victims report the crimes committed against them to law enforcement; and

(3) recognized as key participants in the systems of justice in the United States when the crimes are reported;

Whereas the systems of justice in the United States should ensure that services are available for all victims of crime, including victims from underserved communities of the United States;

Whereas observing the rights of victims and treating victims with fairness, dignity, and respect serve the public interest by—

(1) engaging victims in the justice system;

(2) inspiring respect for public authorities; and

(3) promoting confidence in public safety;

Whereas individuals in the United States recognize that homes, neighborhoods, and communities are made safer and stronger by identifying and meeting the needs of crime victims and ensuring justice for all;

Whereas treating victims of crime with fairness, dignity, and respect, as encouraged and expressed through the 2010 National Crime Victims’ Rights Week theme referred to as “Crime Victims’ Rights: Fairness, Dignity, Respect.”—

(1) costs nothing more than taking time to identify the needs and concerns of victims; and

(2) requires effective collaboration among justice systems to meet the needs and concerns of victims; and

Whereas the 2010 National Crime Victims’ Rights Week, which is observed during the week of April 18 through April 24, 2010, provides an opportunity for the systems of justice in the United States to strive to reach the goal of justice for all by ensuring that victims are afforded legal rights and provided with assistance to face the financial, physical, spiritual, psychological, and social impact of crime: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the mission and goals of the 2010 National Crime Victims’ Rights Week to increase public awareness of—

(A) the impact on victims and survivors of crime; and

(B) the constitutional and statutory rights and needs of victims and survivors of crime; and

(2) recognizes that fairness, dignity, and respect comprise the very foundation of the manner in which victims and survivors of crime should be treated.

SENATE RESOLUTION 487—HONORING THE COAL MINERS WHO PERISHED IN THE UPPER BIG BRANCH MINE-SOUTH IN RALEIGH COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA, EXTENDING THE CONDOLENCES OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE TO THE FAMILIES OF THE FALLEN COAL MINERS, AND RECOGNIZING THE VALIANT EFFORTS OF THE EMERGENCY RESPONSE WORKERS

Mr. BYRD (for himself, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. ENZI, Mr. REID, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. BAYH, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. BEN-

NET, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. BOND, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. BURR, Mr. BURRIS, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. COBURN, Mr. COCHRAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. CORKER, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DEMINT, Mr. DODD, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ENSIGN, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. GREGG, Mrs. HAGAN, Mr. HATCH, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. INOUE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JOHANNIS, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KAUFMAN, Mr. KERRY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. KOHL, Mr. KYL, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEMIEUX, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. MCCAIN, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. MIKULSKI, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. REED, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SESSIONS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SHELBY, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. SPECTER, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. TESTER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. VITTER, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WEBB, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. WYDEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 487

Whereas coal mining is a time-honored profession;

Whereas coal miners and the families of coal miners have shaped the rich history and culture of the State of West Virginia and the United States;

Whereas the United States is greatly indebted to coal miners for the difficult and dangerous work performed by coal miners to provide the fuel necessary to keep the United States strong and secure;

Whereas the United States has long recognized the importance of health and safety protections for coal miners laboring in extreme and dangerous conditions;

Whereas accidents in coal mines have repeatedly taken the lives of coal miners;

Whereas, following an explosion on April 5, 2010, 29 coal miners from the State of West Virginia tragically perished in the Upper Big Branch Mine-South;

Whereas the explosion at the Upper Big Branch Mine-South was the worst coal mining disaster in the United States during the 40 years prior to the date of the agreement to this resolution;

Whereas Federal, State, and local rescue crews worked tirelessly in a courageous rescue and recovery effort after the explosion;

Whereas the families of the fallen coal miners have suffered an immeasurable loss; and

Whereas residents of Raleigh County and the State of West Virginia came together to support the families of the fallen coal miners: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the ultimate sacrifice made by the 29 coal miners lost at the Upper Big Branch Mine-South in Raleigh County, West Virginia;

(2) extends the deepest condolences of the United States Senate to the families of the fallen coal miners;

(3) honors the survivors of the tragedy;