

Whereas Joyce Rechtschaffen has shown the same focus and dedication to all of the work of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs no matter how significant the issue at hand;

Whereas Joyce Rechtschaffen has been a model manager, staffer, employee, and colleague to all who have worked with her;

Whereas Joyce Rechtschaffen has worked tirelessly and selflessly for the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, and its predecessor, the Committee on Governmental Affairs, these past 7 years, often at great personal sacrifice; and

Whereas Joyce Rechtschaffen has been a model of integrity, intelligence, compassion, and commitment to building a better United States and has shown herself to be the very best and brightest of both civil and Congressional service: Now therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate thanks Joyce Rechtschaffen for her years of work for and dedication to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and wishes her every success in her future endeavors.

SENATE RESOLUTION 475—PROCLAIMING THE WEEK OF MAY 21 THROUGH MAY 27, 2006, AS “NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK”

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

S. RES. 475

Whereas public works infrastructure, facilities, and services are of vital importance to the health, safety, and well-being of the people of the United States;

Whereas those facilities and services could not be provided without the dedicated efforts of public works professionals, engineers, and administrators who represent State and local governments throughout the United States;

Whereas those individuals design, build, operate, and maintain the transportation systems, water supply infrastructure, sewage and refuse disposal systems, public buildings, and other structures and facilities that are vital to the citizens and communities of the United States; and

Whereas it is in the interest of the public for citizens and civic leaders to understand the role that public infrastructure plays in—

- (1) protecting the environment;
- (2) improving public health and safety;
- (3) contributing to economic vitality; and
- (4) enhancing the quality of life of every community of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) proclaims the week of May 21 through May 27, 2006, as “National Public Works Week”;

(2) recognizes and celebrates the important contributions that public works professionals make every day to improve—

(A) the public infrastructure of the United States; and

(B) the communities that those professionals serve; and

(3) urges citizens and communities throughout the United States to join with representatives of the Federal Government and the American Public Works Association in activities and ceremonies that are designed—

(A) to pay tribute to the public works professionals of the Nation; and

(B) to recognize the substantial contributions that public works professionals make to the Nation.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 94—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH AFFECTED OR DISPLACED BY DISASTERS ARE UNIQUE AND SHOULD BE GIVEN SPECIAL CONSIDERATION IN PLANNING, RESPONDING, AND RECOVERING FROM SUCH DISASTERS IN THE UNITED STATES

Mr. COCHRAN (for himself and Ms. LANDRIEU) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, the hurricanes of last summer brought new demands on all of our nation’s rescue resources. The needs of children, particularly young children and their families, are unique and not a part of local and national recovery plans. Mental health, physical needs, day care, education, and family separation continue to be needs that for communities to address.

The National Center for Rural Early Childhood Learning Initiatives and the non-profit Save the Children, continue to lead the focused on the special needs of children. While assessing damages and recording destroyed facilities, the Rural Early Childhood center and Save the Children, with assistance from others, also developed a plan for future disasters.

Today I am introducing a Senate concurrent resolution that expresses the sense of the Senate that the Federal Emergency Management Agency should consider the unique needs of children and consider the recent experiences, suggestions and solutions of organizations and research centers. We ought to support the incorporation of child-specific needs and concerns into the National Response Plan. The Senator from Louisiana, Ms. LANDRIEU, is cosponsoring this resolution. We invite all Senators to join us.

S. CON. RES. 94

Whereas major disasters resulting in Presidential disaster declarations in the United States have increased from an average of 38 per year in the 1980s, to 46 per year in the 1990s, to 52 per year during the first half of this decade;

Whereas the occurrence of major disasters in the United States is expected to continue to increase in the foreseeable future;

Whereas the number of people in the United States affected by disasters each year is a staggering 2,000,000 to 3,000,000 as measured by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (even outside of truly catastrophic events as occurred on the Gulf Coast in 2005);

Whereas 5,192 children were reported missing or displaced to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children as a result of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, and it took 6 ½ months to reunite the last child separated from her family;

Whereas the most serious of such cases were those 45 children arriving at shelters separated from parents or guardians with no adult supervision and it took more than 1 month to resolve all of those cases;

Whereas 1,100 schools were closed immediately following Hurricane Katrina and

372,000 schoolchildren were initially unable to attend school in New Orleans and the Gulf Coast due to the hurricane;

Whereas in Mississippi 7 percent and in Louisiana 21 percent of elementary schools and secondary schools remained closed 6 months after Hurricane Katrina;

Whereas more than 400,000 children under the age of 5 live in or have evacuated from counties or parishes that have been declared disaster areas by the Federal Emergency Management Agency;

Whereas the numbers of licensed child care facilities in areas affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita declined by 4 percent (54 facilities) in Mississippi and by 25 percent (356 facilities) in Louisiana after the storms;

Whereas children are known to benefit from rapid mental health programming following disasters to mitigate longer term impacts;

Whereas the existing system of disaster management in the United States is the purview of Federal, State, and local government emergency management organizations and the disaster management programs and activities of these organizations are not mandated nor are able to fully respond to the unique needs of children;

Whereas Federal, State, and local government emergency management professionals lack the technical knowledge, support, and contacts to address the unique needs of children that need to be incorporated into such professionals’ disaster management programs and activities; and

Whereas existing legislative constraints on Federal disaster response and recovery aid programs restrict disaster officials from responding to the specific needs of children in a disaster and there is no government liaison or program concerning children’s issues in disasters: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring)*, That it is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the needs of children and youth affected by major disasters are unique and should be given special consideration in planning, responding, and recovering to major disasters; and

(2) the Federal Emergency Management Agency should consult with appropriate child-focused non-governmental organizations and public university national research centers with experience in addressing the needs of children in major disasters to address the needs of children and youth in disaster preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation, including by—

(A) incorporating suggestions from such organizations on children’s issues into the National Response Plan;

(B) seeking the recommendations of such organizations on how to address the needs of children in emergency shelters, trailer parks, and transitional housing sites;

(C) jointly developing child-, family-, early childhood service-, and school-focused disaster preparedness materials to support understanding of the impact of disasters on children and strategies to mitigate them; and

(D) jointly developing risk assessment tools for communities to use in determining children’s specific disaster risks.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3925. Mr. KENNEDY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1955, to amend title I of the Employee Retirement Security Act of 1974 and the Public Health Service Act to expand health care access and reduce costs through the creation of small business health plans