

after the Senate has already voted. This would be even more common during some of the controversial debates that stretch late into the evening. You might remember the late evening votes we had on health care reform last December and again in March where hundreds of amendments were filed and votes were cast well past midnight.

In fact, today we make the vote count public on the Internet within an hour of when a vote takes place. But we might not be able to make the substance of what we voted on available until the next day. So we let the public see how we voted, but we do not always let them see what we voted on. Of course, that does not make sense.

Just last night, Members tried to call up and pass various amendments. But only the most experienced Washington insider would have been able to actually find copies of those amendments. Shouldn't we have some kind of searchable system for amendments to allow our constituents the same access to information that some seasoned lobbyist or some seasoned congressional staffer has?

Don't we want to give our constituents a chance to see the amendments before we vote on them, if they are interested in reading them? Don't we want to know what our constituents think about amendments before we vote on them?

In order for that to happen, they have to know what those amendments are that have been filed. Of course, I am not talking about an amendment that might change a word here or a word there—although those should be publicly available as well. Some amendments I am talking about are hundreds of pages long and even constitute a complete rewrite of an underlying bill.

Today, we will likely see our fifth version of the extenders bill that is now the pending business on the floor of the Senate, and that fifth version would be in the form of an amendment. But our constituents may not be able to see that until tomorrow.

Shouldn't the public be able to see that amendment as soon as we Members or our staffs can read that amendment? This is a representative system of government, and it is impossible to represent the American people if they do not have access to the same information we have.

In addition to those who will question whether this is necessary, others might wonder whether it is even possible, like technically possible.

In fact, we are already doing it. That is right. The amendments are already available electronically to Senate offices almost immediately after they are filed, but they are not available to the public—not necessarily intentionally hidden from the public, but the public cannot get them like everybody in the Senate and in our offices can get them.

I have a chart in the Chamber that shows there is already an Amendment

Tracking System Web site that is only available to Members of Congress and staff. It provides a copy of the amendment, the purpose of the amendment, the sponsor of the amendment, and the status of that amendment.

My resolution is this simple: It would simply make this or a similar Web site available to the public, much like already is done with the Legislative Information System site or the Thomas site at the Library of Congress.

That way, the public gets to see exactly what we Members and our staffs are seeing almost immediately after filing. They get the same information and can provide their input prior to a vote.

There is a lot of distrust of government these days. People believe Congress is ignoring what the public thinks and what the public wants. Some of this is the result of the policies that are being considered around here. But it also has to do with the lack of transparency and accountability in government.

I am not saying this resolution is going to fix all that is wrong with that distrust that is expressed—because it will not—but this resolution is one more step toward letting a little more sunshine into this Chamber. This straightforward resolution will increase transparency, it will promote accountability, and it will make us all better representatives of the people we serve.

I hope the Senate will consider this resolution at some point in the near future, and I also urge my colleagues to support it. The public deserves access to this information on the same basis as those of us who are closely connected to this institution—meaning the Members and our staffs.

SENATE RESOLUTION 563—RECOGNIZING THE LOS ANGELES LAKERS ON THEIR 2010 NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION CHAMPIONSHIP AND CONGRATULATING THE PLAYERS, COACHES, AND STAFF FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS

Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mrs. BOXER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 563

Whereas on June 17, 2010, the Los Angeles Lakers won the 2010 National Basketball Association (NBA) Championship with a 83-79 victory over the Boston Celtics in Game 7 of the NBA Finals;

Whereas during the 2010 NBA Playoffs, the Lakers defeated the Oklahoma City Thunder, Utah Jazz, Phoenix Suns, and Boston Celtics en route to the storied franchise's 16th championship and 11th in Los Angeles;

Whereas the 2010 Lakers honored the franchise's tradition of excellence that dates back to its establishment in 1947 in Minneapolis, Minnesota, where the Lakers were named for the "Land of 10,000 Lakes" and won 5 championships before moving to Los Angeles in 1960;

Whereas this marks the Lakers' 5th NBA championship since 1999, the most by any franchise during that period, and matches the run by the "Showtime" Lakers of the 1980's that featured Hall of Fame players Earvin "Magic" Johnson, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, and James Worthy;

Whereas Phil Jackson has won more championships than any other coach in NBA history, recording his 11th championship this year and 5th with the Lakers;

Whereas the 2010 NBA Championship marks the 10th for the Lakers owner Gerald Hatten Buss;

Whereas general manager Mitch Kupchak has built a team that has exemplified the talent, character, and resilience necessary to repeat as NBA Champions;

Whereas Kobe Bryant won his 5th NBA Championship, tying him with Earvin "Magic" Johnson and Derek Fisher for the most by a Lakers player;

Whereas Kobe Bryant averaged 28.6 points, 8.0 rebounds, and 3.9 assists during the NBA Finals, en route to winning his 2nd consecutive NBA Finals Most Valuable Player Award and becoming just the 8th player to win the award on multiple occasions;

Whereas Ron Artest, whose hustle and defensive tenacity were critical to the Lakers' win, recorded 20 points and 5 steals during Game 7 of the NBA Finals;

Whereas the frontcourt of Pau Gasol, Andrew Bynum, and Lamar Odom played stifling defense and helped the Lakers out-rebound the Celtics in the decisive Game 7;

Whereas Derek Fisher consistently showed toughness and leadership and scored 16 critical points in Game 3 in Boston;

Whereas the Lakers bench scored 25 points in a pivotal Game 6, and players Jordan Farmar, Luke Walton, Sasha Vujacic, Shannon Brown, Josh Powell, and DJ Mbenga all contributed to the team's 2010 Championship;

Whereas the Lakers posted a record of 57-25 during the regular season, the best record in the Western Conference and 3rd best in the NBA; and

Whereas the Los Angeles Lakers have demonstrated that they are both champions on the court and in the community through the team's involvement in charity and outreach programs throughout the Southern California community: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate recognizes and congratulates—

(1) the Los Angeles Lakers for winning the 2010 NBA Finals;

(2) the Boston Celtics for winning the NBA Eastern Conference Championship and continuing a timeless rivalry; and

(3) coach Phil Jackson for winning his record-setting 11th championship.

SENATE RESOLUTION 564—RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RATIFICATION OF THE TREATY OF MUTUAL SECURITY AND COOPERATION WITH JAPAN, AND AFFIRMING SUPPORT FOR THE UNITED STATES-JAPAN SECURITY ALLIANCE AND RELATIONSHIP

Mr. WEBB (for himself, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. DODD, and Mr. BOND) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 564

Whereas Japan became a treaty ally of the United States with the signing of the Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security on January 19, 1960;