

On a more personal note, Mr. President, I come from a religious tradition which has known the heavy hand of government. People of my faith know what it is like to be a minority religion subject to persecution by other religions and by the State and Federal Governments. In the middle of the last century, the Mormons were driven from State to State, and ultimately out of the then-United States altogether, and even then they were still molested by the Federal Government. I am concerned that government not drive religion out of the public square and from our public dialog on issues confronting our people. And I am concerned that the Government not single out persons of faith for worse treatment than their fellow Americans when it comes to enjoying the benefits of public resources.

Rather than upset the fine balance between religious beliefs and other philosophies in our pluralistic society, the proposed amendment seeks to restore it. No group should be disenfranchised by government fiat—and we should be especially careful that no group be disenfranchised for exercise of religious faith. Their rights were to be protected by the First particular among our Bill of Rights. It is sad that we must revisit so basic an issue in this way at this late hour because of recent aberrations in our Government's understanding of those rights.

Mr. President, I realize that this is an important issue and that amending the Constitution is a serious step. I am confident that this amendment will generate useful discussion and debate about the issue, and I think that will be good for the country. I commend this amendment to my colleagues, scholars, and fair-minded people throughout our country, and hope it will find their support.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 90

At the request of Mr. ROBB, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 90, a bill to amend the Job Training Partnership Act to improve the employment and training assistance programs for dislocated workers, and for other purposes.

S. 1028

At the request of Mrs. KASSEBAUM, the name of the Senator from Arkansas [Mr. PRYOR] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1028, a bill to provide increased access to health care benefits, to provide increased portability of health care benefits, to provide increased security of health care benefits, to increase the purchasing power of individuals and small employers, and for other purposes.

S. 1166

At the request of Mr. LUGAR, the names of the Senator from Virginia [Mr. WARNER] and the Senator from Pennsylvania [Mr. SANTORUM] were added as cosponsors of S. 1166, a bill to

amend the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, to improve the registration of pesticides, to provide minor use crop protection, to improve pesticide tolerances to safeguard infants and children, and for other purposes.

S. 1317

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1317, a bill to repeal the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935, to enact the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1995, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. D'AMATO, the name of the Senator from Georgia [Mr. COVERDELL] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1317, supra.

S. 1419

At the request of Mrs. KASSEBAUM, the name of the Senator from Arkansas [Mr. BUMPERS] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1419, a bill to impose sanctions against Nigeria.

S. 1484

At the request of Mr. NICKLES, the names of the Senator from Alabama [Mr. SHELBY] and the Senator from Pennsylvania [Mr. SANTORUM] were added as cosponsors of S. 1484, a bill to enforce the public debt limit and to protect the social security trust funds and other Federal trust funds and accounts invested in public debt obligations.

S. 1494

At the request of Mr. CHAFEE, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1494, a bill to provide an extension for fiscal year 1996 for certain programs administered by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development and the Secretary of Agriculture, and for other purposes.

SENATE RESOLUTION 202—CONCERNING THE BAN ON THE USE OF UNITED STATES PASSPORTS FOR TRAVEL TO LEBANON

Mr. ABRAHAM (for himself, Mr. SIMON, Mr. GRAHAM, and Mr. KENNEDY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 202

Whereas on January 26, 1987, the Department of State issued a prohibition on the use of United States passports for travel to Lebanon, creating a ban on travel to Lebanon by United States citizens;

Whereas the ban on travel to Lebanon was instituted during a time of civil war, anarchy, and general lawlessness in Lebanon, when the safety and well-being of United States citizens were at serious risk, American hostages were being taken, and hundreds of lives were being lost due to acts of terrorism;

Whereas the civil war in Lebanon ended in 1990 and the last United States hostage held in Lebanon was freed on December 4, 1991;

Whereas there has been no incident of violence against any United States citizen in Lebanon since December 4, 1991;

Whereas security in Lebanon has improved demonstrably since the end of the civil war due to, among other efforts, the exchange of security delegations between the United States and Lebanon to monitor ongoing progress on security;

Whereas the United States and Lebanon have made special joint efforts to agree upon and sign international conventions against terrorism which would address crimes committed against United States citizens in Lebanon during the civil war;

Whereas the United States maintains an economic and military assistance program in Lebanon;

Whereas it is estimated that more than 45,000 United States citizens, including Members of Congress, traveled safely to Lebanon in the past 4 years, either in defiance of the ban or under current United States regulations which permit the use of passports by dual Lebanese-United States nationals and in urgent humanitarian cases;

Whereas Americans of Lebanese descent who have families residing in Lebanon and who are not willing to defy the travel ban have been seriously harmed by this ban and are prevented from being reunited with their loved ones in Lebanon;

Whereas the United States has eased certain restrictions on the travel ban to permit airline tickets to be issued directly from the United States to Beirut for travel by non-United States nationals United States citizens who have obtained the appropriate waiver from the Department of State;

Whereas it is in the United States' national interest to assist actively the Government of Lebanon to attain the principles of democracy in the region;

Whereas the Lebanese government has initiated a 10-year, \$18,000,000,000 reconstruction effort, and in 1993-1995 awarded more than 500 contracts worth more than \$2,700,000,000 to business firms for development, reconstruction, and consulting projects;

Whereas the ban on the use of United States passports for travel to Lebanon creates a major impediment to United States firms that wish to bid for contracts in Lebanon;

Whereas it is in the United States national interest for United States businesses to participate in the reconstruction of Lebanon, since United States participation will bring economic benefit to the United States;

Whereas it is in the national interest of the United States for there to be an independent, politically and economically self-reliant Lebanon as a stabilizing state in the region;

Whereas in determining whether to restrict the use of United States passports in any country, the Secretary of State should apply consistent criteria; and

Whereas travel advisories, rather than travel bans, are in effect for countries such as Bosnia, Rwanda, Haiti, Colombia, and Peru, in which United States citizens have historically experienced as serious risk to their safety as they do in traveling to Lebanon: Now, therefore, be it *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) in deciding whether to renew the ban on the use of United States passports for travel to Lebanon, the Secretary of State should—

(A) expand the present humanitarian waiver provisions to permit American citizens of Lebanese descent to travel to Lebanon for family reunification purposes;

(B) create a new waiver category to permit exceptions for United States business personnel who wish to travel to Lebanon for business purposes; and

(C) change the Lebanon travel ban to a travel advisory because American citizens have been safely traveling there since 1991, and it appears as if the risk posed to the safety of American citizens is no greater in Lebanon than it is in other countries that currently maintain travel advisories; and

(2) the Secretary of State should identify those conditions within Lebanon that are of risk to United States citizens and provide