

## SENATE RESOLUTION 56

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. LUGAR), and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. ALLARD) were withdrawn as cosponsors of Senate Resolution 56, a resolution designating March 25, 1997 as "Greek Independence Day: A National Day of Celebration of Greek and American Democracy."

SENATE RESOLUTION 292—EX-PRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING TACTILE CURRENCY FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED

Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

## S. RES. 292

Whereas currency is used by virtually everyone in everyday life, including blind and visually impaired persons;

Whereas the Federal reserve notes of the United States are inaccessible to individuals with visual disabilities;

Whereas the Americans with Disabilities Act enhances the economic independence and equal opportunity for full participation in society for individuals with disabilities;

Whereas most blind and visually impaired persons are therefore required to rely upon others to determine denominations of such currency;

Whereas this constitutes a serious impediment to independence in everyday living;

Whereas electronic means of bill identification will always be more fallible than purely tactile means;

Whereas tactile currency already exists in 23 countries worldwide; and

Whereas the currency of the United States is presently undergoing significant changes for security purposes: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) endorses the efforts recently begun by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing to upgrade the currency for security reasons; and

(2) strongly encourages the Secretary of the Treasury and the Bureau of Engraving and Printing to incorporate cost-effective, tactile features into the design changes, thereby including the blind and visually impaired community in independent currency usage.

• Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN. Mr. President, today I am submitting a resolution that encourages the Bureau of Printing and Engraving to incorporate tactile features on the currency to aid the blind. This resolution enjoys considerable bipartisan support, and was passed by voice vote in the House of Representatives.

Four years ago, Mary Scroggs, a constituent of mine, was hit by a drunk driver on the sidewalk in front of her office as she walked to lunch. As a result, she was left visually-impaired. Since this time, she has tirelessly pursued opportunities to improve the ability of the visually-impaired to live independently. It was her voice on this issue which brings me to introduce this important legislation.

In March 1994, the Bureau of Engraving and Printing commissioned the National Academy of Science to execute a study entitled "Current Features for

Visually Impaired People." This report explored the methods of making currency more accessible for all Americans.

In 1997, the Bureau of Engraving and Printing began implementing significant changes to simplify the identification of currency, such as larger numbers and higher color contrast, to ease identification of counterfeit currency. This resolution simply endorses the efforts of the Bureau of Printing and Engraving to study the cost-effective tactile changes to aid those afflicted with low vision or blindness and encourages those changes in the national currency. This minor change in currency will have a significant impact on the independence of visually impaired Americans. Moreover, incorporating tactual features can serve other purposes, such as being an additional counterfeit deterrent.

Visually impaired individuals are capable, independent people whose valuable contributions touch all of our lives. It is important that all Americans are afforded equal opportunities to perform at the best of their abilities. I hope all of my colleagues will join me in supporting this resolution. •

SENATE RESOLUTION 293—EX-PRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT NADIA DABBAGH SHOULD BE RETURNED HOME TO HER MOTHER, MS. MAUREEN DABBAGH

Mr. ROBB (for himself, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. WARNER, and Ms. FEINSTEIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

## S. RES. 293

Whereas Mr. Mohamad Hisham Dabbagh and Mrs. Maureen Dabbagh had a daughter, Nadia Dabbagh, in 1990.

Whereas Maureen Dabbagh and Mohamad Hisham Dabbagh were divorced in February 1992.

Whereas in 1993, Nadia was abducted by her father.

Whereas Mohamad Dabbagh later fled the country with Nadia.

Whereas the governments of Syria and the United States have granted child custody to Maureen Dabbagh and both have issued arrest warrants for Mohamad Dabbagh.

Whereas Mohamad Dabbagh has escaped to Saudi Arabia.

Whereas the United States Department of State believes Nadia now resides in Syria.

Whereas Maureen Dabbagh, with the assistance of missing children organizations, has been unable to reunite with her daughter.

Whereas the Department of State, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Interpol have been unsuccessful in her attempts to bring Nadia back to the United States.

Whereas Maureen Dabbagh has not seen her daughter in over five years.

Whereas it will take the continued effort and pressure on the part of Syrian officials to bring this case to a successful conclusion: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That it is the Sense of the Senate that the governments of the United States and Syria immediately locate Nadia and deliver her safely to her mother.

Mr. ROBB. Mr. President, I am submitting a resolution today expressing the Sense of the Senate regarding a heinous crime affecting a family in Virginia and a growing problem in this country.

According to Department of Justice statistics, 114,600 children are the subject of an abduction attempt by a stranger each year, and 12 children are actually abducted by a stranger every day. The statistics on child abductions by non-custodial parents is even more alarming, with 983 abductions each and every day.

I believe that we, as members of Congress, as parents, and as concerned citizens of this country, should use all available resources in an exhaustive effort to locate missing and abducted children.

Today, through this Sense of the Senate resolution, I seek to bring to your attention the plight of Ms. Maureen Dabbagh of Virginia Beach. Ms. Dabbagh has not seen her daughter, Nadia, in five years. At the age of three, Mr. Mohamad Hisham Dabbagh illegally abducted Nadia and fled the United States. He is wanted on state and federal warrants in connection with this abduction and he has been the subject of an international "wanted" notice since 1996. Since the abduction, Ms. Dabbagh has not seen or heard from her child. She has been aided in her ordeal by many caring people, groups and government agencies, however, to this day, Nadia still has not been returned to her mother.

Mr. President, I greatly sympathize with the plight of Maureen Dabbagh and other parents facing similar situations. I wish to redouble all efforts to bring Nadia home.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 125—EX-PRESSING THE OPPOSITION OF CONGRESS TO ANY DEPLOYMENT OF UNITED STATES GROUND FORCES IN KOSOVO

Mr. INHOFE (for himself, Mr. LOTT, Mr. HELMS, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. BURNS, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. THOMAS, Mr. HUTCHINSON, Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire, Mr. MURKOWSKI, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. MACK, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. GRAMS, Mr. FAIRCLOTH, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. ENZI, and Mr. HATCH) submitted the following concurrent resolution which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

## S. CON. RES. 125

Whereas Kosovo, unlike Bosnia, is a province of the sovereign nation of Serbia;

Whereas there is no vital United States national security interest at stake in the current violence taking place in Kosovo;

Whereas an Act of Congress is necessary for the introduction of the Armed Forces of the United States into hostilities or situations where imminent involvement in hostilities is clearly indicated by the circumstances, when such action is not required for the defense of the United States, its Armed Forces, or its nationals;

Whereas President Clinton is contemplating ordering such a deployment to Kosovo in the near future in conjunction with NATO;