

a rule entitled "In the Matter of Communications Assistance for Law Enforcement Act (Order on Reconsideration)" (CC Doc. 97-213, FCC 99-184), received August 31, 1999; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5051. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to Section 2006 of the 1999 Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act (Public Law 106-31), a report relative to Operation Allied Force; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5052. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to those persons operating directly or indirectly in the United States or any of its territories and possessions that are Communist Chinese military companies; to the Select Committee on Intelligence.

EC-5053. A communication from the Director, Defense Procurement, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Electronic Publication of DFARS" (DFARS Case 98-D024), received August 26, 1999; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5054. A communication from the Director, Defense Procurement, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Improved Accounting for Defense Contract Services" (DFARS Case 98-D312), received August 26, 1999; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5055. A communication from the Acting Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report of the Bureau of Justice for fiscal year 1999, to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-5056. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 13-132, "Closing of Public Alleys in Square 455, S.O. 98-194, Act of 1999"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-5057. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 13-124, "Moratorium on the Issuance of New Retailer's License Class B Amendment Act of 1999"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-5058. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 13-123, "Condominium Amendment Act of 1999"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-5059. A communication from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting a draft of proposed legislation relative to voluntary separation incentives for Federal agencies; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-5060. A communication from the Commissioner, Social Security Administration, transmitting a draft of proposed legislation entitled "Disability and Health Assistance for Immigrants Act of 1999"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5061. A communication from the Administrator, Small Business Administration, transmitting a draft of proposed legislation entitled "The U.S. Small Business Administration's 21st Century Workforce Act of 1999"; to the Committee on Small Business.

EC-5062. A communication from the Assistant to the Board, Federal Reserve Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Regulation DD; Truth in Savings" (Docket No. R-1003), received September 2, 1999; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5063. A communication from the Acting Deputy General Counsel, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a draft of proposed

legislation to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5064. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior, transmitting a draft of proposed legislation relative to medical expenses incurred by the U.S. Park Police and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-5065. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Employment Standards Administration, Wage and Hour Division, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Industries in American Samoa; Wage Order", received September 3, 1999; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5066. A communication from the Legal Counsel, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Sector Equal Employment Opportunity" (RIN3046-AA66), received September 2, 1999; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5067. A communication from the Secretary of Agriculture transmitting a draft of proposed legislation entitled "Elderly Nutrition Benefits Act of 1999"; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5068. A communication from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Office of Policy, Planning and Evaluation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Avermectin B1 and its delta-8,9-isomer; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL #6380-7), received September 2, 1999; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5069. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Regulatory Analysis and Development, Policy and Program Development, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Horses from Morocco; Change in Disease Status" (Docket No. 98-055-2), received September 2, 1999; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5070. A communication from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Marketing and Regulatory Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fresh Prunes Grown in Designated Counties in Washington and Umatilla County, Oregon; Increased Assessment Rate" (Docket No. FV99-924-1 FR), received September 2, 1999; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5071. A communication from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Marketing and Regulatory Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Milk in the New England and Other Marketing Areas; Order Amending the Orders" (DA-97-12), received September 2, 1999; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5072. A communication from the Administrator, Farm Service Agency, Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Interim Rule: Flood Compensation Program" (RIN0560-AF57), received September 2, 1999; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5073. A communication from the Administrator, Farm Service Agency, Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Interim Rule: Small Hog Operation Payment Pro-

gram" (RIN0560-AF70), received September 2, 1999; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5074. A communication from the Director, Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Agreement with the State of Ohio", received September 2, 1999; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5075. A communication from the Director, Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Changes to Requirements for Environmental Review of Nuclear Power Plant Operating Licenses (10 CFR Part 51)" (150-AG05), received September 2, 1999; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5076. A communication from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Office of Policy, Planning and Evaluation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of State Plans for Designated Facilities and Pollutants; Maryland; Control of Emissions from Existing Municipal Solid Waste Landfills" (FRL #6433-7), received September 2, 1999; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5077. A communication from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Office of Policy, Planning and Evaluation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Tennessee; Approval of Revisions to the Tennessee State Implementation Plan" (FRL #6433-4), received September 2, 1999; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5078. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Office of Migratory Bird Management, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Compliance and Determination that the States of Vermont and West Virginia Meet Federal Falconry Standards" (RIN1018-AE65), received September 2, 1999; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5079. A communication from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to activities of the Commercial Space Transportation Program for calendar year 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5080. A communication from the Assistant Bureau Chief, Management, International Bureau-Telecom, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "In the Matter of International Settlement Rates" (IB Docket No. 96-261) (FCC 99-124), received September 2, 1999; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5081. A communication from the Chairman, Surface Transportation Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Removal, Revision, and Redesignation of Miscellaneous Regulations" (STB-) to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

#### PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-309. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the Legislature of the State of California relative to Social Security; to the Committee on Finance.

## SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 15

Whereas, For 60 years social security has provided a stable platform of retirement, disability, and survivor annuity benefits to protect working Americans and their dependents; and

Whereas, The American and world economies continue to encounter periods of high uncertainty and volatility that make it as important as ever to preserve a basic and continuous safety net of protections guaranteed by our society's largest repository of risk, the federal government; and

Whereas, Social security affords protections to rich and poor alike. No citizen, no matter how well off today, can say that tomorrow's adversities will not create future dependency; and

Whereas, Average life expectancies are increasing greatly and people are commonly living into their 80's and 90's, making it more important than ever that each of us be fully protected by defined retirement benefits; and

Whereas, Medical scientists are daily discovering more creative ways to preserve the lives of the profoundly disabled, thus making it more important than ever that each of us be protected against the risks of our own dependency, against the risk of becoming a burden to relatives, and against the risk of succumbing to a disability unrelated to the duration of life; and

Whereas, The lives of wage earners and their spouses are seldom coterminous. One spouse often outlives the other by decades, making it crucial to preserve a secure base of protection for family members dependent on a wage earner who may die or become disabled; and

Whereas, The children of working Americans require protection against the untimely death or disability of their wage-earning parents, contingencies that are too often uncovered by working Americans and their employers; and

Whereas, The costs of administering social security are less than 1 percent of the benefits delivered; and

Whereas, The single purpose of social security is to provide a strong, simple, and efficient form of basic insurance against the adversities of old age, disability, and dependency; and

Whereas, Social security was founded on the sanctity of work and the preservation of family integrity in the face of death or disability; and

Whereas, Social security, in current form, reinforces family cohesiveness and enhances the value of work in our society; and

Whereas, Congress currently has proposals to shift a portion of social security contributions from insurance to personal investment accounts for each wage earner; and

Whereas, Social security, our largest and most fundamental insurance system, should not be splintered into individualized stock accounts. Social security cannot fulfill its protective function if it must also create and manage millions of small risk-bearing investments out of a stream of contributions intended as insurance. Private accounts cannot be substituted for social security without eroding basic protections for working families. For these protections to be strong, they must be insulated from economic uncertainty and be backed by the entity best capable of spreading risk, the American government; and

Whereas, The diversion of contributions to private investment accounts would dramatically increase financial shortfalls to the social security trust fund and require major reductions in the defined benefits upon which millions of Americans depend. To administer 150,000,000 separate investment accounts

would create an ever proliferating bureaucracy. The resulting expense and the cost of converting each account to an annuity upon retirement would consume much of the profit, or exacerbate the loss, realized by each participant; and

Whereas, It is an entirely different question whether part of the social security trust fund should be diversified into investments other than government bonds. For the fund to invest collectively in a broad selection of equities and private bonds may well increase returns over time and thus enhance the capacity of the fund to meet its obligations to pay benefits as presently defined. The central management for those investments would be a minor expense compared to the staggering cost of overseeing millions of splintered accounts. Central investment also preserves the spreading of risk across the entire spectrum of social security participants. Individualized accounts, by contrast, would create an array of winners and losers, thus converting part of our retirement system into a national lottery. Those who become disabled, those who must retire early, and dependents with the earliest and greatest need would receive the least in return. The system would be perversely contrary to basic principles of insurance and risk distribution; and

Whereas, Diverting social security contributions to private accounts is redundant to existing programs. Through amendments to the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, Congress has created a full menu of provisions by which working Americans and their employers may contribute by choice to tax-sheltered accounts that are open to the opportunities and exposed fully to the risks of our speculative and vigorous investment markets. One-half of American families are already covered by these recently created systems; now, therefore be it

*Resolved by the Senate of the State of California,* That the federal government is respectfully requested to take appropriate steps to encourage workers and their employers to save or invest for retirement to supplement the basic benefits of the Social Security Program, but not as a substitute for the core protections that are vital to American working families; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Majority Leader of the Senate, and each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States.

POM-310. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of California relative to Domestic Violence Awareness Month; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

## SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 7

Whereas, Home should be a place of warmth, unconditional love, tranquility, and security; however, for many Americans, home is tainted with violence and fear; and

Whereas, Domestic violence is much more than the occasional family dispute; and

Whereas, According to the United States Department of Health and Human Services, domestic violence is the single largest cause of injury to American women, affecting 6,000,000 women of all racial, cultural, and economic backgrounds; and

Whereas, According to data published by the California Department of Justice in 1996, 624 incidents of domestic violence were reported, on average, every day in California. According to the American Psychological Association, nearly one in three adult women are physically assaulted by a partner during adulthood; and

Whereas, According to the United States Department of Labor, 1,000,000 people are assaulted and injured every year as a result of workplace violence, 1,000 people are killed every year due to workplace violence, and 30 percent of battered women lose their jobs due to harassment at work by abusive husbands or boyfriends; and

Whereas, More than one-half of the number of women in need of shelter from an abusive environment may be turned away from a shelter due to lack of space; and

Whereas, Women are not the only targets of domestic violence; young children, elderly persons, and men are also victims in their own homes; and

Whereas, Emotional scars are often permanent; and

Whereas, A coalition of organizations has emerged to confront this crisis directly. Law enforcement agencies, domestic violence hotlines, battered women and children's shelters, health care providers, churches, and the volunteers that serve those entities are helping the effort to end domestic violence; and

Whereas, It is important to recognize the compassion and dedication of the individuals involved in that effort, applaud their commitment, and increase public understanding of this significant problem; and

Whereas, The first Day of Unity was celebrated in October 1981 and was sponsored by the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence for the purpose of uniting battered women's advocates across the nation in an effort to end domestic violence; and

Whereas, That one day has grown into a month of activities at all levels of government, aimed at creating awareness about the problem and presenting solutions; and

Whereas, The first Domestic Violence Awareness Month was proclaimed in October 1987; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly thereof concurring,* That the Legislature hereby proclaims the month of October 1999, as Domestic Violence Awareness Month; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the Secretary of the Senate transmit a copy of this resolution to the President of the United States, the Governor of the State of California, the Director of the United States Department of Health and Human Services, and to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States.

POM-311. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of California relative to Medicare; to the Committee on Finance.

## SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 1

Whereas, Many health maintenance organizations (HMOs) have thrown the Medicare system into a state of turmoil by withdrawing coverage of Medicare enrollees at the end of 1998; and

Whereas, Thousands of HMO patients in California are now in a state of panic and confusion regarding their future ability to access health care services, including pharmacy benefits, at a reasonable cost; and

Whereas, In California, 39 percent of Medicare enrollees, or approximately 1.5 million patients, are served by HMOs, more than double the national average; and

Whereas, In recent years, HMOs have aggressively and successfully recruited the elderly into their Medicare health plans with promises to provide more benefits than standard fee-for-service Medicare coverage, including allowances for prescription drugs, hearing aids, and eyeglasses; and

Whereas, Each year HMOs participating in the Medicare managed care program are required to notify the federal Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) whether

they will renew their contracts for the following year; and

Whereas, This year, numerous HMOs have notified HCFA that they will not renew their contracts for next year, or will reduce the areas that they currently serve, with these withdrawals and service area reductions adversely affecting more than 400,000 beneficiaries across the nation, and over 40,000 Medicare patients in California; and

Whereas, The Inspector General of the United States Department of Health and Human Services has discovered that HMOs have been receiving more than \$1 billion annually in overpayments from the Medicare Trust Fund, because HMOs are inflating administration costs dedicated to marketing, executive salaries and fringe benefits, legal fees, and other overhead costs; and

Whereas, The inspector general has recommended that these funds be recovered from HMOs and dedicated to providing Medicare beneficiaries with added health benefits, including prescription drugs; and

Whereas, Many Medicare patients not served by HMOs purchase Medicare supplemental insurance, also known as Medigap coverage, which fills in the gaps in Medicare coverage and offers patients the most flexibility in choosing doctors and hospitals, and premiums for Medigap insurance have increased, on average, 35 percent since 1994; and

Whereas, Under the federal Balanced Budget Act of 1997, seniors enrolled in a Medicare HMO that terminates its services are eligible to purchase specified Medigap insurance coverage, regardless of their health status, but the last day to take advantage of this guaranteed access is March 4, 1999; and

Whereas, Disabled individuals who qualify for Medicare, but are younger than 65 years of age, are not guaranteed access to Medigap coverage under a federal interpretation of federal law, and will need special assistance to secure health care services after they are abandoned by their HMOs; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate and Assembly of the State of California, jointly,* That the Legislature respectfully memorializes the Federal Government to take immediate and appropriate steps to ensure that persons abandoned by Medicare HMOs have access to other HMO or Medigap policies that cover prescription drugs and to establish stopgap measures to ensure that HMOs do not further restrict coverage areas or benefits until the larger issue of the Medicare HMO payment mechanism is further examined or refined; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the Legislature respectfully memorializes the Federal Government to rescind its determination that disabled persons under 65 years of age enrolled in HMOs do not have the same guaranteed rights to Medigap policies as all other Medicare enrollees; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the Legislature respectfully memorializes the President of the United States to issue an Executive order directing his administration to work closely and coordinate with California and other states to guide and assist Medicare enrollees who are abandoned by their HMOs to find new Medicare coverage, either in the form of another HMO that serves the abandoned region, or through Medigap coverage, until appropriate federal legislation is enacted to address permanently these types of dislocations that adversely affect Medicare patients; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the majority leader of the Senate, each Senator and Representative from

California in the Congress of the United States, and Secretary of Health and Human Services, and the Administrator of the Health Care Financing Administration.

POM-312. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of California relative to the U.S. Coast Guard Training Facility (TRACEN) Petaluma; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

SENTE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 3

Whereas, The United States Coast Guard is presently assessing its training structure for cost-effectiveness and is considering consolidating or closing one or two of its five training centers including the United States Coast Guard Training Center (TRACEN) Petaluma in the rural community of Two Rock, California; and

Whereas, TRACEN Petaluma is the only Coast Guard training facility on the west coast, while the Coast Guard maintains four other training centers on the eastern seaboard; and

Whereas, In the case of a prolonged national emergency, a Coast Guard training facility on the west coast has both logistic and strategic value to the service's two-ocean mission and to national security; and

Whereas, The mild California coastal climate makes it possible for TRACEN Petaluma to conduct outdoor exercises year round; and

Whereas, The Coast Guard has invested more than \$50 million in TRACEN Petaluma since its inception, including \$29 million to construct a state-of-the-art electronics and telecommunications training facility; and

Whereas, The rural community of Two Rock is dependent on TRACEN Petaluma for the continued existence of its neighborhood school and for fire and emergency services; and

Whereas, TRACEN Petaluma contributes \$24.9 million annually to the North Bay economy in an area that has been severely impacted by military base closings; and

Whereas, The closings of veterans hospitals in California have increased the dependence of retired military on the health services available at the TRACEN Petaluma medical facility; and

Whereas, TRACEN Petaluma also houses essential non-Coast Guard training activities for police, fire, and emergency personnel and rangers employed by local, state, and federal agencies operating throughout the region; and

Whereas, These entities have no other place to continue their training activities in the near future; and

Whereas, TRACEN Petaluma has a tradition of excellence recognized by the Coast Guard, a well-earned reputation for community involvement, and a legacy of environmental stewardship;

*Resolved by the Senate and Assembly of the State of California, jointly,* That the Legislature believes the continued operation of the United States Coast Guard Training Center (TRACEN) Petaluma is beneficial to the critical public safety and national security mission of the United States Coast Guard, and to the people and economy of California; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the Legislature respectfully memorializes the President and the Congress of the United States, and the United States Coast Guard to continue the operation of the United States Coast Guard Training Facility (TRACEN) Petaluma through increased utilization of its facilities and more efficient use of the Coast Guard's east coast facilities; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the

President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States, and to the United States Coast Guard.

POM-313. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of California relative to human rights; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 4

Whereas, The legacy of war in Afghanistan has had a devastating impact on the civilian population; and

Whereas, The warring factions in Afghanistan have routinely violated the rights of women and girls; and

Whereas, There has been a marked increase in human rights violations against women and girls since the Taliban militia seized the City of Kabul in September 1996; and

Whereas, Afghan women are now forbidden to work outside of the home. Prior to the Taliban takeover, women worked outside of the home in various professions; and

Whereas, Seventy percent of school teachers, 50 percent of civilian government workers, and 40 percent of doctors in Kabul were women; and

Whereas, Afghan girls and women are prohibited from attending schools and universities. Before the takeover, 50 percent of the students in Afghanistan were women; and

Whereas, Afghan women are forbidden from appearing outside the home unless accompanied by a close male relative; and

Whereas, Access to health care has been denied to the majority of Afghan women and girls. This is a result of prohibiting male doctors from examining women, prohibiting women doctors from practicing, and limiting the health facilities available to women; and

Whereas, Afghan women are required to be covered from head to toe in a shroud, with only a narrow mesh opening through which to see, when they leave their homes. Likewise, they are not allowed to wear shoes that make any noise when they walk; and

Whereas, Homes and other buildings in which Afghan women or girls might be present must have their windows painted so no female can be seen from outside; and

Whereas, Afghan women have been whipped, beaten, shot at, and, a times, killed for not adhering to these restrictions; and

Whereas, The Secretary of State of the United States, the United Nations, and the Physicians for Human Rights have reported that the Taliban's targeting of women and girls for discrimination and abuse has created a health and humanitarian disaster; and

Whereas, The International Red Cross and the United Nations estimate that more than 500,000 people in the City of Kabul, approximately two-thirds of the residents of that city, depend on international aid to survive; and

Whereas, Afghanistan recognizes international human rights conventions such as the Covenant on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, and the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, all of which espouse respect for basic human rights of all individuals without regard to race, religion, ethnicity, or gender; and

Whereas, Denying women and girls the right to education, employment, access to adequate health care, and direct access to humanitarian aid runs counter to international human rights conventions; and

Whereas, Peace and security in Afghanistan can only be realized with the full restoration for all human rights and fundamental freedom, the voluntary repatriation

of refugees to their homeland in safety and dignity, and the reconstruction of Afghanistan; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate and Assembly of the State of California, jointly,* That the Legislature of the State of California urges the President of the United States and Congress to take the necessary action to ensure the rights of women and girls in Afghanistan are not systematically violated, and urges a peaceful resolution to the situation in Afghanistan that restores the human rights of Afghan women and girls; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States, to the Secretary of State of the United States, to the President of the United States, and to the Secretary General of the United Nations.

POM-314. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of California relative to the main San Gabriel groundwater basin; to the Committee on Appropriations.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 8

Whereas, The Main San Gabriel Groundwater Basin is the principal source of drinking water for approximately 1.4 million people who live in southern California; and

Whereas, The economy of the San Gabriel Valley is dependent upon the availability of a safe, reliable source of water for the residents and businesses in the region; and

Whereas, The groundwater supply in the Main San Gabriel Groundwater Basin is contaminated by both volatile organic compounds and inorganic chemicals, including perchlorate, that can be dangerous to human health, and

Whereas, The presence of perchlorate contamination is directly associated with the production of solid rocket fuels and explosives related to the defense and national security of the United States of America; and

Whereas, The contaminated groundwater in the Main San Gabriel Groundwater Basin is now spreading toward Los Angeles County's Central Groundwater Basin; and

Whereas, The spreading of contaminated groundwater into the massive Central Groundwater Basin will adversely affect the drinking water of over half of Los Angeles County; and

Whereas, The health and economy of the entire southern California region may be devastated by the continued presence and possible spreading of contaminated groundwater; and

Whereas, Perchlorate contamination of drinking water is a serious health-related problem in other areas of the United States outside southern California; and

Whereas, The application of treatment technology in the Main San Gabriel Groundwater Basin may be used as a model for areas in the United States with similar contamination problems; and

Whereas, All stakeholders affected by the contaminated groundwater have joined together to support a comprehensive plan to treat the contaminated groundwater and reclaim the Main San Gabriel Groundwater Basin for the storage of a safe, reliable drinking water source; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate and Assembly of the State of California, jointly,* That the Legislature respectfully memorializes the President and Congress of the United States to enact legislation to make available necessary funds to implement groundwater remediation in the Main San Gabriel Groundwater Basin; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the

President and Vice President, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the majority leader of the Senate, and each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States.

POM-315. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of California relative to an Orange County commissary; to the Committee on Armed Services.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 9

Whereas, The federal military base realignment and closure (BRAC) process will lead to the closing of the United States Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) at El Toro, California, in June 1999, and the impending closure of its commissary in September 2000; and

Whereas, Over 1,000 active duty military personnel from all services will remain in the vicinity of MCAS at El Toro after the base closes; and

Whereas, Over 120,000 military retirees reside in the Orange County vicinity of MCAS at El Toro and are active customers of the commissary located there; and

Whereas, The active duty military personnel, members of the National Guard and reserves, and military retirees presently entitled to commissary privileges at MCAS at El Toro will suffer from a decreased quality of life and increased financial burdens if the commissary is closed; and

Whereas, The closure of the commissary will eliminate over 100 jobs; and

Whereas, The closest alternative commissaries are: March Air Force Base, Riverside, approximately 90 miles round-trip from El Toro; Camp Pendleton, United States Marine Corps, Oceanside, approximately 110 miles round-trip from El Toro; and Los Angeles Air Force Base, El Segundo, approximately 80 miles round-trip from El Toro; and

Whereas, These alternative locations pose a substantial hardship by requiring travel from one to two hours to use these facilities; and

Whereas, Four other bases in the State of California, March Air Force Base, Fort Ord, the Presidio of San Francisco, and McClellan Air Force Base, have been closed, but their exchange and commissary facilities have remained open; and

Whereas, United States Senators, Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein; United States Representatives, Christopher Cox, Gary Miller, Ed Royce, and Loretta Sanchez; State Senators, Joe Dunn, Ross Johnson, John Lewis, and Bill Morrow; Assembly Members, Dick Ackerman, Pat Bates, Scott Baugh, Marilyn Brewer, Bill Campbell, Lou Correa, and Ken Maddox; and the Orange County Board of Supervisors, as the Local Redevelopment Authority (LRA), whose members are Cynthia Coad, James Silva, Charles Smith, Todd Spitzer, and Thomas Wilson, all support the continued operation of the commissary after base closure and have so petitioned the United States Secretary of Defense; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate and Assembly of the State of California, jointly,* That the Legislature of the State of California respectfully requests the President and Congress of the United States, the Secretary of Defense, the Chairpersons of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Chief of Naval Operations, and the Marine Commandant to take immediate action to authorize the continued operation of a commissary in Orange County after the closure of the United States Marine Corps Air Station at El Toro; and be it further,

*Resolved,* That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, each Senator and

Representative from California in the Congress of the United States, the Secretary of Defense, the Chairperson of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Chief of Naval Operations, the Marine Commandant, and the Commissary Operating Board.

POM-316. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of California relative to the Older Americans Act of 1965; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 10

Whereas, the federal Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 3001 et seq.) expired in October 1995, although funding for its programs has been authorized since that date on an annual basis; and

Whereas, The congressional appropriations staff continue to stress the tight spending caps on discretionary programs imposed by the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 (Public Law 105-33); and

Whereas, A substantial number of seniors living in the State of California will be at risk if there are significant reductions in allocated funds for Older Americans Act programs; and

Whereas, Further delay in the reauthorization of the federal Older Americans Act of 1965 will erode the capacity of the act's various structures to deliver services to meet the needs of older Americans; and

Whereas, The federal Older Americans Act of 1965 should immediately be reauthorized to preserve the aging network's role in home- and community-based services, maintain the advocacy and consumer directed focus on the act, and give area agencies on aging increased flexibility in planning and delivering services to vulnerable older Americans; and

Whereas, the federal Older Americans Act of 1965 should be funded in the same manner in which the act has been funded for the past 33 years; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of California, jointly,* That the Legislature of the State of California respectfully memorializes the President and the Congress of the United States to enact legislation that would reauthorize the federal Older Americans Act of 1965 without further delay; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States.

POM-317. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of California relative to housing; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 12

Whereas, There are 240,000 people in California residing in federally assisted project-based Section 8 housing units. Forty-four percent of Section 8 residents are elderly, and the median income of Section 8 residents is \$9,300. Without Section 8 and comparable assistance, many of these households will become homeless; and

Whereas, The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has typically provided all capital and operating subsidies for public housing. In 1974 Congress created the new housing production program known as the Section 8 New Construction and Substantial Rehabilitation Program, under which HUD typically provided a 20-year commitment for rental subsidies that assured owners a specified level of rental income; and

Whereas, Property owners may convert their properties to market-based housing

when their Section 8 contracts expire with HUD. Dramatic rent increases occurring in a number of housing markets in this state have already inspired many property owners to opt out of Section 8 subsidies, thus eliminating vast resources for low-income housing and potentially increasing levels of homelessness throughout the state. In California, owners of approximately 10,500 formerly affordable HUD units have converted to market rate use in the past two years; and

Whereas, Every county in California has buildings with project-based Section 8 units, and will be severely affected by the loss of affordable units. The largest concentrations are in Los Angeles County, the San Francisco Bay Area, San Diego, and Sacramento; and

Whereas, Recent federal housing policy and budget decisions have led to uncertainty over the current federally assisted housing inventory in California. Those decisions will place increasing demands on the financial and administrative resources of the state to maintain that housing inventory; and

Whereas, The federal fiscal year 1999 budget provides insufficient funding to preserve most of the below market housing stock; and

Whereas, The federal fiscal year 2000 budget will need \$1.3 billion in additional budget authority to fund all contract extensions on current Section 8 projects. HUD's initiative to provide \$100 million to increase contract rents at below market properties was rejected by the Office of Management and Budget; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate and Assembly of the State of California, jointly,* That the Legislature of the State of California memorializes the President and Congress of the United States and the Department of Housing and Urban Development to establish policies and funding priorities that will ensure the preservation of the inventory of federally assisted housing in California; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States, and to the Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

POM-318. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of California relative to former military base property; to the Committee on Armed Services.

#### SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 13

Whereas, The President of the United States and the Secretary of Defense have announced that they will ask Congress for the authority to transfer former military base property to local communities at no cost if the local communities use the property for job-generating economic development; and

Whereas, These no-cost economic development conveyances would minimize time-consuming property appraisals and negotiations, thereby speeding property transfers and reuse of these properties, and reducing the Department of Defense's costs to maintain and operate excess property; and

Whereas, The Department of Defense is organizing a base-reuse "Red Team" to develop plans to implement the new economic development conveyances, with an emphasis on a rapid and smooth transition of property to productive reuse; and

Whereas, Proposed federal legislation would forgive lease payments for communities that have already entered into agreements with the Department of Defense, including communities in California; and

Whereas, This proposed legislation would benefit the State of California, which suf-

fered disproportionately, compared to other states, by base closures in 1988, 1991, 1993, and 1995; and

Whereas, California shouldered 60 percent of the net cuts in military personnel as a result of those base closures, despite the fact that the state had just 15 percent of military personnel before the cuts began; and

Whereas, California suffered the closure or realignment of 29 bases, losing more than 186,000 jobs and almost \$9.6 billion in economic activity; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate and Assembly of the State of California, jointly,* That the California Legislature respectfully memorializes Congress and the President of the United States to enact legislation to transfer former military base property to local communities at no cost if the local communities use the property for job-generating economic development, and to forgive lease payments for communities that have already entered into agreements with the Department of Defense; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States.

POM-319. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of California relative to Filipino veterans' benefits; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

#### SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 6

Whereas, The Philippine Islands became a United States possession in 1898 when they were ceded from Spain following the Spanish-American War and remained a possession of the United States until 1946; and

Whereas, In 1934, Congress passed Public Law 73-127, the Philippine Independence Act, that set a 10-year timetable for the eventual independence of the Philippines and in the interim established a Commonwealth of the Philippines with certain powers over its internal affairs; and

Whereas, The granting of full independence ultimately was delayed for two years until 1946 because of the Japanese occupation of the islands from 1942 to 1945; and

Whereas, During the interval between 1934 and the final independence in 1946, the United States retained certain sovereign powers over the Philippines, including the right, upon order of the President of the United States, to call into the service of the United States Armed Forces all military forces organized by the Commonwealth government; and

Whereas, President Roosevelt invoked this authority by Executive order of July 26, 1941, bringing the Philippine Commonwealth Army into the service of the United States Armed Forces of the Far East under the command of Lieutenant General Douglas MacArthur; and

Whereas, Two hundred thousand Filipino soldiers, driven by a sense of honor and dignity, battled under United States Command after 1941 to preserve our liberty; and

Whereas, Filipino gallantly served at Bataan and Corregidor, giving their toil, blood, and lives so as to provide the United States valuable time to rearm materiel and men to launch the counteroffensive in the Pacific war; and

Whereas, There are four groups of Filipino nationals who are entitled to all or some of the benefits to which United States veterans are entitled. These are:

(1) Filipinos who served in the regular components of the United States Armed Forces.

(2) Regular Philippine Scouts, called "Old Scouts," who enlisted in Filipino-manned

units of the United States Army prior to October 6, 1945.

(3) Special Philippine Scouts, called "New Scouts," who enlisted in the United States Armed Forces between October 6, 1945, and June 30, 1947, primarily to perform occupation duty in the Pacific following World War II.

(4) Members of the Philippine Commonwealth Army who on July 26, 1941, were called into the service of the United States Armed Forces. This group includes organized guerrilla resistance units that were recognized by the United States Army; and

Whereas, The first two groups, Filipinos who served in the regular components of the United States Army and Old Scouts, are considered United States veterans and are generally entitled to the full range of United States veterans' benefits; and

Whereas, The other two groups, New Scouts and members of the Philippine Commonwealth Army, are eligible for certain benefits, and some of these benefits are paid at lower than full rates. United States veterans' medical benefits for the four groups of Filipino veterans vary depending upon whether the person resides in the United States or the Philippines; and

Whereas, The Old Scouts were created in 1901 pursuant to the act of February 2, 1901, that authorized the President of the United States "to enlist natives [of the Philippines] . . . for service in the Army, to be organized as scouts . . . or as troops or companies, as authorized by this Act, for the regular Army"; and

Whereas, Prior to World War II, these troops assisted in the maintenance of domestic order in the Philippines and served as a combat-ready force to defend the Philippine Islands against foreign invasion; and

Whereas, During the war, they participated in the defense and retaking of the islands from Japanese occupation. The eligibility of Old Scouts for benefits based on military service in the United States Armed Forces, including veterans' benefits, has long been established; and

Whereas, The United States Department of Veterans Affairs operates a comprehensive program of veterans' benefits in the Republic of the Philippines, including the operation of a United States Department of Veterans Affairs office in Manila; and

Whereas, The United States Department of Veterans Affairs does not operate a program of this type in any other country; and

Whereas, The program in the Philippines evolved because the Philippines were a United States possession during the period 1898-1946, and many Filipinos have served in the United States Armed Forces, and because the preindependence Commonwealth Army of the Philippines was called into the service of the United States Armed Forces during World War II (1941-1945); and

Whereas, Our nation, however, has failed to meet the promise made to those Filipino soldiers who fought as American soldiers during World War II; and

Whereas, Many Filipino veterans have been discriminated against by the classification of their service as not being service rendered in the United States Armed Forces for purposes of benefits from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs; and

Whereas, All other nationals, even foreigners, who served in the United States Armed Forces have been recognized and granted full rights and benefits, but the Filipinos who actually were American nationals at that time were and are still denied recognition and singled out for exclusion, and this treatment is unfair and discriminatory; and

Whereas, On October 20, 1996, President Clinton issued a proclamation honoring the

nearly 100,000 Filipino veterans of World War II, soldiers of the Philippine Commonwealth Army, who fought as a component of the United States Armed Forces alongside Allied Forces for four long years to defend and reclaim the Philippine Islands, and thousands more who joined the United States Armed Forces after the war; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate and Assembly of the State of California, jointly,* That the Legislature of the State of California respectfully memorializes the President and Congress of the United States to take action necessary to honor our country's moral obligation to provide Filipino veterans with the military benefits that they deserve, including, but not limited to, holding related hearings, and acting favorably on legislation pertaining to granting full veterans' benefits to Filipino veterans of the United States Armed Forces; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States.

POM-320. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of California relative to the safe return of prisoners of war captured by Yugoslav armed forces in Macedonia; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

#### SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 11

Whereas, California stands behind our armed forces whenever soldiers are in harm's way in the name of freedom and liberty; and

Whereas, Many valiant Californians join the United States Armed Forces to uphold freedom and liberty throughout the world; and

Whereas, One such brave individual, Staff Sergeant Andrew A. Ramirez, exemplifies the best qualities of California's commitment to freedom and liberty; and

Whereas, Staff Sergeant Andrew A. Ramirez was taken prisoner by Yugoslav Armed Forces while he, Staff Sergeant Christopher Stone, and Specialist Steven Gonzales were on a peace mission in Macedonia; and

Whereas, Staff Sergeant Andrew A. Ramirez originates from East Los Angeles in the 24th Senate District; and

Whereas, Staff Sergeant Andrew A. Ramirez joined the United States Army in July 1992 and is a cavalry scout in B Troop of the Fourth Cavalry of the First Infantry Division who was stationed in Schweinfurt, Germany, prior to deployment in Macedonia; and

Whereas, Communities in California and especially East Los Angeles anxiously await the safe release of Staff Sergeant Andrew A. Ramirez, Staff Sergeant Christopher Stone, and Specialist Steven Gonzales captured by the Yugoslav Armed Forces; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate and Assembly of the State of California, jointly,* That the Legislature of the State of California commend Staff Sergeant Andrew A. Ramirez, Staff Sergeant Christopher Stone, and Specialist Steven Gonzales for courageously executing their duties as members of the United States Armed Forces; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the Legislature respectfully urges the President of the United States and the United States Congress to do all that is within their power to secure and expedite the safe return of Staff Sergeant Andrew A. Ramirez, Staff Sergeant Christopher Stone, and Specialist Steven Gonzales captured by the Yugoslav Armed Forces in Macedonia; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the

President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States.

POM-321. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Colorado relative to the Federal Unified Gift and Estate Tax; to the Committee on Finance.

#### SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 99-004

Whereas, The Federal Unified Gift and Estate Tax, or "Death Tax", generates a minimal amount of federal revenue, especially considering the high cost of collection and compliance and in fact has been shown to decrease federal revenues from what they might otherwise have been; and

Whereas, This federal Death Tax has been identified as destructive to job opportunity and expansion, especially to minority entrepreneurs and family farmers; and

Whereas, This federal Death Tax causes severe hardship to growing family businesses and family farming operations, often to the point of partial or complete forced liquidation; and

Whereas, Critical state and local leadership assets are unnecessarily destroyed and forever lost to the future detriment of their communities through relocation or liquidation; and

Whereas, Local and state schools, churches, and numerous charitable organizations would greatly benefit from the increased employment and continued family business leadership that would result from the repeal of the federal Death Tax; now, therefore,

*Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Sixty-second General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the House of Representatives concurring herein:*

That the Congress of the United States is hereby memorialized to immediately repeal the Federal Unified Gift and Estate Tax.

*Be It Further Resolved,* That copies of this Joint Memorial be sent to the President of the United States, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the President of the United States Senate, and each member of the Colorado congressional delegation.

POM-322. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Texas relative to McGregor Range, Fort Bliss, TX; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

#### HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 133

Whereas, Future military threats to the United States and its allies may come from technologically advanced rogue states that for the first time are armed with long-range missiles capable of delivering nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons to an increasingly wider range of countries; and

Whereas, The U.S. military strategy requires flexible and strong armed forces that are well-trained, well-equipped, and ready to defend our nation's interests against these devastating weapons of mass destruction; and

Whereas, Previous rounds of military base closures combined with the realignment of the Department of the Army force structure has established Fort Bliss as the Army's Air Defense Artillery Center of Excellence, thus making McGregor Range, which is a part of Fort Bliss, the nation's principal training facility for air defense systems; and

Whereas, McGregor Range is inextricably linked to the advanced missile defense testing network that includes Fort Bliss and the White Sands Missile Range, providing, verifying, and maintaining the highest level of missile defense testing for the Patriot, Avenger, Stinger, and other advanced missile defense systems; and

Whereas, The McGregor Range comprises more than half of the Fort Bliss installation

land area, and the range and its restricted airspace in conjunction with the White Sands Missile Range, is crucial to the development and testing of the Army Tactical Missile System and the Theater High Altitude Area Defense System; and

Whereas, The high quality and unique training capabilities of the McGregor Range allow the verification of our military readiness in air-to-ground combat, including the Army's only opportunity to test the Patriot missile in live fire, tactical scenarios, as well as execute the "Roving Sands" joint training exercises held annually at Fort Bliss; and

Whereas, The Military Lands Withdrawal Act of 1986 requires that the withdrawal from public use of all military land governed by the Army, including McGregor Range, must be terminated on November 6, 2001, unless such withdrawal is renewed by an Act of Congress; now, therefore be it

*Resolved,* That the 76th Legislature of the State of Texas hereby support the U.S. Congress in ensuring that the critical infrastructure for the U.S. military defense strategy be maintained through the renewal of the withdrawal from public use of the McGregor Range land beyond 2001, and, be it further

*Resolved,* That the Texas secretary of state forward official copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to the speaker of the house of representatives and the president of the senate of the United States Congress, and to all the members of the Texas delegation to the congress with the request that this resolution be officially entered into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD as a memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.

POM-323. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Texas relative to the Texas Gulf Coast; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

#### HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Whereas, One of Texas' richest and most diverse areas is that of the Gulf Coast; the Coastal Bend abounds with treasures for all, and every year thousands of visitors flock to its beaches and wetlands to enjoy the sun, fish the waters, appreciate its unique scenery and wildlife, and bolster their spirits simply by being near such awe-inspiring beauty; and

Whereas, In addition to \$7 billion per year generated by coastal tourism, the area is also home to half of the nation's petrochemical industry and over a quarter of its petroleum refining capacity; and

Whereas, Coastal tourism, the petrochemical and petroleum industries, a robust commercial and recreational fishing trade, and significant agricultural production make this region a vital economic and natural resource for both the state and the nation; and

Whereas, Like other coastal states located near offshore drilling activities, Texas provides workers, equipment, and ports of entry for oil and natural gas mined offshore; while these states derive numerous benefits from the offshore drilling industry, they also face great risks, such as coastline degradation and spill disasters, as well as the loss of non-renewable natural resources; and

Whereas, Although state and local authorities have worked diligently to conserve and protect coastal resources, securing the funds needed to maintain air and water quality and to ensure the existence of healthy wetlands and beaches and protection of wildlife is a constant challenge; and

Whereas, The federal Land and Water Conservation fund was established by Congress in 1964 and has been one of the most successful and far-reaching pieces of conservation and recreation legislation, using as its funding source the revenues from oil and gas activity on the Outer Continental Shelf; and

Whereas, The game and nongame wildlife resources of this state are a vital natural resource and provide enjoyment and other benefits for current and future generations; and

Whereas, The federal government has received more than \$120 billion in offshore drilling revenue during the past 43 years, only five percent of which has been allotted to the states; it is fair and just that Texas and other coastal states should receive a dedicated share of the revenue they help generate; and

Whereas, Several bills are currently before the United States Congress that would allocate a portion of federal offshore drilling royalties to coastal states and local communities for wildlife protection, conservation, and coastal impact projects; and

Whereas, States and local communities know best how to allocate resources to address their needs, and block grants will provide the best means for distributing funds; and

Whereas, These funds would help support the recipients' efforts to renew and maintain their beaches, wetlands, urban waterfronts, parks, public harbors and fishing piers, and other elements of coastal infrastructure that are vital to the quality of life and economic and environmental well-being of these states and local communities; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the 76th Legislature of the State of Texas hereby respectfully urge the Congress of the United States to pass legislation embodying these principles; and, be it further

*Resolved*, That the Texas secretary of state forward official copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to the speaker of the house of representatives and the president of the senate of the United States Congress, and to all the members of the Texas delegation to the congress with the request that this resolution be officially entered in the Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.

POM-324. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Texas relative to the Kerrville Veterans Administration Medical Center; to the Committee on Veteran's Affairs.

#### HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 112

Whereas, the Kerrville Veterans Administration Medical Center, which consistently ranks high among Texas-based veterans' hospitals, is a "veteran-friendly" facility offering the very best of medical care and an outstanding corps of affiliated physicians, nurses, and support personnel; and

Whereas, it is a valuable regional resource and a comfort to the many thousands of military retirees who have settled in the Texas Hill Country both for the allure of those environs and the close proximity in their older age to the expertise of highly qualified health practitioners; and

Whereas, the Kerrville institution has a long and successful history; begun in 1919, it opened its doors two years later after fundraising by the American Legion and appropriations from the 37th Legislature; the federal government bought the facility from the state in 1926, eventually to incorporate it within the Veterans Affairs Medical Center System; and

Whereas, over the last 10 years, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has spent almost \$20 million upgrading the center, installing the most modern equipment and enhancing its ability to treat and attend our veterans in a manner reciprocating their service in behalf of this nation; and

Whereas, absent a policy reversal, the center will be phased out for extended hospital care by May 1999, and will keep intensive care patients for only 24 hours before trans-

ferring them to another Department of Veterans Affairs medical center in San Antonio or, if that is full, to private hospitals in the Bexar County area; and

Whereas, given the investment in and improvements to the center in the past decade, these diminutions of service seem both a waste of money and federal resources and a creation of geographic inconvenience for veterans in Kerr County and surrounding communities;

Whereas, the continued vitality of the Kerrville Veterans Administration Medical Center as a first-class hospital is an issue of importance not only to the people of Kerrville and the Hill Country region but also to Texas generally because of its strategic role in meeting the health needs of the citizens of this state; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the 76th Legislature of the State of Texas hereby respectfully request the Congress of the United States to ensure the future of the Kerrville Veterans Administration Medical Center by providing that it be fully funded, staffed, and utilized, and by restoring and promoting the health rights and benefits of the Texas veterans who are its prospective patrons; and, be it further

*Resolved*, That the Texas secretary of state forward official copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to the speaker of the house of representatives and the president of the senate of the United States Congress, and to all the members of the Texas delegation to the congress with the request that this resolution be officially entered in the Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.

POM-325. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Texas relative to the Social Security Trust Fund; to the Committee on Finance.

#### HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 249

Whereas, by 2032, the federal Social Security Trust Fund will likely be unable to meet its obligations, and comprehensive reform is necessary to ensure its viability both for present and future beneficiaries; and

Whereas, legislation on the subject is anticipated in the 106th Congress, and with the Federal Government searching for avenues to restore solvency to the failing fund, attention has turned to the option of mandated coverage for newly hired employees of previously noncovered state and local governments; and

Whereas, such governments were initially excluded from Social Security participation when the system was established in 1935, as it was considered unconstitutional for the Federal Government to tax counterpart governments at the state and local levels; and

Whereas, consequently, Texas state and local governments established independent retirement plans to meet the needs of their employees, and local government participation in Social Security remains optional, although state employees are now covered by both Social Security and state retirement plans; and

Whereas, mandating coverage on newly hired employees of previously noncovered governments, according to the Social Security Advisory Council, would extend the solvency of the Social Security Trust Fund by a mere two years; and

Whereas, such mandated coverage would result in a tax increase of 6.2 percent each for local government employees and local government employers, for a combined tax increase of 12.4 percent; and

Whereas, there currently are over 562,000 noncovered public employees in Texas, including public school teachers and administrators, public safety officers, and large

numbers of city, county, and special district employees; and

Whereas, estimates prepared by the Texas Association of Public Employees Retirement Systems project a cost of at least \$6.87 billion to Texas local government employers, particularly school districts, and newly hired workers over the first 10 years of implementation; and

Whereas, city and county governments, in order to pay the new federal tax, might have no choice but to reduce services such as law enforcement, fire protection, libraries, public health, programs for senior citizens and the disabled, parks and recreation, and refuse collection and recycling; and

Whereas, school districts would experience a new source of pressure toward increasing property taxes, and local government retirement plans generally might need to be reduced due to the cost imposed by mandatory Social Security coverage; and

Whereas, the proposed new tax is a shift of a federal burden to local communities to solve a federal problem that our state and local governments had no hand in creating, and under which there would be no benefit paid to Texas workers for more than a generation; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the 76th Legislature of the State of Texas hereby memorialize the Congress of the United States and urge the President of the United States in the strongest possible terms to refrain from the inclusion of mandatory Social Security coverage for presently noncovered state and local government employees in any Social Security reform legislation; and, be it further

*Resolved*, That the Texas secretary of state forward official copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate of the United States Congress, and to all the members of the Texas delegation to the Congress with the request that this resolution be officially entered in the Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.

POM-326. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Texas relative to veteran's benefits; to the Committee on Appropriations.

#### HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 141

Whereas, military veterans who have served their country honorably and who were promised and earned health care and compensation and pension benefits from the federal government through the Department of Veterans Affairs are now in need of these benefits due to advancing age; and

Whereas, the proposed budget for the Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans Health Administration has for the fourth consecutive year proposed a straight-line budget for veterans health care that falls short of the needed funds to counter soaring medical care inflation and other costs associated with the aging veterans population; and

Whereas, the proposed budget calls for the elimination of nearly 8,000 full-time employees from veterans health care, which further threatens veterans health care service by placing a greater strain on patient services and further endangers the quality of care for the sick and disabled veterans of this nation; and

Whereas, the processing of claims for service-connected compensation and pension benefits by the Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans Benefits Administration has also suffered from inadequate budgets resulting in backlogs in claims processing ranging in the hundreds of thousands; and

Whereas, the substantial backlog of service-connected compensation and pension

claims by the Veterans Benefits Administration has been a serious and persistent problem resulting in extended waits for veterans and their families to receive decisions concerning application for needed benefits; and

Whereas, it is necessary to enact legislation to provide funding necessary to properly deliver earned health care and compensation and pension benefits to the aging veterans population of our nation; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the 76th Legislature of the State of Texas hereby respectfully urge the Congress of the United States to maintain its commitment to the veterans of America and their families by providing sufficient funding to the Department of Veterans Affairs to address the above concerns; and, be it further

*Resolved*, that the Texas secretary of state forward official copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, the president of the senate and speaker of the house of representatives of the United States Congress, and all members of the Texas delegation to the congress with the request that this resolution be officially entered in the Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.

POM-327. A resolution adopted by the Town Board of the Town of North Hempstead, New York relative to the proposed "Mandatory Gun Show Background Check Act"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

POM-328. A resolution adopted by the Council of the City of Cincinnati, Ohio relative to the Community Reinvestment Act; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

POM-329. A resolution adopted by the International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies relative to the Federal Fair Housing Act; to the Committee on Appropriations.

POM-330. A resolution adopted by the National Conference of Insurance Legislators relative to multiple employer welfare arrangements and association health plans; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

POM-331. A resolution adopted by the National Conference of Lieutenant Governors relative to the Visa Waiver Pilot Program; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

POM-332. A resolution adopted by the Pan Macedonian Association, Inc. relative to the "Macedonia" name issue; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

POM-333. A resolution adopted by the Pan Macedonian Association, Inc. relative to developments in the Balkans; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

POM-334. A petition from a citizen of the State of Minnesota relative to the human rights of Eritreans in Ethiopia; to the committee on Foreign Relations.

POM-335. A resolution adopted by the Council of the City of Naples, Florida relative to the Kosovo situation; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

POM-336. A resolution adopted by the Pacific Fishery Management Council relative to the recovery of wild Snake River salmon and steelhead; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

POM-337. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of California relative to federal transportation funds; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

#### ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 6

Whereas, the allocation of federal transportation funds was reformed under the federal Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (P.L. 105-178), commonly known as TEA-21, in a manner that greatly increases

the share of federal transportation dollars that states are eligible to receive; and

Whereas, the recent surge in the federal transportation fund, spurred by unexpected gas tax and car sales tax revenues, would mean that states would receive an additional eight hundred fifty-eight million dollars (\$858,000,000) above and beyond the amount of funds that was expected under last year's agreement; and

Whereas, California's share of that transportation fund surplus would be one hundred twenty-one million dollars (\$121,000,000) in additional funds under the TEA-21 formulas, which funds could be used for much needed transportation projects; and

Whereas, the United States Department of Transportation has proposed diverting the eight hundred fifty-eight million dollar surplus to federal programs; and

Whereas, State and local governments are best qualified to evaluate the specific transportation needs of their state local area; and

Whereas, the additional federal transportation funds could be used for projects such as road construction, reduction of traffic congestion, and air quality improvements; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Assembly and Senate of the State of California, jointly*, That the Legislature urges the Congress and the President of the United States to use the framework established under the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century when allocating federal transportation funds to California; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States.

POM-338. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of California relative to women in sports; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

#### ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 20

Whereas, when the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) was formed in 1914, girls' physical education did not include interscholastic sports teams; and

Whereas, in 1964, the CIF Federated Council adopted a set of bylaws for girls' interscholastic sports that stated that schools and school districts may organize girls' sports teams; and

Whereas, by the 1967-68 school year, almost half of California's secondary schools conducted CIF girls' interscholastic athletic program of some degree; and

Whereas, in 1972, the United States Congress enacted Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; and

Whereas, title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (hereafter "Title IX") states, in part, as follows: "No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance . . ."; and

Whereas, prior to the enactment of Title IX, many schools refused to admit girls and women to, or imposed strict limits on their participation in, a wide range of sports; and

Whereas, since the enactment of Title IX, the participation and interest of girls and women in sports has soared. Only 300,000 girls participated in California high school sports prior to Title IX; today the number is in excess of 2.37 million; and

Whereas, title IX governs overall equity of opportunity in athletics, including areas such as equipment and supplies, travel, support services, and scholarships; and

Whereas, scholarship opportunities are an important way that educational institutions meet the needs and interests of student athletics; and

*Resolved*, That the CIF and California high schools and colleges are to be commended for the progress made already, and to encourage further efforts by all to meet the challenge of equality in sports and the greatest fulfillment of the hopes and dreams of girls and women in our school; and be it further

*Resolved*, That programs and projects that emphasize girls' and women's confidence building through fitness and physical challenges in sports and outdoor adventure, such as the Women's Sports Foundation, Girl Teams Adventure Training, Okinawan Karate, and the 50's Plus Fitness Association, be commended for their positive impact in carrying forward the fitness message for girls and women; and be it further

*Resolved*, That parents, families, businesses, women athletes who serve as positive role models, and all others who have contributed to girls' and women's leadership and team player skills through sports and fitness activities are to be commended; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the Legislature of the State of California, on June 23, 1999, commemorates the 27th Anniversary of Title IX, commends the movement toward increased equality and fair treatment of female athletes, and praises the goals of greater opportunities in sports for girls and young women in California; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States.

POM-339. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of California relative to poisonous and noxious weeds; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

#### ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 4

Whereas, poisonous and noxious weeds are spreading throughout the State of California due to the use of straw for soil-erosion control and road construction by California agencies, such as the Department of Transportation (CALTRANS), the Department of Fish and Game, and the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, by federal agencies, such as the United States Forest Service and the United States Bureau of Land Management, and by other federal, state, and county agencies; and

Whereas, the grazing capacity of animals, wildlife habitat, and native plant species is being destroyed through the use of straw for these purposes; and

Whereas, it is in the best interest of the state for these agencies to use materials that are not detrimental to our wildlife, domestic animals, and plant species; and

Whereas, California-grown rice straw is produced in an aquatic environment and cannot coexist with the yellow star thistle and other terrestrial noxious weeds of concern; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Assembly and Senate of the State of California, jointly*, That the Legislature of the State of California respectfully memorializes all government agencies, particularly the United States Forest Service, the United States Bureau of Land Management, CALTRANS, the Department of Fish and Game, and the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, to abstain from using nonnative plant material and encourage the use of weed-free straw or California-grown rice straw in any of their programs within California; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States, the United States Forest Service, and the United States Bureau of Land Management, and to the Director of Transportation, the Director of Fish and Game, and the Director of Forestry and Fire Protection.

POM-340. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of California relative to cold storms in California; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Whereas, the cold storms and consequent frost damage that occurred in this state during December 1998 have affected virtually every geographic area of the state; and

Whereas, small businesses and farming entities have suffered actual physical damage and significant economic losses; and

Whereas, the residents of this state have suffered substantial losses as a result of the cold storms and frost damage and have financial and practical needs equal to or greater than other areas that have been declared as federal natural disaster areas; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Assembly and Senate of the State of California, jointly*, That the legislature of the State of California hereby respectfully memorializes the President of the United States to declare the affected portions of California as a federal natural disaster areas as a result of the cold storms and consequent frost damage that occurred in December 1998; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the President and the Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES SUBMITTED DURING RECESS

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of August 5, 1999, the following reports of committees were submitted on August 27, 1999:

By Mr. THOMPSON, from the Committee on Governmental Affairs, without amendment:

H.R. 457: A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to increase the amount of leave time available to a Federal employee in any year in connection with serving as an organ donor, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 106-143).

By Mr. CAMPBELL, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 28: A bill to authorize an interpretive center and related visitor facilities within the Four Corners Monument Tribal Park, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 106-144).

S. 400: A bill to provide technical corrections to the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996, to improve the delivery of housing assistance to Indian tribes in a manner that recognizes the right of tribal self-governance, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 106-145).

By Mr. BOND, from the Committee on Small Business, with amendments:

S. 1346: A bill to ensure the independence and nonpartisan operation of the office of Advocacy of the Small Business Administration (Rept. No. 106-146).

By Mr. BOND, from the Committee on Small Business:

Special Report entitled "Summary of Legislative and Oversight Activities During the 105th Congress" (Rept. No. 106-147).

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. CAMPBELL, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, with an amendment:

S. 299. A bill to elevate the position of Director of the Indian Health Service within the Department of Health and Human Services to Assistant Secretary for Indian Health, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 106-148).

By Mr. CAMPBELL, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 401. A bill to provide for business development and trade promotion for native Americans, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 106-149).

S. 613. A bill to encourage Indian economic development, to provide for the disclosure of Indian tribal sovereign immunity in contracts involving Indian tribes, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 106-150).

S. 614. A bill to provide for regulatory reform in order to encourage investment, business, and economic development with respect to activities conducted on Indian lands (Rept. No. 106-151).

S. 406. A bill to amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to make permanent the demonstration program that allows for direct billing of medicare, medicaid, and other third party payors, and to expand the eligibility under such program to other tribes and tribal organizations (Rept. No. 106-152).

By Mr. BOND, from the Committee on Small Business, with amendments:

S. 1156. A bill to amend provisions of law enacted by the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996 to ensure full analysis of potential impacts on small entities of rules proposed by certain agencies, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 106-153).

#### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second time by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. COVERDELL (for himself and Mr. CLELAND):

S. 1566. A bill to direct the Administrator of General Services to convey certain land to the United States Postal Service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

S. 1567. A bill to designate the United States courthouse located at 223 Broad Street in Albany, Georgia, as the "C.B. King United States Courthouse"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. FEINGOLD (for himself, Mr. REED, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. WELLSTONE, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. KOHL, Mr. KERRY, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mr. TORRICELLI):

S. 1568. A bill imposing an immediate suspension of assistance to the Government of Indonesia until the results of the August 30, 1999, vote in East Timor have implemented, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. KERRY (for himself and Mr. KENNEDY):

S. 1569. A bill to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate segments of the Taunton River in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for study for potential addition to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. LUGAR:

S. 1570. A bill to amend the National School Lunch Act and the Child Nutrition

Act of 1966 to promote identification of children eligible for benefits under, and enrollment of children in, the medicaid and State Children's Health Insurance programs; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. LOTT (for himself and Mr. COVERDELL):

S.J. Res. 33. A joint resolution deploring the actions of President Clinton regarding granting clemency to FALN terrorists; read the first time.

#### SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. BIDEN:

S. Res. 179. A resolution designating October 15, 1999, as "National Mammography Day"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BAUCUS:

S. Con. Res. 55. A concurrent resolution establishing objectives for the next round of multilateral trade negotiations; to the Committee on Finance.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. COVERDELL (for himself and Mr. CLELAND):

S. 1566. A bill to direct the Administrator of General Services to convey certain land to the United States Postal Service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

#### THE ST. SIMONS LIGHTHOUSE PRESERVATION ACT

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce legislation that guarantees the future of a great historic treasure in my state. For nearly 200 years, the lighthouse at St. Simons Island, Georgia, stood as a sentinel at the head of St. Simons Sound and guided ships safely through dangerous waters and into the port of nearby Brunswick. Although it is no longer used for this purpose, the lighthouse remains an integral part of the St. Simons Island community and is part of the rich heritage of this region. Unfortunately, events could soon take place which could do irrevocable harm to this site.

In 1961, the United States Postal Service (USPS) leased part of the lighthouse property and built a small post office for the community, which is no longer used by the USPS. The lease was signed between the USPS and a private citizen, who owned the property at the time. This agreement, which expires in 2011, gives the USPS seven options to purchase the land outright at a significant discount, with the next purchase option being in 2001.

Since the lease was signed, many things have changed. In 1984, the title to the lighthouse property was transferred to the Coastal Georgia Historical Society, an organization dedicated