

There being no objection, the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2003

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Veterans Benefits and Pensions Protection Act of 2002".

SEC. 2. APPLICABILITY OF PROHIBITION ON ASSIGNMENT OF VETERANS BENEFITS TO AGREEMENTS ON FUTURE RECEIPT OF CERTAIN BENEFITS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 5301(a) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by inserting "(1)" after "(a)";

(2) by designating the last sentence as paragraph (2) and indenting such paragraph, as so designated, two ems from the left margin; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(3)(A) For purposes of this subsection, in any case where a beneficiary entitled to compensation, pension, or dependency and indemnity compensation enters into an agreement with another person under which agreement such other person acquires for consideration the right to receive payment of such compensation, pension, or dependency and indemnity compensation, as the case may be, whether by payment from the beneficiary to such other person, deposit into an account from which such other person may make withdrawals, or otherwise, such agreement shall be deemed to be an assignment and is prohibited.

"(B) Any agreement or arrangement for collateral for security for an agreement that is prohibited under subparagraph (A) is also prohibited.

"(C)(i) Any person who enters into an agreement that is prohibited under subparagraph (A), or an agreement or arrangement that is prohibited under subparagraph (B), shall be fined under title 18, imprisoned for not more than one year, or both.

"(ii) This subparagraph does not apply to a beneficiary with respect to compensation, pension, or disability and indemnity compensation to which the beneficiary is entitled under a law administered by the Secretary."

(b) EFFECTIVE DATES.—(1) Subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (3) of section 5301(a) of title 38, United States Code (as added by subsection (a) of this section), shall apply with respect to any agreement or arrangement described in such subparagraphs, whether entered into before, on, or after the date of the enactment of this Act, and any such agreement or arrangement entered into before the date of the enactment of this Act is void and unenforceable as of such date.

(2) Subparagraph (C) of such paragraph shall apply with respect to any agreement or arrangement covered by such subparagraph that is entered into on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) OUTREACH.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall, during the five-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, carry out a program of outreach to inform veterans and other recipients or potential recipients of compensation, pension, or disability and indemnity compensation benefits under the laws administered by the Secretary of the prohibition on the assignability of such benefits under law. The program shall include information on various schemes to evade the prohibition, and means of avoiding such schemes.

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is hereby authorized to be appropriated for the Department of Veterans Af-

fairs for each of fiscal years 2003 through 2007, \$3,000,000 for purposes of carrying out the program of outreach required by subsection (c).

STATEMENTS ON SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 222—COMMENDING AND SUPPORTING THE TROOPS

Mr. DASCHLE (for himself and Mr. LOTT) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to.

S. RES. 222

Whereas, Al Qaeda, which attacked the United States on September 11 and killed thousands of people, remains a threat to the national security of the United States;

Whereas, the servicemen and women of the United States, who have undertaken more than twenty weeks of courageous and successful operations, are currently engaged in the largest ground combat operation in Afghanistan since the October 7, 2001 start of U.S. and allied military efforts;

Whereas, United States military personnel face tremendous risks in Afghanistan, as evidenced by the fierce attacks that killed at least 8 American servicemen and injured more than 30 American servicemen during the conduct of Operation Anaconda;

Whereas, we are engaged in an unprecedented global conflict, one that presents many new and dangerous challenges to the men and women of the Armed Forces;

Whereas, the Senate has supported all of the President's requests to meet this deadly new threat to world peace;

Whereas, this conflict will require our unflinching resolve, and the first priority of the Congress is to provide our soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines with the necessary resources and tools required for victory;

Whereas, the United States remains steadfastly determined to bring to justice the perpetrators of the September 11 attacks against America.

Now, therefore, be it
Resolved by the Senate, That

(1) The Senate expresses the gratitude of the Nation to:

(A) The United States Armed Forces who are participating in Operation Enduring Freedom.

(B) The families of American service men and women participating in Operation Enduring Freedom, who have borne the burden of separation from their loved ones, and staunchly supported them during this effort.

(2) The Senate expresses its condolences to the families of the brave American service personnel who have lost their lives defending America in the war against terrorism.

(3) The Senate reaffirms that it stands united with the President in the ongoing effort to defeat terrorism.

SENATE RESOLUTION 223—DESIGNATING MARCH 8, 2002, AS "INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY"

Mr. BIDEN (for himself, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. DODD, Mrs. CLINTON, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARPER, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. LANDRIEU, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. KOHL, Mr. HATCH, Mr. BREAUX, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. WELLSTONE, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. SNOWE, Mrs. FEINSTEIN,

Mr. SMITH of Oregon, Mr. BAYH, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mrs. CARNAHAN, Mr. LEVIN, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MURKOWSKI, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. KERRY, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. BURNS, and Mr. BINGAMAN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to.

S. RES. 223

Whereas all over the world women are contributing to the growth of economies, participating in the world of diplomacy and politics, and improving the quality of the lives of their families, communities, and nations;

Whereas discrimination continues to deny women full political and economic equality and is often the basis for violations of women's basic human rights;

Whereas worldwide the lives and health of women and girls continue to be endangered by violence that is directed at them simply because they are women;

Whereas worldwide violence against women includes rape, genital mutilation, sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, honor killings, sexual trafficking in women, dowry-related violence, female infanticide, sex selection abortion, forced pregnancy, forced sterilization and forced abortion;

Whereas worldwide at least 1 in 3 females has been beaten or sexually abused in her lifetime;

Whereas 1 in 6 women in the United States has experienced an attempted or completed sexual assault;

Whereas somewhere in the United States, a woman is battered, usually by her intimate partner, every 15 seconds;

Whereas somewhere in the United States, a woman is raped every 90 seconds;

Whereas it is estimated that 1 in 5 adolescent girls in the United States becomes a victim of physical or sexual abuse, or both, in a dating relationship;

Whereas only 17 countries consider marital rape to be a criminal offense;

Whereas worldwide, women account for almost half of all cases of HIV/AIDS, approximately 32,400,000, and in countries with high HIV prevalence, young women are at a higher risk than young men of contracting HIV;

Whereas worldwide sexual violence, including marital rape, has been denounced as a major cause of the rapid spread of HIV/AIDS among women;

Whereas ⅓ of the world's 876,000,000 individuals who are illiterate are women;

Whereas of the 125,000,000 school-aged children not in school all over the world, ⅔ are girls;

Whereas worldwide girls are less likely to complete school than boys;

Whereas in the United States, in the 3 decades since 1971, the educational attainment rates of females has increased faster than those of males, and by the year 2000, not only did females have higher rates of completing high school and some college, but there were no differences in the percentages of males and females with a bachelor's degree or higher;

Whereas it is estimated that women and their children make up more than 70 percent of the 1,300,000,000 poorest people in the world;

Whereas worldwide, women remain vastly underrepresented in national and local assemblies, accounting for less than 10 percent of the seats in parliament, on average (except for East Asia where the figure is approximately 18 to 19 percent), and in no developing region do women hold more than 8 percent of the ministerial positions;