

Whereas, during his service as Governor of Minnesota, Orville L. Freeman increased State funding for education, improved health and rehabilitation programs, expanded conservation efforts, and achieved many other successes that improved his State and the lives of its citizens;

Whereas Orville L. Freeman served as the Secretary of Agriculture in the administrations of President John F. Kennedy and President Lyndon B. Johnson, during which service he initiated global food assistance programs and developed the domestic food stamp and school breakfast programs;

Whereas, in addition to his outstanding public service, Orville L. Freeman was also a successful international lawyer and business executive;

Whereas Orville L. Freeman was a devoted husband to his wife, Jane, for 62 years, a loving father to two exceptional children, Constance and Michael, and a proud grandfather to three talented grandchildren, Elizabeth, Kathryn, and Matthew; and

Whereas Orville L. Freeman led a life that was remarkable for its breadth of pursuits, multitude of accomplishments, standards of excellence, dedication to public service, and important contributions to the improvement of his country and the lives of his fellow citizens: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the United States Senate—

(1) pays tribute to the outstanding career and devoted work of the great Minnesota and national leader, Orville L. Freeman;

(2) expresses its deepest condolences to the family of Orville L. Freeman on his death; and

(3) directs the Secretary of the Senate to transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the family of Orville L. Freeman.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 20—PERMITTING THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE SENATE TO DESIGNATE ANOTHER MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE TO SERVE ON THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON PRINTING IN PLACE OF THE CHAIRMAN

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

S. CON. RES. 20

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That effective for the One Hundred Eighth Congress, the Chairman of the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate may designate another member of the Committee to serve on the Joint Committee on Printing in place of the Chairman.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 21—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE CONGRESS THAT COMMUNITY INCLUSION AND ENHANCED LIVES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH MENTAL RETARDATION OR OTHER DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES IS AT SERIOUS RISK BECAUSE OF THE CRISIS IN RECRUITING AND RETAINING DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS, WHICH IMPEDES THE AVAILABILITY OF A STABLE, QUALITY DIRECT SUPPORT WORKFORCE.

Mr. BUNNING (for himself and Mrs. LINCOLN) submitted the following con-

current resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. CON. RES. 21

Whereas there are more than 8,000,000 Americans who have mental retardation or other developmental disabilities;

Whereas individuals with developmental disabilities include those with mental retardation, autism, cerebral palsy, Down syndrome, epilepsy, and other related conditions;

Whereas individuals with mental retardation or other developmental disabilities have substantial limitations on their functional capacities, including limitations in two or more of the areas of self-care, receptive and expressive language, learning, mobility, self-direction, independent living, and economic self-sufficiency, as well as the continuous need for individually planned and coordinated services;

Whereas for the past two decades individuals with mental retardation or other developmental disabilities and their families have increasingly expressed their desire to live and work in their communities, joining the mainstream of American life;

Whereas the Supreme Court, in its *Olmstead* decision, affirmed the right of individuals with mental retardation or other developmental disabilities to receive community-based services as an alternative to institutional care;

Whereas the demand for community supports and services is rapidly growing, as States comply with the *Olmstead* decision and continue to move more individuals from institutions into the community;

Whereas the demand will also continue to grow as family caregivers age, individuals with mental retardation or other developmental disabilities live longer, waiting lists grow, and services expand;

Whereas our Nation's long-term care delivery system is dependent upon a disparate array of public and private funding sources, and is not a conventional industry, but rather is financed primarily through third-party insurers;

Whereas Medicaid financing of supports and services to individuals with mental retardation or other developmental disabilities varies considerably from State to State, causing significant disparities across geographic regions, among differing groups of consumers, and between community and institutional supports;

Whereas outside of families, private providers that employ direct support professionals deliver the majority of supports and services for individuals with mental retardation or other developmental disabilities in the community;

Whereas direct support professionals provide a wide range of supportive services to individuals with mental retardation or other developmental disabilities on a day-to-day basis, including habilitation, health needs, personal care and hygiene, employment, transportation, recreation, and housekeeping and other home management-related supports and services so that these individuals can live and work in their communities;

Whereas direct support professionals generally assist individuals with mental retardation or other developmental disabilities to lead a self-directed family, community, and social life;

Whereas private providers and the individuals for whom they provide supports and services are in jeopardy as a result of the growing crisis in recruiting and retaining a direct support workforce;

Whereas providers of supports and services to individuals with mental retardation or other developmental disabilities typically

draw from a labor market that competes with other entry-level jobs that provide less physically and emotionally demanding work, and higher pay and other benefits, and therefore these direct support jobs are not currently competitive in today's labor market;

Whereas annual turnover rates of direct support workers range from 40 to 75 percent;

Whereas high rates of employee vacancies and turnover threaten the ability of providers to achieve their core mission, which is the provision of safe and high-quality supports to individuals with mental retardation or other developmental disabilities;

Whereas direct support staff turnover is emotionally difficult for the individuals being served;

Whereas many parents are becoming increasingly afraid that there will be no one available to take care of their sons and daughters with mental retardation or other developmental disabilities who are living in the community; and

Whereas this workforce shortage is the most significant barrier to implementing the *Olmstead* decision and undermines the expansion of community integration as called for by President Bush's New Freedom Initiative, placing the community support infrastructure at risk: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring),

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This resolution may be cited as the "Direct Support Professional Recognition Resolution".

SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING SERVICES OF DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS TO INDIVIDUALS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES.

It is the sense of the Congress that the Federal Government and the States should make it a priority to ensure a stable, quality direct support workforce for individuals with mental retardation or other developmental disabilities that advances our Nation's commitment to community integration for such individuals and to personal security for them and their families.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 22—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE CONGRESS REGARDING HOUSING AFFORDABILITY AND URGING FAIR AND EXPEDITIOUS REVIEW BY INTERNATIONAL TRADE TRIBUNALS TO ENSURE A COMPETITIVE NORTH AMERICAN MARKET FOR SOFTWOOD LUMBER

Mr. NICKLES (for himself, Mr. BAYH, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. FITZGERALD, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. KYL, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. REED, and Mr. ROBERTS) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Finance.

S. CON. RES. 22

Whereas the United States and Canada have, since 1989, worked to eliminate tariff and nontariff barriers to trade;

Whereas free trade has greatly benefitted the United States and Canadian economies;

Whereas the U.S. International Trade Commission only found the potential for a Threat of Injury (as opposed to actual injury) to domestic lumber producers but the Department of Commerce imposed a 27 percent duty on U.S. lumber consumers;

Whereas trade restrictions on Canadian lumber exported to the U.S. market have been an exception to the general rule of bilateral free trade;

Whereas the legitimate interests of consumers are often overlooked in trade disputes;

Whereas the availability of affordable housing is important to American home buyers and the need for the availability of such housing, particularly in metropolitan cities across America, is growing faster than it can be met;

Whereas imposition of special duties on U.S. consumers of softwood lumber, essential for construction of on-site and manufactured homes, jeopardizes housing affordability;

Whereas the United States has agreed to abide by dispute settlement procedures in the World Trade Organization and the North American Free Trade Agreement, providing for international review of national remedy actions; and,

Whereas the World Trade Organization and North American Free Trade Agreement dispute panels are reviewing findings by the ITC: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), that it is the sense of the Congress that—

(1) The Department of Commerce and U.S. Trade Representative should work to assure that no delays occur in resolving the current disputes before the NAFTA and WTO panels, supporting a fair and expeditious review;

(2) U.S. anti-dumping and countervail law is a rules-based system that should proceed to conclusion in WTO and NAFTA trade panels;

(3) The President should continue discussions with the Government of Canada to promote open trade between the United States and Canada on softwood lumber free of trade restraints that harm consumers;

(4) The President should consult with all stakeholders, including consumers of lumber products in future discussions regarding any terms of trade in softwood lumber between the United States and Canada.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS/MEETINGS

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I wish to announce that the Committee on Rules and Administration will meet at 9:30 a.m., Wednesday, March 19, 2003, in room SR 301, Russell Senate Office Building, to conduct an oversight hearing on the operations of the Secretary of the Senate and the Architect of the Capitol.

For further information concerning this meeting, please contact Susan Wells at 202-224-6352.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 13, 2003, at 9:30 a.m., in open and possibly closed session, to receive testimony from unified and regional commanders on their military strategy and operational requirements, in review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2004 and the future years Defense program.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Com-

mittee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 13, 2003, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on "The Administration's Proposed Fiscal Year 2004 Budget for the Federal Transit Administration."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet on Thursday, March 13, 2003, at 9:30 a.m., in SR-253, for an executive session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, on Thursday, March 13 at 10 a.m., to receive testimony on gaining an understanding of the impacts of last year's fires and then looking forward to the potential 2003 fire season.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, on Thursday, March 13, at 2:30 p.m., is to conduct oversight on the designation and management of national heritage areas, including criteria and procedures for designating heritage areas, the potential impact of heritage areas on private lands and communities, Federal and non-Federal costs of managing heritage areas, and methods of monitoring and measuring the success of heritage areas.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 13, 2003, at 2 p.m., to hold a members briefing on Iraq's political future.

Briefer: The Honorable William Burns, Assistant Secretary for Middle East, Department of State, Washington, DC.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet to conduct a hearing entitled "Setting the Record Straight: The Nomination of Justice Priscilla Owen" on Thursday, March 13, 2003, at 10 a.m., in the Dirksen Senate Office Building, room 106.

Witness list

Panel I: The Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchison and The Honorable John Cornyn.

Panel II: Priscilla Richmond Owen to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 13, 2003, for a joint hearing with the House of Representatives' Committee on Veterans' Affairs, to hear the legislative presentations of the Retired Enlisted Association, Gold Star Wives of America, the Fleet Reserve Association, and the Air Force Sergeants Association.

The hearing will take place in room 345 of the Cannon House Office Building at 10 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 13, 2003, at 2:30 p.m., to hold a closed hearing.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CLEAN AIR, CLIMATE CHANGE, AND NUCLEAR SAFETY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Clean Air, Climate Change, and Nuclear Safety be authorized to meet on Thursday, March 13, at 9:30 a.m. to conduct an oversight hearing on the implementation of the CMAQ and Conformity programs. This meeting will be held in SD 406.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON READINESS AND MANAGEMENT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support of the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session on the Senate on Thursday, March 13, 2003, at 2 p.m., in open session to receive testimony on the impacts of environmental laws on readiness and the related administration legislative proposal in review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2004.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Bruce Artim and Dr. Mark Carlson from Senator HATCH's staff be granted floor privileges for the remainder of the session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.