

janjaweed rapists but also among refugees in camps in neighboring Chad. It is equally reasonable to posit that some other previously obscure sexually transmitted disease could be amplified to epidemic proportions via the bodies of the women of Darfur.

And there is yet another chapter in the region's disease history that has a bearing on what's happening in Darfur. Ten years ago, the world stood by as hundreds of thousands were murdered in Rwanda and thousands more died in the refugee camps. Initially, overwhelmed local medical workers believed that the disease causing many of the deaths was cholera. But it wasn't chiefly cholera that ravaged the refugee camps; it was shigella, bacteria that cause dysentery. Amid the ongoing violence and the chaos of the camps, black market antibiotics were taken indiscriminately. Instead of curing the bacteria, the uncontrolled use of antibiotics created a brand new fully drug-resistant strain that still plagues Africa.

Surely it is in our collective interest, in light of this sorry history, to pay heed to those who implore us to save Darfur, to stop the rape, to resettle the refugees, to end the chaos that breeds disease. Even if we cannot find Sudan on a map or have no room left in our hearts to bear witness to another war, we surely understand that deadly microbes are our problem, as well as theirs.

IN SUPPORT OF S. 2420

Mr. GRAHAM of Florida. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following letters in relation to the May 13, 2004 introduction of the SCHIP Expansion Act, S. 2420, be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the Record, as follows:

CHILDREN'S DEFENSE FUND,
Washington, DC, May 13, 2004.

The Hon. BOB GRAHAM,
Senate Hart Office Building 524, Washington,
DC.

DEAR SENATOR GRAHAM: The Children's Defense Fund shares your goal of strengthening the State Children's Health Insurance program (SCHIP). The SCHIP program provided coverage to 5.8 million children in 2003, but the latest data indicate that there are still approximately 8-9 million uninsured children, the majority of whom are currently eligible for Medicaid or SCHIP.

To cover these eligible, uninsured children states will need to further simplify their Medicaid and SCHIP enrollment and especially retention processes. They will also need additional federal resources. The SCHIP Expansion Act of 2004 would provide \$18 billion in additional federal SCHIP funds and would also encourage states to adopt important Medicaid and SCHIP improvements such as continuous eligibility and passive renewal. In addition, your bill would, appropriately, prevent states with unspent federal SCHIP funds from capping or freezing program enrollment.

We look forward to working with you to enact legislation that will provide strong incentives for states to elect currently available options to streamline Medicaid and SCHIP enrollment and retention, and will discourage states from restricting enrollment in the SCHIP program.

Thank you for your leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,

EMIL PARKER,
Director of Health, Children's Defense Fund.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES USA,
Alexandria, VA, May 13, 2004.

DEAR SENATOR GRAHAM: As a strong supporter of Medicaid and the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), Catholic Charities USA would like to express our support for the SCHIP Expansion Act of 2004. We thank you for sponsoring this vital piece of legislation that we believe represents a critical step in providing coverage to all uninsured children.

We are especially pleased that the SCHIP Expansion Act of 2004 directly addresses the problem of health care access that millions of uninsured children face by providing new state options to expand SCHIP to all uninsured children regardless of income. This legislation will help ensure children's access to primary and preventive health care, enabling them to grow up healthy and participate in their communities.

We also support the provisions in the SCHIP Expansion Act of 2004 that would provide a higher federal SCHIP match to those states who streamline the enrollment process by implementing presumptive eligibility, twelve-month continuous enrollment, elimination of the asset test, and passive renewal. These simplification measures will allow families to gain quicker access to the health care they need.

In addition, we are pleased that this legislation restores federal funding allotments to pre-2002 SCHIP funding levels, which will enable states to continue to enroll and cover even more uninsured children.

Catholic Charities agencies work nationally and at the state level to ensure as many eligible children as possible are enrolled in Medicaid and SCHIP. We believe that it is critically important to ensure that poor and low-income children and families have access to the health care they so vitally need.

We thank you for introducing this legislation as we believe it represents an important step towards reducing the number of uninsured children in country and reducing the barriers to health care that many families face.

Sincerely,

SHARON DALY,
Vice President, Social Policy.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

COASTAL WETLANDS EROSION IN LOUISIANA

• Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I thank the children of the Terrebonne Parish School System in Houma, LA, for writing to me about the dire effects of coastal erosion on their State. As part of the Houma-Terrebonne Chamber of Commerce's Save Our Soil Campaign, students from the Terrebonne Parish are writing letters to important State and Federal officials regarding the coastal land loss crisis in Louisiana. I truly appreciate their efforts and will do my part to support restoration in all of our Nation's coastal States.

Coastal erosion is an urgent problem in the United States, costing hundreds of millions of dollars a year, including damage caused by storms and flooding, costs of erosion prevention, and expenses to dredge channels and harbors. In Louisiana alone, wetland loss could cost the Nation \$36.6 billion. The Atlantic and Gulf coasts account for 45 percent of the U.S. coastline and they

are home to 63 percent of the structures within 500 feet of the shoreline. According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, FEMA, the Nation's highest average erosion rates—up to 6 feet or more per year—occur along the Gulf of Mexico coastline, while the average erosion rate on the Atlantic coast is about 2 to 3 feet per year. A hurricane or other major storm can cause the coast to erode 100 feet or more in a single day.

This rate of erosion is unacceptable. As the Terrebonne students know, wetlands and barrier islands provide natural protection from strong winds and hurricanes. Coastal zones are ecologically significant, providing safe and healthy habitat for an abundance of migratory birds and other wildlife. Our Nation's commercial and recreational fisheries are dependent on the many species of fish and other aquatic organisms that spawn and nest in this delicate web of marshes, wetlands, and estuaries.

It is my sincere hope that through the Water Resources Development Act we will be able to conserve our remaining wetlands and restore many acres of precious coastline in Louisiana. I am grateful to the citizens of Terrebonne Parish for educating their children and fighting for the coastal restoration of Louisiana. We cannot stand to lose more of this previous natural resource.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Mesages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

REPORT RELATIVE TO THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO BURMA—PM 77

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a

notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. I have sent the enclosed notice, stating that the Burma emergency is to continue beyond May 20, 2004, to the *Federal Register* for publication. The most recent notice continuing this emergency was published in the *Federal Register* on May 19, 2003.

The crisis between the United States and Burma, constituted by the actions and policies of the Government of Burma, including its policies of committing large-scale repression of the democratic opposition in Burma that led to the declaration of a national emergency on May 20, 1997, has not been resolved. These actions and policies are hostile to U.S. interests and pose a continuing unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency with respect to Burma and maintain in force the sanctions against Burma to respond to this threat.

GEORGE W. BUSH.
THE WHITE HOUSE, May 17, 2004.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 1:39 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills and joint resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 4275. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the 10-percent individual income tax rate bracket.

H.R. 4279. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the disposition of unused health benefits in cafeteria plans and flexible spending arrangements to improve patient access to health care services and provide improved medical care by reducing the excessive burden the liability system places on the health care delivery system, and to amend title I of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to improve access and choice for entrepreneurs with small business with respect to medical care for their employees.

H.J. Res. 91 Joint resolution recognizing the 60th anniversary of the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 414. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress that, as Congress recognizes the 50th anniversary of the *Brown v. Board of Education* decision, all Americans are encouraged to observe this anniversary with a commitment to continuing and building on the legacy of *Brown*.

The message further announced that pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 276h, the order of the House of December 8, 2003, and clause 10 of rule I, the Speaker appoints the following Members of the House of Representatives to the Mexico-United States Interparliamentary Group: Mr. KOLBE of Arizona, Chairman, Mr. BALLENGER of North Carolina, Vice Chairman, Mr. DREIER of

California, Mr. BARTON of Texas, Mr. MANZULLO of Illinois, Mr. WELLER of Illinois, and, Mr. STENHOLM of Texas.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following joint resolution was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.J. Res. 91. Joint resolution recognizing the 60th anniversary of the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

The following concurrent resolution was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H. Con. Res. 414. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress that, as Congress recognizes the 50th anniversary of the *Brown v. Board of Education* decision, all Americans are encouraged to observe this anniversary with a commitment to continuing and building on the legacy of *Brown*; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

H.R. 4275. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the 10-percent individual income tax rate bracket.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

POM-433. A joint resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the Legislature of the State of Maine relative to the Farm-to-Cafeteria Projects Act; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

JOINT RESOLUTION

Whereas, in the past 30 years childhood obesity rates in the United States have doubled in our children and tripled in our adolescents due to poor eating habits, and obesity can contribute to increased likelihood of developing diabetes, high blood pressure, high blood cholesterol and clogging of the arteries; and

Whereas, school cafeterias serve millions of children breakfast, snacks and lunch every day and struggle to maintain services in light of diminished budgets at the local, state and federal levels; and

Whereas, in May of 2003, the Economic Research Service of the United States Department of Agriculture released an evaluation of the Fruit and Vegetable Pilot Program, which, according to the report, worked to change immediately children's fruit and vegetable consumption, improve children's health, create a healthier school environment and supply a positive model for children's diets; and

Whereas, agriculture sustains rural communities, protects open space, creates scenic vistas and protects water recharge areas; and

Whereas, the northeastern states have a traditional system of small and mid-sized producers of agricultural products located close to the towns, villages and urban centers where the majority of the 58 million consumers reside;

Whereas, programs that link local farms to school cafeterias are reconnecting urban American with local agriculture in every state where they operate and providing a unique opportunity to make local agriculture relevant to the majority of the American population that now resides in urban and suburban

Resolved, That We, your Memorialists, respectfully urge passage of the Farm-to-Cafeteria Projects Act and any other legislation that will accomplish these goals: to assist schools in purchasing locally grown food, to provide more healthy and fresh foods for schoolchildren, to educate children and their families about the foods that are grown in their own communities and to expand market opportunities for local farms, ensuring that regional agriculture continue to be viable and available to provide a safe, secure food supply to all consumers; and be it further

Resolved, That suitable copies of this resolution, duly authenticate by the Secretary of State, be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture and the Northeast States Association for Agricultural Stewardship and to each Member of the Maine Congressional Delegation.

POM-434. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky relative to First Lieutenant Garlin Murl Conner; to the Committee on Armed Services.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Whereas, Lieutenant Garlin Murl Conner was a native of Clinton County, Kentucky, who served with distinction and valor in the United States Army during World War II; and

Whereas, Kentucky Congressman Ed Whitfield introduced H.R. 327 to the 108th Congress to bestow this highly deserved honor on Lieutenant Garlin Murl Conner; and

Whereas, Lieutenant Garlin Murl Conner is Kentucky's most decorated war hero, who served on the front lines for over eight hundred days in eight major campaigns; he was wounded seven times but returned to combat and continued to fight on the front lines after each wound; and

Whereas, during World War II, over forty 3rd Division soldiers received Medals of Honor, more than any other Division; however, Lieutenant Garlin Murl Conner was not awarded the medal of Honor due to an oversight and failure to process the paperwork;

Whereas, Lieutenant Conner served in the 3rd infantry Division with Audie L. Murphy, America's most decorated hero of all wars; as compared to Audie L. Murphy, Lieutenant Conner was awarded more Silver Stars for acts of valor, fought in more campaigns, served on the front lines longer, and was wounded more times; he was awarded many honors including the Distinguished Service Cross, the Silver Star with three Oak Leaf Clusters, the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart with six Oak Leaf Clusters, and other medals; and

Whereas, on June 20, 1945, Lieutenant Conner was awarded the Croix de Guerre, the French Medal of Honor, that was also awarded to Sergeant Alvin C. York, America's most decorated World War I soldier, who was a friend of Lieutenant Conner and lived a few miles from Lieutenant Conner's home on the Kentucky-Tennessee border; and

Whereas, Major General Lloyd B. Ramsey (Ret.), who was Lieutenant Conner's battalion commander during combat in World War II, is still living and has signed the necessary documents for awarding the Medal of Honor to Lieutenant Conner; in 1945, Major General Ramsey wrote that Lieutenant Conner was "one of the outstanding soldiers of this war, if not the outstanding. . . I've never seen a man with as much courage and ability as he has"; and