

SEC. 2. CONVEYANCE TO JEFFERSON COUNTY AND SANDERS COUNTY, MONTANA.

(a) CONVEYANCE.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act and subject to valid existing rights, the Secretary of Agriculture (referred to in this Act as the “Secretary”), acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, shall convey to Jefferson County, Montana, the Elkhorn Cemetery and to Sanders County, Montana, the Noxon Cemetery, for no consideration, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the parcels of land as described in subsection (b).

(b) DESCRIPTION OF LAND.—The parcels of land referred to in subsection (a) are the parcels of National Forest System land (including any improvements on the land) known as—

(1) the Elkhorn Cemetery, which consists of 10 acres in Jefferson County located in SW1/4 Sec. 14, T. 6 N., R. 3 W.; and

(2) the Noxon Cemetery, which consists of 3.4 acres in Sanders County located in SE1/4, Sec. 24, T. 26 N., R. 33 W.

(c) ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The Secretary may require such additional terms and conditions for the conveyance under subsection (a) as the Secretary considers appropriate to protect the interests of the United States.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 119—DESIGNATING APRIL 21, 2005, AS “NATIONAL KINDERGARTEN RECOGNITION DAY”

Mr. SALAZAR (for himself, Ms. LANDRIEU, and Mr. BINGAMAN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 119

Whereas Friedrich Froebel, known as the “Father of Kindergarten”, opened the first kindergarten classroom on April 21, 1837, with the goal of shaping young children in a nurturing, educational, and protected environment;

Whereas kindergarten has a long history of enhancing children’s cognitive, physical, and social development in the United States and throughout the world;

Whereas Margarethe Meyer Schurz opened the first German-speaking kindergarten in the United States in 1856, Elizabeth Peabody opened the first English-speaking kindergarten in Boston, Massachusetts, in 1873, and the first public school kindergarten classrooms were established under the leadership of Susan Blow and William Torrey Harris in St. Louis, Missouri, in the early 1870s;

Whereas kindergarten is a critical year in children’s formal education, as well as in their continued physical, social, and emotional development, that prepares them for later school success and lifelong learning;

Whereas quality kindergarten programs use developmentally, culturally, and linguistically appropriate curricula, teaching practices, and assessments to support each child’s learning and development progress to reach his or her maximum potential;

Whereas teachers who teach kindergarten need to have specialized knowledge and skills in working with young children to respond to the unique interests, learning styles, and developmental characteristics of children in their kindergarten year;

Whereas kindergarten programs need to be ready for all children who are eligible, including children with disabilities and children who are not native English speakers, and their families;

Whereas kindergarten programs should collaborate and coordinate with preschools and with the other early elementary grades in order to provide a continuum of appropriate, effective early learning for all children as they transition to and through the early grades of school;

Whereas in 2001, more than more 3,700,000 children between the ages of 4 and 6 years old attended kindergarten, including full-day, half-day, or alternate day programs;

Whereas the percentage of children attending full-day kindergarten programs has grown from 28 percent in 1977 to 60 percent in 2001; and

Whereas establishment of a “National Kindergarten Recognition Day” will help draw attention to the critical role kindergarten plays as the transitional year from early education programs to the elementary and secondary education system: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates April 21, 2005, as “National Kindergarten Recognition Day” to raise public awareness about the impact of the kindergarten year on the development of our nation’s children; and

(2) urges the people of the United States to recognize the historic tradition of kindergarten in the United States and its contribution to preparing children for their elementary and secondary educational achievement and experiences.

SENATE RESOLUTION 120—HONORING SMALL BUSINESSES DURING THE SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION’S NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS WEEK, THE WEEK BEGINNING APRIL 24, 2005.

Ms. SNOWE (for herself, Mr. KERRY, Mr. TALENT, Mr. VITTER, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. COLEMAN, Mr. BURNS, Mr. BOND, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. ISAKSON, and Ms. LANDRIEU) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 120

Whereas America’s 25,000,000 small businesses have fueled the Nation’s economy, creating more than ¾ of all new jobs and accounting for more than 50 percent of the Nation’s gross domestic product;

Whereas small businesses are the Nation’s innovators, advancing technology and fueling the economic growth and productivity;

Whereas the Small Business Administration has been a critical partner in the success of the Nation’s small businesses and these businesses’ continued economic growth;

Whereas the mission of the Small Business Administration is to maintain and strengthen the Nation’s economy by aiding, counseling, assisting, and protecting the interests of small businesses and by helping families and small businesses recover from natural disasters;

Whereas the Small Business Administration has helped small businesses access critical lending opportunities, protected small businesses from excessive Federal regulatory enforcement, played a key role in ensuring full and open competition for government contracts, and improved the economic environment in which small businesses compete;

Whereas the Small Business Administration, which was established in 1953, has also provided valuable service to small businesses through financial assistance, technical assistance, procurement assistance, small business advocacy, and disaster recovery assistance;

Whereas for over 50 years the Small Business Administration has helped approximately 22,000,000 Americans start, grow, and expand their businesses and has placed almost \$250,000,000,000 in loans and venture capital financing into the hands of entrepreneurs;

Whereas the Small Business Administration has helped millions of entrepreneurs achieve the American dream of owning a small business; and

Whereas the Small Business Administration will mark National Small Business Week, the week beginning April 24, 2005: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors small businesses during the Small Business Administration’s National Small Business Week, the week beginning April 24, 2005;

(2) supports the purpose and goals of National Small Business Week; and

(3) commends the Small Business Administration and the Small Business Administration’s resource partners—

(A) for their work, which has been critical in helping the Nation’s small businesses grow and develop; and

(B) for being key players in the Nation’s economic vitality.

SENATE RESOLUTION 121—SUPPORTING MAY 2005 AS “NATIONAL BETTER HEARING AND SPEECH MONTH” AND COMMENDING THOSE STATES THAT HAVE IMPLEMENTED ROUTINE HEARING SCREENING FOR EVERY NEWBORN BEFORE THE NEWBORN LEAVES THE HOSPITAL

Mr. COLEMAN (for himself, Mr. LIEBERMAN, and Ms. SNOWE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 121

Whereas the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders reports that approximately 28,000,000 people in the United States experience hearing loss or have a hearing impairment;

Whereas 1 out of every 3 people in the United States over the age of 65 have hearing loss;

Whereas the overwhelming majority of people in the United States with hearing loss would benefit from the use of a hearing aid and fewer than 7,000,000 people in the United States use a hearing aid;

Whereas 30 percent of people in the United States suffering from hearing loss cite financial constraints as an impediment to hearing aid use;

Whereas hearing loss is among the most common congenital birth defects;

Whereas a delay in diagnosing the hearing loss of a newborn can affect the social, emotional, and academic development of the child;

Whereas the average age at which newborns with hearing loss are diagnosed is between the ages of 12 to 25 months; and

Whereas May 2005 is National Better Hearing and Speech Month, providing Federal, State, and local governments, members of the private and nonprofit sectors, hearing and speech professionals, and all people in the United States an opportunity to focus on preventing, mitigating, and treating hearing impairments: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Better Hearing and Speech Month, May 2005;