

(c) PROMPT RESPONSE TO DISASTER REQUESTS.—Section 7(b)(2)(D) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)(2)(D)) is amended by striking “Upon receipt of such certification, the Administration may” and inserting “Not later than 30 days after the date of receipt of such certification by a Governor of a State, the Administration shall respond in writing to that Governor on its determination and the reasons therefore, and may”.

SEC. 4. RULEMAKING.

Not later than 45 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Small Business Administration shall promulgate final rules to carry out this Act and the amendments made by this Act.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 203—RECOGNIZING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE VETERANS' ADMINISTRATION AND ACKNOWLEDGING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE VETERANS' ADMINISTRATION AND THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Mr. CRAIG (for himself and Mr. AKAKA) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 203

Whereas in the history of the United States more than 48,000,000 citizen-soldiers have served the United States in uniform and more than 1,000,000 have given their lives as a consequence of their duties;

Whereas as of July 21, 2005, there are more than 25,000,000 living veterans;

Whereas on March 4, 1865, President Abraham Lincoln expressed in his Second Inaugural Address the obligation of the United States “to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan”;

Whereas on July 21, 1930, President Herbert Hoover issued an executive order creating a new agency, the Veterans' Administration, to “consolidate and coordinate Government activities affecting war veterans”;

Whereas on October 25, 1988, President Ronald Reagan signed into law the Department of Veterans Affairs Act (Public Law 100-527; 102 Stat. 2635), effective March 15, 1989, redesignating the Veterans' Administration as the Department of Veterans Affairs and establishing it as an executive department with the mission of providing Federal benefits to veterans and their families; and

Whereas in 2005, the 230,000 employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs continue the tradition of their predecessors of caring for the veterans of the United States with dedication and compassion and upholding the high standards required of them as stewards of the gratitude of the public to those veterans: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the 75th anniversary of the establishment of the Veterans' Administration; and

(2) acknowledges the achievements of the employees of the Veterans' Administration and the Department of Veterans Affairs and commends these employees for serving the veterans of the United States.

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I seek recognition today to submit a resolution recognizing the 75th anniversary of the establishment of the Veterans' Admin-

istration and acknowledging the achievements of the employees, past and present, of the Veterans' Administration and the Department of Veterans Affairs. As Chairman of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, I am honored to offer public recognition of this auspicious anniversary and, more importantly, the fine work being done every day by over 230,000 VA employees.

The Veterans' Administration was created by an Executive Order signed by President Herbert Hoover on July 21, 1930, 75 years ago today. Prior to 1930, of course, Federal programs existed to assist war veterans. For example, early in the Revolutionary War, the Continental Congress created the first veterans' benefits package, which included life-long pensions for both disabled veterans and the survivors of soldiers killed in battle. Other veterans benefits—for example, “mustering out” pay—were also provided to veterans of the War of 1812, the Mexican War, the Civil War, the Indian wars, and the Spanish-American War, and the first educational assistance benefits for veterans were enacted as part of the Rehabilitation Act of 1919 which provided for a monthly education assistance allowance to disabled World War I veterans. But it was not until 1930—75 years ago today—that a Federal agency recognizable by today's standards was created by President Hoover.

The VA has a unique place in history having administered one of the most significant pieces of legislation ever enacted in the Nation's history, the “Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944,” better known as the “GI Bill of Rights.” This legislation, it is now generally recognized, revolutionized American society after World War II by providing educational opportunity to an entire generation of Americans—opportunity which otherwise would not have been available and which changed the Nation and ushered in the space age. During the period, VA's capability to provide medical care and rehabilitation services to disabled and needy veterans also grew significantly, leading ultimately to a health care system which is today recognized as a provider of “the best care, anywhere.”

In the Nation's history, more than 48 million citizen-soldiers have worn the uniform, and more than 1 million have perished as a result of their service. More than 25 million men and women are alive today who proudly acknowledge the title “veteran”. The Department of Veterans Affairs, as VA is designated today, exists solely for the reason articulated by President Abraham Lincoln in his Second Inaugural Address: “. . . to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan.” I applaud the efforts of the more than 230,000 VA employees who keep faith, every day, with President Lincoln's words. They—and we—could have no higher calling.

SENATE RESOLUTION 204—RECOGNIZING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS AND SUPPORTING THE MISSION AND GOALS OF THE ORGANIZATION

Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. CHAFEZ, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. DODD, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. INOUE, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. OBAMA, Mr. REED, Mr. REID, and Mr. ROCKEFELLER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 204

Whereas 2005 marks the 75th anniversary of the American Academy of Pediatrics (referred to in this resolution as the “Academy”);

Whereas in 1930, 35 pediatricians founded the Academy to attain optimal physical, mental, and social health and well-being for all infants, children, adolescents, and young adults;

Whereas in 2005, the Academy is the largest membership organization in the United States dedicated to child and adolescent health and well-being, with more than 60,000 primary care pediatricians, pediatric medical subspecialists, and pediatric surgical specialists belonging to its 59 chapters in the United States and 7 chapters in Canada;

Whereas, in addition to promoting good physical health, the Academy also promotes early childhood education, good mental health, reading, environmental health, safety, pediatric research, and the elimination of disparities in health care;

Whereas the Academy serves as a voice for the most vulnerable people in the United States by advocating for the needs of children with special health care needs, low-income families, victims of abuse and neglect, individuals in under-served communities, and the uninsured;

Whereas the Academy is dedicated to improving child health and well-being through numerous efforts and initiatives, including continuing medical education, the promotion of optimal standards for pediatric education, the authorship and dissemination of materials which advance its mission, and advocacy on improvements in child health;

Whereas the Academy promotes the use of evidence-based research and “best practices” to drive major improvements in child health and well-being, such as the use of immunizations to decrease the rates of infectious childhood diseases;

Whereas the Academy promotes the pediatric “medical home” as the most effective approach to guaranteeing the highest quality care for all children;

Whereas the Academy provides international leadership on child health issues, including translating child health materials into more than 40 languages;

Whereas Academy members have organized numerous child health initiatives at the State and community levels; and

Whereas, throughout its history, the Academy has been instrumental in the passage of several Federal child health laws, including poison prevention measures, the medicare program under title XIX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.), Federal child safety seat initiatives, the State Children's Health Insurance Program under title XXI of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1397aa et seq.), universal immunization, and the Best Pharmaceuticals for Children Act (Public Law 107-109): Now, therefore, be it