

2179, a bill to require openness in conference committee deliberations and full disclosure of the contents of conference reports and all other legislation.

S. 2182

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2182, a bill to terminate the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, and for other purposes.

S. 2201

At the request of Mr. OBAMA, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2201, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to modify the mediation and implementation requirements of section 40122 regarding changes in the Federal Aviation Administration personnel management system, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. VITTER (for himself, Mr. SANTORUM, and Mr. DEMINT):

S. 2206. A bill to amend title X of the Public Health Service Act to prohibit family planning grants from being awarded to any entity that performs abortions; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, I would like to offer my comments in support of The Title X Family Planning Act, which I introduced today. I am very pleased to have Senator SANTORUM and Senator DEMINT join me as original cosponsors of this very important legislation. The Title X Family Planning Act prohibits the distribution of taxpayer dollars, through Title X family planning funds, to those that provide abortions. I believe that this important legislation is very timely, because this week thousands of pro-life advocates gathered in our Nation's capital for the March for Life, some of which came all the way from my home State of Louisiana.

In 1970, Congress enacted Title X of the Public Health Service Act, which is a program designed to make contraceptive supplies and family planning services available to those unable to afford them without government assistance. Originally, family planning services were not allowed to include abortions, and currently, Federal dollars cannot directly fund abortions.

Current law prohibits the use of Title X family planning funds "in programs where abortion is a method of family planning"; and current regulations require some form of separation between federally-funded family planning services and abortions. 42 U.S.C. 300a-6 (1970). However, the current regulations do not contain a descriptive standard of what constitutes "separation." 42 CFR part 59 (2000). It only requires that these activities be separated by something more than mere bookkeeping.

This level of separation—separation of accounting records and separation of facilities within the same building—is not enough. When Title X money goes to clinics that perform abortions, even though the money cannot directly fund abortions it is being used to indirectly facilitate abortions. For example, abortion providers are using Title X funding to offset operational costs, which, therefore, frees them to use monies that would otherwise be allocated to operational costs, towards funding abortion.

The Title X Family Planning Act would restore the original intent of Title X by prohibiting the distribution of Title X family planning money to grantees that perform abortions and to grantees whose subgrantees perform abortions, unless a physician certifies that the abortion is necessary to save the life of the mother. The bill specifically exempts hospitals. In order to ensure that grantees who provide abortions do not obtain funding, the bill also requires the Secretary of Health and Human Services to give to Congress a list of grantees that provided abortions in the preceding fiscal year. Grantees that appear on the list would not be eligible to receive Title X family planning funds, unless the grantee submits a certification to the Secretary of Health and Human Services that neither the grantee nor its subgrantees perform abortions.

The rationale behind this prohibition is simple: when abortion is so divisive an issue, when so many Americans have grave moral reservations about it, why should we sustain and underwrite private abortion providers with taxpayer funds?

The Title X Family Planning Act denies no one family planning services. In every locality where a private abortion provider is receiving Title X funds, there are alternative sources for family planning services, inducing both public agencies and private agencies that do not offer abortions.

The Title X Family Planning Act does not cut one penny from family planning funds. It only ensures that those funds are used for actual family planning services.

The Title X Family Planning Act does not infringe upon the right to free speech. In fact, it does not contain language regarding counseling, advocacy, information or expression.

The Title X Family Planning Act does prevent our Federal tax dollars from going to abortion providers. It will save the lives of millions of unborn children. I ask my colleagues to join Senator SANTORUM, Senator DEMINT, and myself in supporting this bill, because the U.S Government should not force taxpayers, many of whom are anti-abortion, to fund abortion.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 356—URGING A COMMITMENT BY THE UNITED STATES AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO CONTINUE RELIEF EFFORTS IN RESPONSE TO THE EARTHQUAKE IN SOUTH ASIA AND TO HELP REBUILD CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE AFFECTED AREAS

Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. BIDEN, and Mr. HARKIN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 356

Whereas on October 8, 2005, a magnitude 7.6 earthquake struck Pakistan, India, and Afghanistan;

Whereas the epicenter of the earthquake was located near Muzaffarabad, approximately 60 miles north-northeast of Islamabad, with aftershocks and landslides continuing to affect the area;

Whereas more than 75,000 people have died, including approximately 17,000 children, nearly 70,000 people are injured and approximately 3,000,000 people are homeless as a result of the earthquake;

Whereas the United States has pledged a total of \$510,000,000 in assistance to the affected areas, including \$300,000,000 for relief and reconstruction, \$110,000,000 to support Department of Defense relief operations, and at least \$100,000,000 in anticipated contributions from private entities in the United States;

Whereas, as of January 25, 2006, the total amount of humanitarian assistance provided to Pakistan by the United States Agency for International Development is more than \$66,500,000;

Whereas the Department of Defense has deployed approximately 875 members of the Armed Forces and 31 helicopters to aid in the earthquake relief efforts;

Whereas since October 8, 2005, United States helicopters have flown more than 3,200 missions, evacuated approximately 3,800 people, and delivered nearly 15,000,000 pounds of supplies;

Whereas the cost of rebuilding the affected areas could be more than \$5,000,000,000;

Whereas Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, during her October 12, 2005 visit to Pakistan, said the United States would support the efforts of the Government of Pakistan over the long-term to provide assistance to the victims of the earthquake and rebuild areas of the country devastated by the earthquake;

Whereas the robust humanitarian response of the Government of the United States to the earthquake disaster has made an impact on the Government and people of Pakistan and demonstrates the United States commitment to Pakistan and the well-being of its residents;

Whereas the United States humanitarian mission in Pakistan may impact positively on the way Americans are viewed, especially in areas where the population may oppose United States counterterrorism policies and where radical groups and affiliates of known terrorist organizations are conducting high-profile relief efforts; and

Whereas the results of a poll taken by the nonprofit organization Terror Free Tomorrow show that, at the end of November 2005, more than 46 percent of Pakistanis had a favorable view of the United States, double the percentage of Pakistanis that held that view in May 2005: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends the members of the United States Armed Forces and civilian employees of the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development for their swift and sustained efforts to assist the victims of the earthquake in South Asia that occurred on October 8, 2005;

(2) commends the Governments of Pakistan and India for working together to save lives and provide humanitarian relief in the affected areas and encourages them to continue in this spirit of cooperation;

(3) commends the international community, including nongovernmental organizations, private corporations, and individual citizens, for responding swiftly and generously to the relief and recovery effort;

(4) urges continued attention by international donors and relief agencies to the needs of vulnerable populations in the stricken areas, particularly the thousands of children who have been left parentless and homeless by the disaster; and

(5) urges the Government of the United States to take the lead in encouraging the international community to commit to continue relief efforts in response to the earthquake in South Asia and to help rebuild critical infrastructure in the affected areas.

SENATE RESOLUTION 357—DESIGNATING JANUARY 2006 AS “NATIONAL MENTORING MONTH”

Mr. MCCAIN (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY, Mrs. DOLE, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. COCHRAN, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. DAYTON, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. LEVIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. FEINGOLD, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. KERRY, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. ALLEN, Mrs. BOXER, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. TALENT, and Mr. DODD) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 357

Whereas youth mentoring is a centuries-old concept, through which an adult provides guidance, support, and encouragement to help a young person become a responsible and productive adult;

Whereas mentoring, when done well, helps young people stay in school and improve academically, boosts self-esteem and communication skills, and improves the chances of going on to higher education;

Whereas there are thousands of mentoring programs in communities of all sizes across the United States, focused on building strong and effective relationships between caring adults and young people who need positive adult role models;

Whereas in spite of the great benefits mentoring provides, the United States has a serious mentoring gap, with more than 15,000,000 young people currently in need of caring adult role models;

Whereas the demand for mentoring far exceeds the current capacity of local mentoring programs and the number of adults who currently volunteer as mentors;

Whereas recent research conducted as part of the National Conversation on Mentoring—Take II points to the need to generate significantly larger numbers of volunteer mentors as one of the most critical issues facing mentoring;

Whereas the designation of January 2006 as National Mentoring Month will focus the Nation's attention on the essential role mentoring plays in the lives of young people;

Whereas the month-long celebration of mentoring will encourage more organiza-

tions, including schools, businesses, non-profit organizations, faith institutions, foundations, and individuals to become engaged in mentoring; and

Whereas National Mentoring Month will, most importantly, build awareness of mentoring and recruit more individuals to become mentors, helping close the Nation's mentoring gap: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) proclaims the month of January 2006 as the fifth annual “National Mentoring Month”;

(2) recognizes that the President has issued a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States and interested groups to observe the month with appropriate ceremonies and activities that promote awareness of and volunteer involvement with youth mentoring; and

(3) recognizes with gratitude the contributions of the millions of caring adults who are already serving as mentors and encourages more adults to volunteer as mentors.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, it is a privilege today to join Senator MCCAIN and 25 of our colleagues in submitting a resolution recognizing January 2006 as National Mentoring Month. Business, community, and media leaders have formed a coalition to raise public awareness about the importance of taking time to make a real difference in the life of a child.

Under the impressive leadership of the National Mentoring Partnership and the Harvard School of Public Health, the coalition is sponsoring an advertising campaign to explain the benefits of mentoring for children and mentors alike. Each of us has had adults who have made a positive difference for us, family, teachers, coaches, clergy, neighbors or caring friends who were there to listen and offer guidance. Each of us has the opportunity to offer that same gift to young persons today.

Each week with many of my colleagues in the Senate, I read with an elementary school student in the District of Columbia in the Everybody Wins program. During our lunchtime sessions, my second grade partner and I share good books and stories. Whether mentors choose reading programs or some other activity, these times are dedicated to listening and responding to the child's needs. Mentors have busy lives, but every child needs to know that we can make time for them.

In States across this country there are long lists of young persons waiting for mentors. This important project will connect new mentors to these waiting children and enhance the quality of their lives. I urge the Senate to approve this resolution.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 78—CONDEMNING THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN FOR VIOLATING ITS INTERNATIONAL NUCLEAR NONPROLIFERATION OBLIGATIONS AND EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR EFFORTS TO REPORT IRAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNSEL

Mr. FRIST (for himself, Mr. REID, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. BIDEN, Mr.

BROWNBACK, Mr. BURR, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. COLEMAN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. ENSIGN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. Graham, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. KYL, Mr. LIBBERMAN, Mr. LUGAR, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. SANTORUM, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. TALENT, Mr. WARNER, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. DODD, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. KERRY, and Mr. MENENDEZ) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. CON. RES. 78

Whereas Iran is a non-nuclear-weapon State Party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, done at Washington, London, and Moscow July 1, 1968 (commonly referred to as the “Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty”), under which Iran is obligated, pursuant to Article II of the Treaty, “not to receive the transfer from any transferor whatsoever of nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices or of control over such weapons or explosive devices directly, or indirectly; not to manufacture or otherwise acquire nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices; and not to seek or receive any assistance in the manufacture of nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices”;

Whereas Iran signed the Agreement Between Iran and the International Atomic Energy Agency for the Application of Safeguards in Connection with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, done at Vienna June 19, 1973 (commonly referred to as the “Safeguards Agreement”), which requires Iran to report the importation and use of nuclear material, to declare nuclear facilities, and to accept safeguards on nuclear materials and activities to ensure that such materials and activities are not diverted to any military purpose and are used for peaceful purposes and activities;

Whereas Iran signed the Protocol Additional to the Agreement Between Iran and the International Atomic Energy Agency for the Application of Safeguards in Connection with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons at Vienna on December 18, 2003 (commonly referred to as the “Additional Protocol”);

Whereas the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) reported in November 2003 that Iran had been developing an undeclared nuclear enrichment program for 18 years and had covertly imported nuclear material and equipment, carried out over 110 unreported experiments to produce uranium metal, separated plutonium, and concealed many other aspects of its nuclear facilities and activities;

Whereas the Government of Iran informed the Director General of the IAEA on November 10, 2003, of its decision to suspend enrichment-related and reprocessing activities, and stated that the suspension would cover all activities at the Natanz enrichment facility, the production of all feed material for enrichment, and the importation of any enrichment-related items;

Whereas, in a Note Verbale dated December 29, 2003, the Government of Iran specified the scope of suspension of its enrichment and reprocessing activities, which the IAEA was invited to verify, including the suspension of the operation or testing of any centrifuges, either with or without nuclear material, at the Pilot Fuel Enrichment Plant at Natanz, the suspension of further introduction of nuclear material into any centrifuges, the suspension of the installation of new centrifuges at the Pilot Fuel Enrichment Plant and the installation of centrifuges at the Fuel Enrichment Plant at Natanz, and, to the extent