

GSP to sell their products into the American market. They have worked hard to establish export-oriented industries, but still need the extra boost provided by GSP or other preference programs.

Some of our other preference programs target these very poor countries, including the preferences under the African Growth and Opportunity Act and the Caribbean Basin programs. But for a large number of countries—including Afghanistan, Armenia, Bangladesh, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Cambodia, and Pakistan—there are no other programs to help them compete against other exporters in the U.S. market.

GSP is also important to U.S. competitiveness. Raw materials and components for further processing make up more than two-thirds of the products imported under GSP. For example, GSP imports make up a significant percentage of U.S. total imports of leather processed after tanning—45 percent, ferroalloys—37 percent, aluminum sheets—25 percent, and copper wire—25 percent.

American retailers have taken advantage of the programs to find new products and new sources of supply. And every year, U.S. consumers save millions of dollars because of GSP duty savings.

Trade preferences for our Andean partners have helped curb the production and smuggling of drugs. Trade can encourage diversification out of drug crops, and offer an economic future to people who otherwise are easy prey for narcotraffickers. The Andean preference programs play a significant role in facilitating exports from Colombia, Peru, Ecuador and Bolivia. Almost 60 percent of exports from those countries are covered by these preferences.

Some argue that trade preferences for the Andean countries are now both unnecessary and ill-advised. They say that the preferences are unnecessary because the United States has negotiated free trade agreements with Peru and Colombia. And they say that the preferences are ill-advised in extending benefits to Bolivia and Ecuador, both of which have taken actions and made statements recently at variance with U.S. interests.

While we have negotiated free trade agreements with Peru and Colombia, neither has passed the U.S. Congress. It is far from clear that the U.S.-Peru agreement will even be considered in Congress before the Andean preference program expires at the end of this year, and there is no chance at all that the U.S.-Colombia agreement will be. We should extend the Andean preference program for these countries to avoid a lapse in benefits prior to the implementation of any free-trade agreement with them. Such a lapse would be disruptive to Peru and Colombia. And such a lapse would be disruptive to U.S. businesses, as well.

It may be that there are good arguments for ending the program with respect to Bolivia and Ecuador. But

again, I believe that we should give Congress time to examine these arguments as well as any counterarguments and make a reasoned judgment about the future of the program.

That is why I am sponsoring the Emergency Trade Program Extension Act of 2006. This bill will extend both GSP and the Andean Trade Preference Act for 2 years. This is a short-term extension to allow the Congress to have hearings and consider in depth what should be done with these programs. I do not believe that we should let these programs expire without the benefit of a thorough analysis of their merits and failings.

Some may argue that this legislation is unnecessary. They may say that we can allow these programs to expire, consider them in depth next year, and then renew them retroactively if we so decide. Indeed, we have done that before. But that is very disruptive, both to U.S. businesses and the countries that rely upon these programs. The uncertainty of whether the programs will be renewed retroactively, or renewed at all, undermines the goals of encouraging investment in the beneficiary countries. So we should pass this legislation to maintain the integrity of these programs while we consider what to do with them.

This legislation also includes a 1-year extension of the third-country fabric provisions in the African Growth and Opportunity Act, or AGOA. These provisions are currently set to expire in September of next year. Those provisions allow Africa's poorest countries to import fabric from countries outside of Africa for use in their apparel industries. These third-country fabric provisions have helped create jobs in desperately poor countries like Lesotho, where one textile worker supports numerous family members. U.S. retailers looking to next year's products are making their sourcing decisions now. If they cannot be confident that Africa will continue to be able to import third-country fabric, then they will stop sourcing from Africa. And tens of thousands of jobs could be lost.

This bill is not intended as the final word on AGOA. I fully expect that the next Congress will consider a comprehensive reform of AGOA. Many worthwhile ideas have been proposed. But we do not have time to consider them before Africa will begin to feel the effects of the expiration of third-country fabric provisions next fall. We should give Africa breathing space while Congress completes its work.

The suspension of the Doha Round negotiations at the World Trade Organization has sparked a period of soul searching and debate in the trade community both here and abroad. Our trade preference programs should be part of that debate. It simply makes no sense to look at these programs in isolation from the wider discussion about the future of trade policy. And we cannot look at the future of the trading system without considering the treat-

ment of developing countries in that system.

For all of these reasons, I am proud to sponsor the Emergency Trade Program Extension Act of 2006. I am proud to note, as well, that this bill is a companion to an identical bill introduced yesterday in the House of Representatives by my friend the ranking Democratic member of the Ways and Means Committee, Mr. RANGEL. I applaud his leadership on these issues. And I look forward to working with him to get this important legislation passed into law.

#### SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

#### SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 116—SUPPORTING “LIGHTS ON AFTERSCHOOL!”, A NATIONAL CELEBRATION OF AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Mr. DODD (for himself, Mr. ENSIGN, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. BURR, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. COCHRAN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. REED, Mr. DOMENICI, Mrs. CLINTON, Ms. SNOWE, Mrs. BOXER, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. BURNS, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. REID, Mr. AKAKA, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. KERRY, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. KOHL, Mr. DAYTON, Mr. PRYOR, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. INOUE, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. MARTINEZ, and Mr. SCHUMER) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

#### S. CON. RES. 116

Whereas high quality after school programs provide safe, challenging, engaging, and fun learning experiences to help children and youth develop their social, emotional, physical, cultural, and academic skills;

Whereas high quality after school programs support working families by ensuring that the children in such families are safe and productive after the regular school day ends;

Whereas high quality after school programs build stronger communities by involving the Nation's students, parents, business leaders, and adult volunteers in the lives of the Nation's youth, thereby promoting positive relationships among children, youth, families, and adults;

Whereas high quality after school programs engage families, schools, and diverse community partners in advancing the well-being of the Nation's children;

Whereas “Lights On Afterschool!”, a national celebration of after school programs held on October 12, 2006, promotes the critical importance of high quality after school programs in the lives of children, their families, and their communities;

Whereas more than 28,000,000 children in the United States have parents who work outside the home and 14,300,000 children in the United States have no place to go after school; and

Whereas many after school programs across the United States are struggling to

keep their doors open and their lights on: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring).* That Congress supports the goals and ideals of "Lights On Afterschool!" a national celebration of after school programs.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, today Senator ENSIGN and I, along with 42 co-sponsors, are submitting a concurrent resolution with the House designating October 12, 2006 as Lights On Afterschool Day. Lights on Afterschool is a national celebration of afterschool programs, designed to promote the critical importance of afterschool in the lives of America's children, families, and communities. This year alone, we expect over 1 million Americans to participate in this important celebration.

Quality afterschool programs keep kids safe, help working families, and improve academic achievement. It has been demonstrated that children in afterschool programs show greater interest in school, learn new skills, exhibit improved behavior and get better grades than their peers. Afterschool programs also build stronger communities by involving our students, parents, business leaders and adult volunteers in the lives of our young people, thereby promoting positive relationships among children and adults.

In America today, more than 28 million children have parents who work outside the home. As many as 15 million of these children have no place to go after school and consequently are missing out on important opportunities to learn and grow. Two-thirds of Americans say that it is difficult to find programs in their communities and that not enough programs are available.

In our work on the Senate Afterschool Caucus, Senator ENSIGN and I have been working for more than a year to impress upon our colleagues the importance of afterschool and are proud to say that 34 of our colleagues have joined the Caucus to date. We hope that they, along with other Members of the Congress, will join us on October 12th to celebrate the importance of afterschool programs in their communities back home.

#### MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 6061

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk that is due for a second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title for the second time.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 6061) to establish operational control over the international land and maritime borders of the United States.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, in order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to further proceedings.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard. The bill will be placed on the calendar.

#### UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREE- MENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, as in executive session, I ask unanimous consent that at 2:15 p.m. on Tuesday, September 19, the Senate proceed to executive session to consider Executive Calendar No. 171, Alice Fisher; provided further that there be 90 minutes under the control of Senator LEVIN, 30 minutes under the control of Senator LEAHY, and 90 minutes under the control of Chairman SPECTER or his designee, plus 1 hour under the control of Senator REID, and 1 hour total under the control of Senator FRIST and myself; provided further, that following the use or yielding back of time, the Senate proceed to a vote on the confirmation of the nomination, with no intervening action or debate, and that following the vote, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate resume legislative session.

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

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate immediately proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations on today's Executive Calendar: Nos. 892, 895, 898, and 899.

I further ask unanimous consent that the nominees be confirmed en bloc, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

The nominations were considered and confirmed en bloc as follows:

#### DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Donald C. Johnson, of Texas, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Equatorial Guinea.

#### DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Mark Myers, of Alaska, to be Director of the United States Geological Survey.

#### CHEMICAL SAFETY AND HAZARD INVESTIGATION BOARD

William B. Wark, of Maine, to be Member of the Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board for a term of five years.

William E. Wright, of Florida, to be a Member of the Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board for a term of five years.

#### PROTOCOL AMENDING 1962 EXTRA- DITION CONVENTION WITH ISRAEL

#### U.N. CONVENTION AGAINST CORRUPTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to consider the following

treaties on today's Executive Calendar: Nos. 16 and 18. I further ask unanimous consent that the treaties be considered as having passed through their various parliamentary stages, up to and including the presentation of the resolutions of ratification; that any committee conditions, declarations, or reservations be agreed to as applicable; that any statements be printed in the RECORD as if read; and that the Senate take one vote on the resolutions of ratification to be considered as separate votes; further, that when the resolutions of ratification are voted upon, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, the President be notified of the Senate's action, and that following the disposition of the treaties, the Senate return to legislative session.

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

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask for a division vote on the resolutions of ratification.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. A division is requested. All Senators in favor of the resolutions of ratification will stand and be counted.

Those opposed will stand and be counted.

On a division, two-thirds of the Senators present and voting having voted in the affirmative, the resolutions of ratification are agreed to.

The resolutions of ratification are as follows:

[Treaty Doc. 109-3 Protocol Amending 1962 Extradition Convention With Israel]

*Resolved (two-thirds of the Senators present concurring therein),* That the Senate advise and consent to the ratification of the Protocol between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the State of Israel Amending the Convention on Extradition of 1962, signed at Jerusalem on July 6, 2005 (Treaty Doc. 109-3).

[Treaty Doc. 109-6 U.N. Convention Against Corruption]

*Resolved (two-thirds of the Senators present concurring therein),*

Section 1. Senate Advice and Consent Subject to Reservations and Declarations.

The Senate advises and consents to the ratification of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (hereinafter in this resolution referred to as the "Convention"), adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on October 31, 2003, and signed by the United States on December 9, 2003, at Merida, Mexico (T. Doc. 109-6), subject to the reservations in section 2 and the declarations in section 3.

#### Section 2. Reservations.

The advice and consent of the Senate under section 1 is subject to the following reservations, which shall be included in the United States instrument of ratification:

(1) The United States of America reserves the right to assume obligations under the Convention in a manner consistent with its fundamental principles of federalism, pursuant to which both federal and state criminal laws must be considered in relation to the conduct addressed in the Convention. U.S. federal criminal law, which regulates conduct based on its effect on interstate or foreign commerce, or another federal interest, serves as an important component of the legal regime within the United States for combating corruption and is broadly effective for this purpose. Federal criminal law