

(G) In section 3687—

(I) in subsection (a)—

(I) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “or an eligible person (as defined in section 3501(a) of this title)”;

(II) in the flush matter following paragraph (2), by striking “chapters 34 and 35” and inserting “chapter 34”;

(ii) in subsection (c), by striking “chapters 34 and 35” and inserting “chapter 34”;

(iii) in subsection (e), by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the following new paragraph (3):

“(3) In this subsection, the term ‘individual’ means an eligible veteran who is entitled to monthly educational assistance allowances payable under section 3015(e) of this title.”.

(d) OTHER CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Title 38, United States Code, is further amended as follows:

(1) In section 3524, by striking “the educational assistance allowance” each place it appears and inserting “educational assistance”.

(2) In section 3531—

(A) in the heading, by striking “allowance”;

(B) in subsection (a), by striking “an educational assistance allowance” and inserting “educational assistance”; and

(C) in subsection (b), by striking “allowance”.

(3) In section 3537(a), by striking “additional”.

(e) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 35 of such title is amended as follows:

(1) By striking the item relating to section 3511 and inserting the following new item:

“3511. Treatment of certain interruptions in pursuit of programs of education.”.

(2) By striking the items relating to section 3531, 3532, and 3533 and inserting the following new items:

“3531. Educational assistance.

“3532. Amount of educational assistance.

“3533. Tutorial assistance.”.

(3) By striking the item relating to section 3534.

(4) By striking the item relating to section 3541 and inserting the following new item:

“3541. Special restorative training.”.

(f) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) ANNUAL ADJUSTMENTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008.—Notwithstanding the effective date under paragraph (1) of the amendment to section 3564 of title 38, United States Code, made by subsection (c)(2)(E), the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall make the first increase in the aggregate amount of educational assistance under section 3532 of such title as required by such section 3564 (as so amended) for fiscal year 2008.

SUMMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 86—DESIGNATING MARCH 1, 2007, AS “SIBLINGS CONNECTION DAY”

Mr. SALAZAR (for himself, Mr. ENSIGN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. KERRY, and Mr. AKAKA) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 86

Whereas sibling relationships are among the longest-lasting and most significant relationships in life;

Whereas brothers and sisters share history, memories, and traditions that bind them together as family;

Whereas it is estimated that over 65 percent of children in foster care have siblings, many of whom are separated when placed in the foster care system, adopted, or confronted with different kinship placements;

Whereas children in foster care are at greater risk than their peers of having emotional disturbances, problems in school, and difficulties with relationships later in life;

Whereas the separation of siblings while children causes additional grief and loss;

Whereas organizations and private volunteer efforts exist that advocate for preserving sibling relationships in foster care settings and that give siblings in foster care the opportunity to reunite;

Whereas Camp to Belong, a nonprofit organization founded in 1995 by Lynn Price, heightens public awareness of the need to preserve sibling relationships in foster care settings and gives siblings in foster care the opportunity to be reunited; and

Whereas Camp to Belong has reunited over 2,000 separated siblings across the United States, the United States Virgin Islands, and Canada: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates March 1, 2007, as “Siblings Connection Day”;

(2) encourages the people of the United States to celebrate sibling relationships on Siblings Connection Day; and

(3) supports efforts to respect and preserve sibling relationships that are at risk of being disrupted by the placement of children in the foster care system.

SENATE RESOLUTION 87—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE PRESIDENT SHOULD IMPLEMENT A COMPREHENSIVE INTERAGENCY PROGRAM TO REDUCE THE LUNG CANCER MORTALITY RATE BY AT LEAST 50 PERCENT BY 2015

Mr. HAGEL (for himself, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. BROWNBACK, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 87

Whereas lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death for both men and women, accounting for 28 percent of all cancer deaths;

Whereas lung cancer kills more people annually than breast cancer, prostate cancer, colon cancer, liver cancer, melanoma, and kidney cancer combined;

Whereas, since the National Cancer Act of 1971 (Public Law 92-218; 85 Stat. 778), coordinated and comprehensive research has raised the 5-year survival rates for breast cancer to 88 percent, for prostate cancer to 99 percent, and for colon cancer to 64 percent;

Whereas the 5-year survival rate for lung cancer is still only 15 percent and a similar coordinated and comprehensive research effort is required to achieve increases in lung cancer survivability rates;

Whereas 60 percent of lung cancer cases are now diagnosed in nonsmokers or former smokers;

Whereas ⅓ of nonsmokers diagnosed with lung cancer are women;

Whereas certain minority populations, such as Black males, have disproportionately high rates of lung cancer incidence and mortality, notwithstanding their lower smoking rate;

Whereas members of the baby boomer generation are entering their sixties, the most common age at which people develop cancer;

Whereas tobacco addiction and exposure to other lung cancer carcinogens such as Agent Orange and other herbicides and battlefield emissions are serious problems among military personnel and war veterans;

Whereas the August 2001 Report of the Lung Cancer Progress Review Group of the National Cancer Institute stated that funding for lung cancer research was “far below the levels characterized for other common malignancies and far out of proportion to its massive health impact”;

Whereas the Report of the Lung Cancer Progress Review Group identified as its “highest priority” the creation of integrated, multidisciplinary, multi-institutional research consortia organized around the problem of lung cancer rather than around specific research disciplines; and

Whereas the United States must enhance its response to the issues raised in the Report of the Lung Cancer Progress Review Group: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that the President should—

(1) declare lung cancer a public health priority and immediately lead a coordinated effort to reduce the lung cancer mortality rate by 50 percent by 2015;

(2) direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to increase funding for lung cancer research and other lung cancer-related programs as part of a coordinated strategy with defined goals, including—

(A) translational research and specialized lung cancer research centers;

(B) expansion of existing multi-institutional, population-based screening programs incorporating state-of-the-art image processing, centralized review, clinical management, and tobacco cessation protocols;

(C) research on disparities in lung cancer incidence and mortality rates;

(D) graduate medical education programs in thoracic medicine and cardiothoracic surgery;

(E) new programs within the Food and Drug Administration to expedite the development of chemoprevention and targeted therapies for lung cancer;

(F) annual reviews by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality of lung cancer screening and treatment protocols;

(G) the appointment of a lung cancer director within the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention with authority to improve lung cancer surveillance and screening programs; and

(H) lung cancer screening demonstration programs under the direction of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services;

(3) direct the Secretary of Defense, in conjunction with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, to develop a broad-based lung cancer screening and disease management program among members of the Armed Forces and veterans, and to develop technologically advanced diagnostic programs for the early detection of lung cancer;

(4) appoint a Lung Cancer Scientific and Medical Advisory Committee, comprised of medical, scientific, pharmaceutical, and patient advocacy representatives, to—

(A) work with the National Lung Cancer Public Health Policy Board described in paragraph (5); and

(B) report to the President and Congress on the progress toward and the obstacles to achieving the goal described in paragraph (1) of reducing the lung cancer mortality rate by 50 percent by 2015; and

(5) convene a National Lung Cancer Public Health Policy Board, comprised of multi-agency and multidepartment representatives and at least 3 members of the Lung Cancer

Scientific and Medical Advisory Committee, to oversee and coordinate all efforts to accomplish the goal described in paragraph (1) of reducing the lung cancer mortality rate by 50 percent by 2015.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 268. Mr. SALAZAR (for himself, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. ISAKSON, and Mr. PRYOR) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4, to make the United States more secure by implementing unfinished recommendations of the 9/11 Commission to fight the war on terror more effectively, to improve homeland security, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 269. Mrs. FEINSTEIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 4, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 270. Mrs. FEINSTEIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 184, to provide improved rail and surface transportation security; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 268. Mr. SALAZAR (for himself, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. ISAKSON, and Mr. PRYOR) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4, to make the United States more secure by implementing unfinished recommendations of the 9/11 Commission to fight the war on terror more effectively, to improve homeland security, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . RURAL POLICING INSTITUTE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—There is established a Rural Policing Institute, which shall be administered by the Office of State and Local Training of the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (based in Glynco, Georgia), to—

(1) evaluate the needs of law enforcement agencies of units of local government and tribal governments located in rural areas;

(2) develop expert training programs designed to address the needs of rural law enforcement agencies regarding combating methamphetamine addiction and distribution, domestic violence, law enforcement response related to school shootings, and other topics identified in the evaluation conducted under paragraph (1);

(3) provide the training programs described in paragraph (2) to law enforcement agencies of units of local government and tribal governments located in rural areas; and

(4) conduct outreach efforts to ensure that training programs under the Rural Policing Institute reach law enforcement officers of units of local government and tribal governments located in rural areas.

(b) CURRICULA.—The training at the Rural Policing Institute established under subsection (a) shall be configured in a manner so as to not duplicate or displace any law enforcement program of the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in existence on the date of enactment of this Act.

(c) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “rural” means area that is not located in a

metropolitan statistical area, as defined by the Office of Management and Budget.

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section (including for contracts, staff, and equipment)—

(1) \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2008; and

(2) \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2009 through 2013.

SA 269. Mrs. FEINSTEIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 4, to make the United States more secure by implementing unfinished recommendations of the 9/11 Commission to fight the war on terror more effectively, to improve homeland security, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . VACANCIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 546 of title 28, United States Code, is amended by striking subsection (c) and inserting the following:

“(c) A person appointed as United States attorney under this section may serve until the earlier of—

“(1) the qualification of a United States attorney for such district appointed by the President under section 541 of this title; or

“(2) the expiration of 120 days after appointment by the Attorney General under this section.

“(d) If an appointment expires under subsection (c)(2), the district court for such district may appoint a United States attorney to serve until the vacancy is filled. The order of appointment by the court shall be filed with the clerk of the court.”.

(b) APPLICABILITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

(2) APPLICATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Any person serving as a United States attorney on the day before the date of enactment of this Act who was appointed under section 546 of title 28, United States Code, may serve until the earlier of—

(i) the qualification of a United States attorney for such district appointed by the President under section 541 of that title; or

(ii) 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(B) EXPIRED APPOINTMENTS.—If an appointment expires under subparagraph (A), the district court for that district may appoint a United States attorney for that district under section 546(d) of title 28, United States Code, as added by this section.

SA 270. Mrs. FEINSTEIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 184, to provide improved rail and surface transportation security; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . VACANCIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 546 of title 28, United States Code, is amended by striking subsection (c) and inserting the following:

“(c) A person appointed as United States attorney under this section may serve until the earlier of—

“(1) the qualification of a United States attorney for such district appointed by the President under section 541 of this title; or

“(2) the expiration of 120 days after appointment by the Attorney General under this section.

“(d) If an appointment expires under subsection (c)(2), the district court for such district may appoint a United States attorney to serve until the vacancy is filled. The order of appointment by the court shall be filed with the clerk of the court.”.

(b) APPLICABILITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

(2) APPLICATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Any person serving as a United States attorney on the day before the date of enactment of this Act who was appointed under section 546 of title 28, United States Code, may serve until the earlier of—

(i) the qualification of a United States attorney for such district appointed by the President under section 541 of that title; or

(ii) 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(B) EXPIRED APPOINTMENTS.—If an appointment expires under subparagraph (A), the district court for that district may appoint a United States attorney for that district under section 546(d) of title 28, United States Code, as added by this section.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS/MEETINGS

PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs will hold a hearing entitled “Credit Card Practices: Fees, Interest Rates, and Grace Periods.” It is the first of several subcommittee hearings that will examine a variety of credit card practices that raise concerns. This hearing will focus on how credit card issuers apply interest rates and fees to consumer accounts. It will examine, for example, how credit card issuers select and apply interest rates and, for consumers carrying a balance forward, eliminate grace periods for repaid debts. It will also analyze high fees charged for late payments, over-the-limit charges, and other matters, including how those fees are assessed, how they add to increase interest costs, and how they contribute to consumer debt. In addition, the hearing will examine an industry practice requiring consumer payments to be applied first to balances with the lowest interest rates instead of to balances with the highest interest rates. The hearing will draw, in part, from a September 2006 GAO report detailing the finance charges, fees, and disclosure practices associated with 28 popular credit cards. Witnesses for the upcoming hearing will include representatives from the three largest credit card issuers, Bank of America, JPMorgan Chase, and Citigroup, as well as consumer witnesses. A final witness list will be available on Monday, March 5, 2007.

The subcommittee hearing is scheduled for Wednesday, March 7, 2007, at 10 a.m. in room 342 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building. For further information, please contact Elise J. Bean, of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations at 224-3721.