

to each Senator and Representative from the Commonwealth of Kentucky in the Congress of the United States.

POM-52. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the Legislature of the State of Michigan urging the President and Congress to appropriate additional funding for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 33

Whereas, Home heating is a fundamental necessity in northern climate states during the months from October through March, However, low-income households in Michigan and across the nation struggle to pay for this basic necessity. High energy bills in winter force many low-income households into difficult situations, such as forgoing medicine or food in order to pay energy bills or putting themselves in danger by using stoves and portable heaters to provide warmth; and

Whereas, In the early 1980s, Congress recognized the need for heating and other home energy assistance when it enacted legislation to create the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). The LIHEAP program has become a crucial safety net for low-income households and families across the nation, especially in northern climate states. LIHEAP assistance has helped millions of families keep their homes at safe and healthy temperatures; and

Whereas, Last year Congress appropriated a record level \$3.2 billion in LIHEAP funding. In spite of this, only a fraction of eligible low income households received assistance. According to the United States Department of Health and Human Services, last winter only 15 percent of 38 million eligible low-income households actually received assistance from the LIHEAP program; and

Whereas, This year, with the adoption of a September 29th, continuing resolution, Congress has appropriated only \$1.98 billion for LIHEAP. The President's proposed FY 2008 budget calls for funding to be reduced further to \$1.78 billion. Under these funding proposals, it is estimated that Michigan will receive as much as \$47 million dollars less than last year. This will surely mean that state energy assistance programs will be forced to shut down programs and turn needy people away. Last year, even with the record level funding, only 35 percent of eligible low-income households in Michigan received LIHEAP assistance; and

Whereas, such inadequate LIHEAP funding could be disastrous for Michigan. The state is struggling through one of the nation's worst economic situations. Currently, nearly one third of Michigan households are at or below 60 percent of the state's median income, and the unemployment rate, which is already much higher than the national average, keeps growing. Clearly, such tough economic times coupled with a cold, harsh winter, and high heating fuel prices, make LIHEAP funding vital for the state of Michigan; now, therefore be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives. That we urge the President and the Congress of the United States to immediately increase funding for LIHEAP to at least last year's level of \$3.2 billion; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Office of the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.

POM-53. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the Legislature of the

State of Michigan urging Congress to enact the Employee Free Choice Act; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 21

Whereas, In 1935, the United States established, by law, that workers must be free to form unions. The freedom to form or join a union is internationally recognized as a fundamental human right; and

Whereas, Union membership provides workers better wages and benefits, and protection from discrimination and unsafe workplaces. Unions benefit communities by strengthening tax bases, promoting equal treatment, and enhancing civic participation; and

Whereas, Even though on paper America's workers have the freedom to choose for themselves whether to have a union, in reality, workers across the nation are routinely denied that right. More than 40 million United States workers say they would join a union now if they had the opportunity; and

Whereas, When the right of workers to form a union is violated, wages fall, race and gender pay gaps widen, workplace discrimination increases, and job safety standards disappear; and

Whereas, Many thousands of workers in our country are routinely threatened, coerced, or fired each year because they try to form a union. Most violations of workers' freedom to choose a union occur behind closed doors, and each year millions of dollars are spent to frustrate workers' efforts to form unions; and

Whereas, A worker's fundamental right to choose a union is a public issue that requires a public policy solution, including legislative remedies; and

Whereas, The Employee Free Choice Act (H.R. 800) has been introduced in the United States Congress in order to restore workers' freedom to join a union; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we memorialize the United States Congress to enact the Employee Free Choice Act, which would authorize the National Labor Relations Board to certify a union as the bargaining representative when a majority of employees voluntarily sign authorizations designating that union to represent them; provide for first contract mediation and, arbitration; and establish meaningful penalties for violations of a worker's freedom to choose a union; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.

POM-54. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the Legislature of the State of Michigan urging the President and Congress to increase funding for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program and to facilitate the establishment of programs that provide information about responsible energy use; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 10

Whereas, Each winter, public and private programs offering help to low-income families trying to heat their homes usually find their budgets stretched thin; and

Whereas, Fortunately, there is a federally funded program that provides energy assistance to low-income households. The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is a federal block grant program that provides billions of dollars annually to help low-income households pay energy bills. LIHEAP funds have averted numerous trage-

dies by enabling needy families to keep their homes at healthy and safe temperatures during the bitter cold months of winter; and

Whereas, Utility companies, government agencies, and nonprofit organizations often make information available to low-income families to help reduce their heating bills. Such information often recognizes the need for reducing home energy costs through the use of conservation technologies and flexible bill payment practices designed to help empower low-income consumers to pay their utility bills on a discounted basis; and

Whereas, Coordinated and efficient consumer education programs of federal, state, and local agencies could help consumers take responsibility for their winter heating bills. Educational programming on things such as how to set proper temperatures in the home, the use of programmable thermostats, tips on household budgeting, how to weatherize a home, and energy efficiency training could better prepare low-income households with the skills needed to control their winter heating costs; and

Whereas, The President's proposed budget for next year would reduce the percentage of eligible needy families that receive LIHEAP assistance. The President is requesting only \$1.782 billion for LIHEAP in FY 2008. This is far less than the \$5.1 billion that is authorized for the program under the U.S. Energy Policy Act of 2005 and a dramatic 44 percent reduction from FY 2006 funding levels. According to the National Energy Assistance Directors' Association (NEADA), the President's proposed cut to LIHEAP would force states to eliminate energy assistance to more than a million households; and

Whereas, The President's proposal would hit Michigan particularly hard. No other northern climate state is suffering through such tough economic times. Michigan finished last year with one of the nation's worst unemployment rates, second only to Mississippi. Since 2003, the unemployment rate in Michigan has exceeded the national rate by an ever-widening margin. As the number of unemployed persons in the state grows, so, too, does the number of households seeking energy assistance. In spite of this, under the President's proposal, it is estimated that the state would receive nearly \$50 million less than it did last year. Clearly, we should educate customers on how to use energy wisely and we should adequately fund the LIHEAP program to ensure that low-income families in Michigan and across the nation receive the help they need during the bitter cold months of winter; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That we memorialize the President and the Congress of the United States, particularly the Michigan congressional delegation and the chairman of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, to do all they can to provide additional funding for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program and facilitate the establishment of programs that provide information on responsible energy use; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Office of the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. INOUE, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 39. A bill to establish a coordinated national ocean exploration program within the

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 110-39).

By Mr. KENNEDY, from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 558. A bill to provide parity between health insurance coverage of mental health benefits and benefits for medical and surgical services.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. COLEMAN, Mr. DODD, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. OBAMA, Mr. KERRY, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. SMITH, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. SNOWE, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. WARNER, Mr. PRYOR, and Mr. KENNEDY):

S. 991. A bill to establish the Senator Paul Simon Study Abroad Foundation under the authorities of the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mrs. BOXER (for herself, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mrs. CLINTON, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. CRAIG):

S. 992. A bill to achieve emission reductions and cost savings through accelerated use of cost-effective lighting technologies in public buildings, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mrs. CLINTON (for herself and Mr. DODD):

S. 993. A bill to improve pediatric research; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself and Mr. SALAZAR):

S. 994. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to eliminate the deductible and change the method of determining the mileage reimbursement rate under the beneficiary travel program administered by the Secretary of Veteran Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. COLEMAN (for himself, Mr. COCHRAN, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 995. A bill to provide for a hospital in Cass County, Minnesota; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mrs. BOXER):

S. 996. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to expand passenger facility fee eligibility for certain noise compatibility projects; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. HARKIN (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. HATCH, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. SMITH, Mr. REID, and Mr. SPECTER):

S. 997. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for human embryonic stem cell research; read the first time.

By Mr. BUNNING:

S. 998. A bill to exempt the natural aging process in the determination of the production period for distilled spirits under section 263A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. COCHRAN (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. WARNER, Mr. DORGAN,

Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. REED, Ms. CANTWELL, and Mr. COLEMAN):

S. 999. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to improve stroke prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and rehabilitation; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. STEVENS (for himself and Ms. LANDRIEU):

S. 1000. A bill to enhance the Federal Telework Program; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mrs. HUTCHISON (for herself, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. BOND, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. BURR, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. COBURN, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. CORKER, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DEMINT, Mrs. DOLE, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. ENSIGN, Mr. ENZI, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HATCH, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. KYL, Mr. LOTT, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. MCCAIN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. SMITH, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. SUNUNU, Mr. TESTER, Mr. THOMAS, Mr. THUNE, and Mr. VITTER):

S. 1001. A bill to restore Second Amendment rights in the District of Columbia; read the first time.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. ENZI, and Mr. ROBERTS):

S. 1002. A bill to amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to reinstate certain provisions relating to the nutrition services incentive program; considered and passed.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. KERRY, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. DODD, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. BROWN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mrs. MURRAY, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. FEINGOLD, Ms. STABENOW, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S.J. Res. 10. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relative to equal rights for men and women; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. LEVIN, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. KERRY, Mr. BIDEN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. WYDEN, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. CRAPO, and Mr. SANDERS):

S. Res. 125. A resolution designating May 18, 2007, as "Endangered Species Day", and encouraging the people of the United States to become educated about, and aware of, threats to species, success stories in species recovery, and the opportunity to promote species conservation worldwide; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. AKAKA (for himself, Mr. DODD, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. KOHL, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. INOUE, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DEMINT, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. THOMAS, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. ALLARD, and Mr. ENZI):

S. Res. 126. A resolution designating April 2007 as "Financial Literacy Month"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. DODD):

S. Res. 127. A resolution designating April 8, 2007 as "National Cushing's Syndrome Awareness Day"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. REID (for himself and Mr. MCCONNELL):

S. Res. 128. A resolution to authorize testimony, document production, and legal representation in United States v. Philip G. Balcombe, Sansi G. Coonan, John S. Dear, Jan Lustig, Michella A. Marusa, Martin J. Ryan, Eleanore M. Vouselas, and Bruno Keller; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. REID (for himself and Mr. MCCONNELL):

S. Res. 129. A resolution to authorize testimony, document production, and legal representation in State of Alaska v. Robert S. Mulford and Don G. Muller; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 223

At the request of Mr. FEINGOLD, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. BYRD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 223, a bill to require Senate candidates to file designations, statements, and reports in electronic form.

S. 288

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 288, a bill to amend titles 10 and 14, United States Code, to provide for the use of gold in the metal content of the Medal of Honor.

S. 329

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 329, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide coverage for cardiac rehabilitation and pulmonary rehabilitation services.

S. 350

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. ENSIGN), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KYL) and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) were added as cosponsors of S. 350, a bill to prohibit certain abortion-related discrimination in government activities.

S. 351

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. ENSIGN) and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. DEMINT) were added as cosponsors of S. 351, 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.

S. 459

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 459, a bill to require that health plans provide coverage for a minimum hospital stay for mastectomies, lumpectomies, and lymph node dissection for the treatment of breast cancer and coverage for secondary consultations.

S. 474

At the request of Mrs. HUTCHISON, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma