

for funding with a broad array of other teacher and administrator professional development and training funds.

Another provision that has been added are instructions that States and schools districts allocate their funding in a manner that creates a continuum of small classes for students as they progress from kindergarten to third grade and beyond. Research has shown that the benefits of attending small classes are the greatest for students in kindergarten through third grade, with further benefits accruing to those students for each additional year spent in small classes. The ultimate goal is that a student in the kindergarten grade matriculates through first, second, and third grades—each with an average class size of 18 students or less.

The bill also establishes a Web-based National Clearinghouse on Class Size that would provide research, best practices, and resources for small classroom instruction. This information needs to be broadly available and easily accessible to the education community as well as the public.

Additionally, the legislation requires an independent evaluation to be conducted to determine the impact and effectiveness of the initiative and the National Center for Education Statistics to report on average class size data. It is imperative that we understand, objectively, how these funds are spent, and what outcomes are achieved.

Mr. President, the ultimate success of our education system depends on teachers. Ask any teacher if it matters whether they are teaching a class of 18 students or 25 students and you will get the same answer every time: absolutely. Smaller classes will provide teachers with the resources they need to create the opportunities for learning that our students deserve.

By Mr. GREGG (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. COLEMAN, Mr. DODD, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. DOMENICI, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. SMITH, Mrs. CLINTON, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. OBAMA, Mr. SPENCER, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. BROWN, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. SUNUNU, and Mr. PRYOR):

S. 2123. A bill to provide collective bargaining rights for public safety officers employed by States or their political subdivisions; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, it is a privilege to join Senator GREGG today in reintroducing the Public Safety Employer-Employee Cooperation Act, to guarantee that all firefighters, police officers, emergency medical personnel, and other first responders across the country have fundamental collective bargaining rights. The issue is one of basic respect for this valuable workforce, and I urge all of my colleagues to support this bipartisan bill.

The first responders of our State and local governments are on the front

lines of the effort to keep America safe. They perform difficult, exhausting work, day and night, to preserve and protect our communities. In this post-9/11 era, they have an indispensable role in homeland security as well. It is vital to our national interest to ensure that these essential public services are carried out as effectively as possible.

Strong partnerships between first responders and the cities and States they serve are vital to public safety. Studies show that cooperation between public safety employers and employees improves the quality of services communities receive and reduces worker fatalities. These strong, cooperative partnerships are built on bargaining relationships. Every New York City firefighter, emergency medical technician, and police officer who responded to the disaster at the World Trade Center on 9/11 was a union member under a collective bargaining agreement, and those agreements strengthened their ability to respond in that time of crisis.

Unfortunately, many first responders across the country do not have basic workplace protections. Twenty-nine States and the District of Columbia guarantee all public safety workers the right to bargain collectively, but 21 States deny some or all of their public safety workers this fundamental right.

Our Nation's first responders have earned the right to be treated with respect. The Cooperation Act will ensure that they receive that respect and will benefit from the same protections enjoyed by many other workers across the country. The bill gives public safety officers the right to bargain over wages, hours, and working conditions, and ensures that these rights are enforceable in State court. It also provides an efficient and effective means to resolve disputes in labor-management conflicts.

The Cooperation Act accomplishes these important goals in reasonable, moderate ways. States that already have collective bargaining in place for public safety workers are not affected by the bill. States that do not currently provide these protections may establish their own collective bargaining systems or ask the assistance of the Federal Labor Relations Authority in doing so. This approach respects existing State laws and gives each State full authority to decide how it will comply with the basic standards.

America's public safety workers are prepared to put their lives on the line for their community each and every day. They deserve a voice at the table in the life-and-death decisions about their work. It is essential for their safety, the safety of our communities, and the safety of our entire Nation. It is a matter of basic fairness for these courageous men and women to have the same rights that have long benefited so many other Americans. I urge Congress to act quickly to provide these fundamental protections.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 338—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL PASSPORT MONTH

Mrs. FEINSTEIN submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 338

Whereas, through international travel, Americans can individually play a major role towards improving foreign relations by building bridges and making connections with citizens of other countries;

Whereas interacting with the global community inspires Americans to reflect on the diverse multi-cultural background that has defined the United States as a great country of cooperation and progress;

Whereas having a passport and traveling abroad creates connections with the global community;

Whereas having a passport and traveling abroad promotes understanding and goodwill throughout the world, opening the doors to increased peace, tolerance, and acceptance;

Whereas having a passport and traveling abroad opens up a wealth of educational opportunities and experiences for Americans of all ages;

Whereas having a passport and traveling abroad enables Americans to see first-hand the effect of the United States on the world, including the tremendous amount of humanitarian aid given by the United States through both public and private sectors;

Whereas having a passport and traveling abroad reminds Americans that they are members of a global family and gives them opportunities to mend rifts around the world;

Whereas fewer than 23 percent of Americans have passports, thereby limiting their ability to travel outside the United States;

Whereas the more Americans travel outside the United States, the more they will experience opportunities to increase their understanding of the world and the place of the United States in it;

Whereas the creation and support of a National Passport Month signals to Americans the important role they can play as ambassadors for the United States by serving as agents of understanding, tolerance, and mutual respect; and

Whereas travel publishers along with travel editors from the most prestigious media outlets in the United States, student travel organizations, and book sellers have designated September as "National Passport Month" to educate the public about the importance of having a passport and the positive impact international travel has on individuals: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Passport Month; and

(2) calls on the Federal Government, States, localities, schools, nonprofit organizations, businesses, other entities, and the people of the United States to observe National Passport Month with appropriate ceremonies, programs, and activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 339—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE ON THE SITUATION IN BURMA

Mr. KERRY (for himself, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. LUGAR, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. DODD, Mr. DURBIN, Mr.

COLEMAN, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. REID, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. CASEY, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. OBAMA, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. SUNUNU, Mrs. HUTCHISON, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 339

Whereas hundreds of thousands of Burmese citizens, including thousands of Buddhist monks and students, engaged in peaceful demonstrations against the policies of the ruling State Peace and Development Council (SPDC), demanding that the State Peace and Development Council release all political prisoners, including Nobel Peace Prize laureate Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, and urging that the government agree to a meaningful tripartite dialogue with Suu Kyi, the National League for Democracy (NLD), and the ethnic minorities towards national reconciliation;

Whereas the State Peace and Development Council violently dispersed the peaceful demonstrators, killing at least 10 (and reportedly more than 200) unarmed protesters, including a number of monks and a Japanese journalist, and arrested hundreds of others, and continues to forcibly suppress peaceful protests;

Whereas the National League for Democracy won a majority of seats in the parliamentary elections of 1990, but the State Peace and Development Council refused to uphold the results or to negotiate a transition to civilian rule and subsequently placed Aung San Suu Kyi under house arrest;

Whereas Aung San Suu Kyi has spent most of the past 18 years under house arrest or in jail, and is currently being held in government custody, cut off from her followers and the international community;

Whereas 59 world leaders, including 3 former presidents of the United States, have called on the State Peace and Development Council to release Aung San Suu Kyi and all other political prisoners;

Whereas the State Peace and Development Council has destroyed more than 3,000 villages, systematically and violently repressed ethnic minorities, displaced approximately 2,000,000 Burmese people, and arrested approximately 1,300 individuals for expressing critical opinions;

Whereas the United States Department of State's 2006 Reports on Human Rights Practices found that Burma's junta routinely restricts its citizens' freedoms of speech, press, assembly, association, religion, movement, and traffics in persons, discriminates against women and ethnic minorities, forcibly recruits child soldiers and child labor, and commits other serious violations of human rights, including extrajudicial killings, custodial deaths, disappearances, rape, torture, abuse of prisoners and detainees, and the imprisonment of citizens arbitrarily for political motives;

Whereas the Government of Burma relies heavily on the unconditional military and economic assistance provided by the People's Republic of China;

Whereas on September 30, 2006, the United Nations Security Council officially included Burma on its agenda for the first time;

Whereas on January 13, 2007, China and Russia vetoed a United Nations Security Council Resolution calling on Burma to release all political prisoners, allow a more inclusive political process and unhindered humanitarian access, and end human rights abuses, and on September 26, 2007, China blocked a United Nations Security Council

Statement from condemning the State Peace and Development Council crackdown against the peaceful demonstrators;

Whereas the prevalence of tuberculosis in Burma, with nearly 97,000 new cases detected annually, is among the highest in the world, malaria is the leading cause of mortality in Burma, with 70 percent of the population living in areas at risk, at least 37,000 died of HIV/AIDS in Burma in 2005, and over 600,000 are currently infected, and the World Health Organization has ranked Burma's health sector as 190th out of 191 nations;

Whereas the failure of the State Peace and Development Council to respect the human rights and meet the most basic humanitarian needs of the Burmese people has not only caused enormous suffering inside Burma, but also driven hundreds of thousands of Burmese citizens to seek refuge in neighboring countries, creating a threat to regional peace and stability; and

Whereas the State Peace and Development Council continues to restrict the access and freedom of movement of international humanitarian organizations to deliver aid throughout Burma: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate—

(1) to strongly condemn the use of violence against peaceful protestors in Burma, and to call on the Government of Burma to refrain from further violence, release the demonstrators it has arrested, immediately cease attacks against ethnic minorities, release Aung Sang Suu Kyi and all other political prisoners, and begin a meaningful tripartite political dialogue with Suu Kyi, the National League for Democracy, and the ethnic minorities;

(2) to call on the People's Republic of China to remove objections to efforts by the United Nations Security Council to condemn the actions taken by the Government of Burma against the peaceful demonstrators;

(3) to call on the People's Republic of China and all other nations that have provided military assistance to the Government of Burma to suspend such assistance until civilian democratic rule is restored to Burma;

(4) that the Government of Burma should engage in a peaceful dialogue with opposition leaders and ethnic minorities to implement political, economic, and humanitarian reforms that will improve the living conditions of the Burmese people and lead to the restoration of civilian democratic rule;

(5) to recognize and welcome the many constructive statements issued by various nations, and particularly the statement issued by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations on September 27, 2007, which demanded an immediate end to violence in Burma, the release of all political prisoners, and a political solution to the crisis;

(6) that the United States and the United Nations should strongly encourage China, India, and Russia to modify their position on Burma and use their influence to convince the Government of Burma to engage in dialogue with opposition leaders and ethnic minorities towards national reconciliation;

(7) to support the United Nations mission to Burma led by Ibrahim Gambari, and to call on the Government of Burma to allow the mission freedom of movement and access to top government leaders in order to prevent additional violence and to further peaceful dialogue towards national reconciliation; and

(8) that the United States should work with the international community to pressure the Government of Burma to lift all restrictions on humanitarian aid delivery and then allow international humanitarian aid organizations to work to alleviate suffering and improve living conditions for the most vulnerable populations.

SENATE RESOLUTION 340—RECOGNIZING THE EFFORTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF OUTSTANDING HISPANIC SCIENTISTS IN THE UNITED STATES

Mr. MARTINEZ (for himself, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. SALAZAR) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 340

Whereas the purpose of the National Hispanic Scientist of the Year Award is to recognize outstanding Hispanic scientists in the United States who promote a greater public understanding of science and motivate Hispanic youth to develop an interest in science;

Whereas the 7th annual National Hispanic Scientist of the Year Gala will be held at the Museum of Science & Industry in Tampa, Florida, on Saturday, October 6, 2007;

Whereas proceeds from the National Hispanic Scientist of the Year Gala support scholarships for Hispanic boys and girls to participate in the Museum of Science & Industry's Youth Enriched by Science Program, known as the "YES! Team"; and

Whereas a need to acknowledge the work and effort of outstanding Hispanic scientists in the United States has led to the selection of Dr. Louis A. Martin-Vega as the honoree of the 7th annual National Hispanic Scientist of the Year Award, in recognition of his accomplishments developing foundation-wide programs aimed at integrating research and education in science and engineering and in increasing the participation of women and underrepresented minorities in these fields; and

Whereas Dr. Martin-Vega is also to be commended for his years of leadership in engineering education at such fine institutions as the University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez, the University of Florida, Florida Institute of Technology, Lehigh University, the University of South Florida, and North Carolina State University, and for his service at the National Science Foundation: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes efforts to educate, support, and provide hope for the Hispanic community, including efforts to honor outstanding Hispanic scientists in the United States at the annual National Hispanic Scientist of the Year Gala and to organize a "Meet the Hispanic Scientist Day"; and

(2) congratulates the 2007 National Hispanic Scientist of the Year designated by the Museum of Science & Industry, for ongoing dedication to improving the quality of, and access to, science and engineering research and education.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3112. Mr. CHAMBLISS (for himself, Mr. ISAKSON, and Mr. INHOFE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2011 proposed by Mr. NELSON of Nebraska (for Mr. LEVIN) to the bill H.R. 1585, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

SA 3113. Mr. CHAMBLISS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1585, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3114. Mrs. HUTCHISON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her