

have to do more to support women and their children when they are most vulnerable, during pregnancy and early childhood.

I also strongly support, and have for years, family planning programs, because they avoid sometimes those dark moments when a woman, often alone, faces a pregnancy she feels she cannot handle. I also support family planning programs precisely because they reduce the number of abortions.

But that is not the issue I address today. Today, with this bill, I am focused on the woman who is pregnant, and I am asking myself, and I think Congress and the administration, as any Congress and any administration has to ask themselves this fundamental question: For that woman who is facing that crisis in her life, we have to ask ourselves, as a Congress and as a society: What more can we do? What more can we do to help her? That is the question we must continually ask. I think if we ask that question today, the answer, unfortunately, is: Not enough.

We are not doing enough. I believe there is more common ground in America than we might realize on these questions, if only we focus on how we can truly help and support that woman who wishes to carry her pregnancy to term and how we can give her and her child what they need to begin healthy and productive lives together.

For the past 34 years, unfortunately, the issue of abortion has been used mostly as a way to divide people, even as the number of abortions remains and still remains unacceptably high. We have to find a better way.

I believe this legislation, the Pregnant Women Support Act, is a part of that better way. I believe we must look toward real solutions to the issue of abortion by targeting the underlying factors that often lead women to make the decision to have an abortion. This is precisely what this act, the Pregnant Women Support Act, will do.

I really believe when it comes to this issue of helping a pregnant woman, we need to consider what our obligations are. I think we can state it very simply: We need to walk in solidarity with her, in her pregnancy, especially when it is an unplanned pregnancy, and we need to support her and give her all the help we can at this time in her life.

That is exactly what this bill does for women who may find themselves in a position where they are facing one of the most difficult situations in their life. The woman who has no one to turn to for advice, for counsel, or for support, we have got to be there for her at that moment and for a long time thereafter.

I truly believe there are few things more terrifying than the prospect of supporting another human being when you have no support of your own. Unfortunately, far too many women face that decision, face that crisis.

So I believe reducing the number of abortions should not be a partisan

issue. It should not pit Republicans against Democrats. So what do I seek? I seek common ground, and I ask my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in seeking real solutions that will unite us in providing life with dignity, before—before—and after the birth of a child, for a pregnant woman, for her family, and for her child. Surely, we must all agree that no woman should ever have to face the crisis of an unplanned pregnancy all alone.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 58—WELCOMING FIRST MINISTER DR. IAN PAISLEY AND DEPUTY FIRST MINISTER MARTIN MCGUINNESS OF NORTHERN IRELAND TO THE UNITED STATES

Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. DODD, Mr. REED, Mr. KERRY, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. OBAMA, Mr. SMITH, Mr. MCCAIN, and Mr. LEAHY) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. CON. RES. 58

Whereas, on May 8, 2007, power was restored to the Assembly of Northern Ireland, opening a new chapter in the history of Northern Ireland;

Whereas Dr. Ian Paisley became First Minister and Martin McGuinness became Deputy First Minister of Northern Ireland;

Whereas Dr. Paisley and Mr. McGuinness have been working to solidify the peace agreement and to govern Northern Ireland effectively; and

Whereas Dr. Paisley and Mr. McGuinness are making their first trip together to the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—

(1) welcomes First Minister Dr. Ian Paisley and Deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness of Northern Ireland to the United States;

(2) commends Dr. Paisley and Mr. McGuinness for showing the world that it is possible to rise above decades of bitter sectarian violence to achieve peace; and

(3) expresses hope that Northern Ireland will continue to be peaceful and stable in the future.

NOTICE OF HEARING

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 and the Subcommittee on Energy of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources will hold a joint hearing entitled, "Speculation in the Crude Oil Market." This joint hearing of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations and the Subcommittee on Energy will examine the role of speculation in recent record crude oil prices. Witnesses for the upcoming hearing will

include the Department of Energy's Energy Information Administration and energy market experts. A final witness list will be available Friday, December 7, 2007.

The subcommittee hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, December 11, 2007, at 10:00 a.m. in room 216 of the Hart Senate Office Building. For further information, please contact Elise Bean of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

SUBCOMMITTEE ON STATE, LOCAL, AND PRIVATE SECTOR PREPAREDNESS AND INTEGRATION

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Ad Hoc Subcommittee on State, Local, and Private Sector Preparedness and Integration of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, December 4, 2007, at 2:30 p.m. in order to conduct a hearing entitled, "The New Madrid Seismic Zone: Whose Fault Is It Anyway?"

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

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, December 4, 2007, at 2:30 p.m., in room 253 of the Russell Senate Office Building, for the purposes of conducting a hearing.

Agenda

S. 1581, Federal Ocean Acidification Research and Monitoring Act of 2007; S. 2307, Global Change Research Improvement Act of 2007; S. 2355, Climate Change Adaptation Act of 2007; S. 2332, Media Ownership Act of 2007; Nominations for Promotion in U.S. Coast Guard (PN 1039 and PN 1055); and Nominations for Promotion in the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commission Corps (PN 1014).

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

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS.

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate in order to conduct a hearing entitled "Developing a Comprehensive Response to Food Safety" on Tuesday, December 4, 2007, at 10:30 a.m. in SD-430.

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the