

to prison in order to expand these critical criminal justice programs.

NATIONAL SUBSTITUTE TEACHER RECOGNITION WEEK

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 544 which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 544) designating May 5 through 9, 2008, as National Substitute Teacher Recognition Week.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise today in recognition of the 7th Annual "National Substitute Teacher Recognition Week," which is celebrated in conjunction with Teacher Appreciation Week. This is a national effort to recognize the approximately 270,000 men and women that fill in for absent permanent teachers every day in the United States.

According to research performed by the Substitute Teaching Institute—STI—at Utah State University, as much as 1 full year of a child's elementary and secondary education is taught by substitute teachers. More often than not, these are talented individuals who are willing to take on the challenge of providing quality education when permanent teachers are out of the classroom. I believe it is only appropriate that we do something to recognize the efforts of these members of our communities who fill a void in the education of our children and play a vital role in maintaining continuity of instruction and a positive learning environment for students throughout our country.

I would also like to recognize and commend the work and dedication of the Substitute Teaching Institute. Established in 1995, STI provides substitute teachers with training materials to improve the quality of their contribution to classroom activities. Over the last 12 years, STI has evolved and grown to become one of our Nation's leaders in the effort to improve substitute teaching, providing training materials and services along with recruitment and retention assistance to school districts and substitute teachers around the world. Having expanded its work over the years, the STI continually works to revolutionize the role of substitute teachers into opportunities for educational excellence.

I am joined by Senators CLINTON and COCHRAN in submitting a resolution designating May 5–9, 2008 as National Substitute Teacher Recognition Week, and I urge all my colleagues to lend their support.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed

to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 544) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 544

Whereas, on average, as much as 1 full year of a child's elementary and secondary education is taught by substitute teachers;

Whereas, on any given day in the United States, more than 270,000 classes are taught by substitute teachers;

Whereas formal training of substitute teachers has been shown to improve the quality of education, lower school district liability, reduce the number of student and faculty complaints, and increase retention rates of substitute teachers;

Whereas a strong, effective system of education for all children and youth is essential to our Nation's continued strength and prosperity;

Whereas much of a child's growth and progress can be attributed to the efforts of dedicated teachers and substitute teachers who are entrusted with the child's educational development;

Whereas substitute teachers play a vital role in maintaining continuity of instruction and a positive learning environment in the absence of a permanent classroom teacher; and

Whereas substitute teachers should be recognized for their dedication and commitment: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates May 5 through 9, 2008, as the 7th annual National Substitute Teacher Recognition Week;

(2) recognizes the important and vital role substitute teachers play in a child's education; and

(3) encourages educational institutions to observe the week with appropriate events and activities.

HONORING THE RECIPIENTS OF THE EL DORADO PROMISE SCHOLARSHIP

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 545, which was submitted earlier today by Senator PRYOR.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 545) honoring the recipients of the El Dorado Promise Scholarship.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements related thereto be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 545) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 545

Whereas the 2000 United States Census determined that El Dorado, Arkansas, had a significantly lower percentage of residents with degrees from institutions of higher education and a significantly higher percentage of families who fell below the poverty line than the national average;

Whereas it is increasingly important for students to obtain a college education in order to keep up with the demands of the modern workforce and global economy;

Whereas the El Dorado Promise scholarship is a tuition scholarship, created and funded by Murphy Oil Corporation, which enables all eligible high school graduates of the El Dorado Public School District in El Dorado, Arkansas, to attend any accredited 2- or 4-year, public or private, college or university;

Whereas school enrollment in the El Dorado Public School District has significantly increased since the El Dorado Promise scholarship program was established, despite a 15-year trend of decreasing enrollment;

Whereas the El Dorado Promise scholarship program increased the number of El Dorado High School students who chose to attend college after graduation by 20 percent; and

Whereas, on April 30, 2008, El Dorado High School students who receive El Dorado Promise and other academic scholarships sign academic letters of intent for the colleges they will be attending upon graduation: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the recipients of the El Dorado Promise scholarship for choosing to further their education;

(2) recognizes April 30, 2008, as the second Academic Signing Day for graduating El Dorado High School students receiving El Dorado Promise and other academic scholarships;

(3) acknowledges that the El Dorado Promise scholarship program is important for the revitalization of southern Arkansas; and

(4) recognizes Murphy Oil Corporation for its efforts to ensure that children from southern Arkansas, who might otherwise struggle in financing a college education, are able to attend college.

NATIONAL PHYSICAL FITNESS AND SPORTS MONTH AND NATIONAL PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND SPORTS WEEK

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 546, which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 546) designating May 2008 as "National Physical Fitness and Sports Month," and the week of May 1 through May 7, 2008, as "National Physical Education and Sports Week."

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I am pleased to submit a resolution today with my colleague, Senator WYDEN OR, designating the month of May as "National Physical Fitness and Sports Month" and the first week of May as "National Physical Education and Sports Week."

Developing healthy habits is important for all of us, as children, young

adults, and as we grow older. Current and past Presidents have recognized the month of May, the beginning of spring, as "Physical Fitness and Sports Month" for over 20 years. Around South Dakota and across the country, local YMCAs, afterschool programs, and other organizations take time during the month of May to recognize the need to get fit, stay active, and look at new ways to promote physical activity. This year, I am pleased we are able to recognize the importance of physical fitness through the Senate.

As we talk more about health care reform and the uninsured, it is important to remember that each of us has a responsibility concerning our own care and to educate our children on the importance of staying healthy. Too often I hear from constituencies, such as school groups and health care providers, that childhood obesity and diabetes are on the rise—and it is not just affecting our health, but also our pocketbooks.

According to my State and the Centers for Disease Control, more than 50,000 South Dakotans have diabetes and projections show that number will continue to increase. Diabetes of course can cause severe complications and takes a tremendous toll on our society. The disease is associated with significant personal and social costs due to impaired health and quality of life.

Heart disease is another significant and often related illness to diabetes that effects millions of Americans and costs Medicare and Medicaid, and therefore taxpayers, millions each year. In South Dakota, approximately 1,743 deaths—24.8 percent of all deaths—in 2006 were caused by cardiovascular diseases, including stroke.

Now much of the burden of heart disease is due to smoking—and that is another problem we will continue to tackle through education at the state and local levels. But it is also helpful to know that both heart disease and type 2 diabetes are largely preventable. Also, obesity and inactivity are two of the major risk factors associated with these diseases—which means a healthy diet and regular physical activity at all ages can go a long way toward improving our quality of life and reducing our health care bills.

For adults, it is recommended that minimum physical activity consist of moderate activity for 30 minutes, 5 days a week, or more vigorous activity for 20 minutes, 3 days a week. My daughters and I happen to have a passion for running, which is particularly popular this time of year in South Dakota.

The month of May is also a time to recognize the importance of sports to our State and to our schools. Getting involved in your local school team—high school or college—or in other local teams is a great way to stay motivated and focused through school and to develop healthy habits that will last for many years. It is also a tremen-

dously important part of community life in South Dakota.

I am proud that this resolution has been endorsed by YMCA of the USA, AAHPERD—American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation & Dance—the American Heart Association, American Diabetes Association, and the National Coalition for Promoting Physical Activity.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 546) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 546

Whereas regular physical activity helps increase endurance, strengthen bones and muscles, control weight, and reduce anxiety and stress, and may improve blood pressure and cholesterol levels;

Whereas about ⅓ of young people in the ninth through 12th grades do not engage in recommended levels of physical activity, and daily participation in high school physical education classes has declined over the last 7 years;

Whereas 39 percent of adults report they are not physically active, and only 3 in 10 adults engage in the recommended amount of physical activity;

Whereas, in 2004, more than 9,000,000 children and adolescents in the United States between the ages of 6 and 19 were considered overweight;

Whereas obesity and inactivity are 2 major risk factors for developing type 2 diabetes, a disease that affects millions of people in the United States;

Whereas many chronic diseases may be prevented by living a healthy lifestyle that includes regular physical activity and a balanced diet;

Whereas, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the American Heart Association, and the American College of Sports Medicine, minimum physical activity for adults consists of moderate activity for 30 minutes 5 days a week or vigorous activity for 20 minutes 3 days a week;

Whereas, according to a 1996 report by the Surgeon General, positive experiences with physical activity at a young age help to lay the foundation for being active throughout life;

Whereas the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports promotes regular physical activity to achieve and maintain good health and to prevent chronic disease and offers motivational tools through the President's Challenge program for people of all ages to track physical activity; and

Whereas the month of May has been recognized since 1983 as National Physical Fitness and Sports Month to encourage physical fitness and activity and to promote health in children and adults of all ages: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates—

(A) May 2008 as "National Physical Fitness and Sports Month"; and

(B) the week of May 1 through May 7, 2008, as "National Physical Education and Sports Week"; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to observe the month and the week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

NORTH AMERICAN OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH WEEK AND OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH PROFESSIONALS DAY

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 547, submitted earlier today by Senator DURBIN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 547) designating the week of May 4 through May 10, 2008, as "North American Occupational Safety and Health Week" and May 7, 2008, as "Occupational Safety and Health Professionals Day."

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements relating thereto be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 547) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 547

Whereas every year more than 5,700 people die from job-related injuries and 4,400,000 more incur occupational injuries and illnesses in the United States;

Whereas transportation crashes continue to be the number 1 cause of on-the-job deaths, and overall in 2005 there were 6,159,000 transportation accidents resulting in 43,433 deaths, 2,700,000 injuries, and an estimated \$230,600,000,000 in tangible costs;

Whereas businesses spend \$170,000,000,000 a year on costs associated with occupational injuries and illnesses;

Whereas it is imperative that employers, employees, and the general public are aware of the importance of preventing illness and injury in the workplace—wherever that workplace may be, such as on the road, in the air, the classroom, the store, the plant, or the office;

Whereas each year the families, friends, and co-workers of victims of on-the-job accidents suffer intangible losses and grief, especially when proper safety measures could have prevented worker injury or death;

Whereas everyday millions of people go to and return home from work safely due, in part, to the efforts of occupational safety, health, and environmental practitioners who work day in and day out identifying hazards and implementing safety and health advances across industries and workplaces, aimed at eliminating workplace fatalities, injuries, and illnesses;

Whereas our society has long recognized that a safe and healthy workplace positively impacts employee morale, health, and productivity;

Whereas the purpose of the North American Occupational Safety and Health Week (NAOSH) is to raise awareness among employees, employers, and the general public of the benefits of investing in occupational safety and health;

Whereas the more than 32,000 members of the American Society of Safety Engineers,