

Commercialization Pilot Program. Senator KERRY and I created this program in 108th Congress to encourage the award of contracts to SBIR firms. The bill also includes a provision to reauthorize and increase funding to the Federal and State Partnership, FAST, program which would allow each state—including Maine—to receive funding in the form of a grant to make available an array of services in support of the SBIR program.

Now, more than ever, we in Congress must do everything within our power to help small businesses drive the recovery of our economy. It is imperative that we reauthorize the SBIR and STTR programs, particularly before the program terminates at the end of this fiscal year—fewer than 2 months away. I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to pass this vital measure in the full Senate, and then negotiating with the House Small Business Committee, so that the President can sign this package into law.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 629—HONORING THE LIFE OF, AND EXPRESSING THE CONDOLENCES OF THE SENATE ON THE PASSING OF, BRONISLAW GEREMEK

Mr. LUGAR (for himself and Mr. BIDEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 629

Whereas Bronislaw Geremek was born on March 6, 1932, in Warsaw, Poland;

Whereas Bronislaw Geremek led the democratic movement in Poland in the 1970s, with his moral clarity and perseverance;

Whereas Bronislaw Geremek was spirited out of the Warsaw Ghetto at the age of 7 and survived the Second World War in hiding from the Nazis;

Whereas Bronislaw Geremek was educated at the Faculty of History at the University of Warsaw and the École Pratique des Hautes Études in Paris and the Polish Academy of Sciences;

Whereas Bronislaw Geremek was a distinguished professor of history and received honorary degrees from University of Bologna, Utrecht University, the Sorbonne, Columbia University, and Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland;

Whereas Bronislaw Geremek was a member of the Academia Europea, the PEN Club, and the Société Européenne de Culture and served as a visiting scholar at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars of the Smithsonian Institution;

Whereas Bronislaw Geremek joined the Gdansk workers' protest movement and became one of the leaders of the independent trade union "Solidarity" and chaired the Program Commission of the First National Convention of Solidarity in 1981;

Whereas, in December 1981, Bronislaw Geremek was detained for his involvement with Solidarity following the imposition of martial law in Poland;

Whereas, in his capacity as leader of the Commission for Political Reforms of the Civic Committee, Bronislaw Geremek worked to ensure a peaceful transition to democracy in Poland;

Whereas Bronislaw Geremek was a founder of the Democratic Union, a member of the Sejm, the lower house of parliament in Poland, and chairman of the Political Council of the Freedom Union from 1989 to 2001;

Whereas Bronislaw Geremek was the Minister of Foreign Affairs for Poland from 1997 to 2000 and was a courageous advocate for democracy and human rights;

Whereas, in March 1999, Bronislaw Geremek led efforts of the Government of Poland to join the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, saying that "Poland returns to where she has always belonged: the free world";

Whereas, in 2001, Bronislaw Geremek was elected to the European Parliament, where he was a member of the Alliance of Liberal and Democrats for Europe;

Whereas Bronislaw Geremek was a member of the Global Leadership Foundation;

Whereas Bronislaw Geremek was a recipient of the Order of the White Eagle, Poland's most prestigious decoration;

Whereas, through his valiant and persistent efforts, Bronislaw Geremek helped consolidate freedom in Eastern Europe and open the door to strong relations with the United States and the West;

Whereas the bravery of Bronislaw Geremek gave hope to those around the world in their own struggles with oppression and tyranny; and

Whereas Bronislaw Geremek made an invaluable contribution to his community, to Poland, and the world: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors the life and accomplishments of Bronislaw Geremek and expresses its condolences on his passing; and

(2) requests that the Secretary transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the family of the deceased and to the Ambassador of Poland to the United States.

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I rise today to offer a resolution honoring the life of Bronislaw Geremek and expressing the condolences of the Senate on his death. I am pleased that Senator BIDEN has agreed to cosponsor this important resolution.

Minister Geremek was a freedom fighter and a former Foreign Minister of Poland. He began his fight for freedom at age seven when he escaped the Warsaw Ghetto and successfully hid from the Nazis through the end of World War II.

Minister Geremek went on to become a professor of history and received honorary degrees from such prestigious institutions as the Sorbonne and Columbia University. In the 1970s, he joined the Gdansk workers' protest movement in Soviet-controlled Poland. With unwavering conviction, he became a leader of the independent trade union "Solidarity" and helped usher in a new era that led to the fall of the Soviet Union. His efforts gave hope to many across Eastern Europe and around the world struggling against tyranny and oppression. While he guided his nation towards democracy in Eastern Europe, the political, social, and economic ramifications of his efforts were felt across the world.

On July 13, 2008, this statesman who helped vanquish communism in Europe unexpectedly passed away. His life's work gave millions of people the freedom to choose their government, their economy, and their livelihood. For his

sacrifices to Poland, Europe, and the world, he deserves the honor and respect of the United States Senate and our Nation. I ask for the support of my colleagues in passing this important resolution celebrating the life of Bronislaw Geremek.

SENATE RESOLUTION 630—RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF CONNECTING FOSTER YOUTH TO THE WORKFORCE THROUGH INTERNSHIP PROGRAMS, AND ENCOURAGING EMPLOYERS TO INCREASE EMPLOYMENT OF FORMER FOSTER YOUTH.

Mrs. CLINTON (for herself, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. CASEY, Mrs. BOXER, and Mrs. MURRAY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

S. RES. 630

Whereas, on any given day, there are more than 500,000 youth in foster care in the United States;

Whereas an estimated 26,000 of these youth are discharged from the foster care system or "age out" with few or no resources to start their own lives;

Whereas the people of the United States have a sincere appreciation for the circumstances that place children in foster care;

Whereas foster youth possess unique qualities and skills that make them ideal candidates for employment, but compared to youth nationally and youth from low-income families, they are less likely to be employed or employed regularly;

Whereas, when afforded comprehensive support, this resilient population excels in the job market;

Whereas, within 18 months after leaving foster care, 25 percent of foster youth become homeless, and former foster youth comprise more than a quarter of the United States homeless population;

Whereas, without positive intervention, youth who age out of foster care often have bouts of homelessness, criminal activity, and incarceration;

Whereas addressing job readiness early in the transition to adulthood is critical to shaping the future trajectories of these youth; and

Whereas youth who begin connecting to the workforce prior to discharge from foster care maintain the highest probability of employment: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the importance of connecting foster youth to the workforce through internship programs, such as the Orphan Foundation of America's InternAmerica program and other programs, that provide to foster youth the foundation upon which to build their careers and to be successful members of the workforce; and

(2) encourages employers of all sectors and Federal, State, and local governmental agencies to increase employment of the young men and women who have been discharged from foster care in the United States.

Mrs. CLINTON. Mr. President, today I am pleased to introduce a resolution that recognizes the importance of connecting foster youth to internship and employment opportunities. I thank Congressmen CARDOZA, McDERMOTT, and FATTAH for raising this important

matter in the House of Representatives, and I am proud to give voice to the issue in the Senate.

According to the most recent statistics available, 26,000 youth aged out of foster care in fiscal year 2006. Though many of these youth have characteristics that make them ideal for employment, research shows they have few resources for self-sufficiency and are less likely to be regularly employed than their counterparts in the general population. Because of the instability they experience in foster care, these young adults do not have access to the same kinds of family and community resources that often link young people to jobs and internships.

That is why I am introducing a resolution today recognizing how critical it is for foster youth to be connected to internship and employment opportunities as they transition from foster care to life on their own. This resolution expresses the importance of linking these youth to the workforce through internships and encourages employers to increase their hiring of former foster youth.

Throughout my career, I have been an advocate for foster youth. As First Lady, I worked towards enacting the Foster Care Independence Act of 1999, legislation that doubled funding for the Federal Independent Living Program and helps youth in foster care earn a high school diploma, participate in vocational training or education, and learn daily living skills. The legislation also extends services to youth up to age 21, which enables more of these young adults to obtain a college education and allows states to provide them with financial assistance as they learn skills to enter the workforce. In the Senate, I have introduced legislation addressing the needs of foster youth. Most recently, I introduced the Focusing Investments and Resources for a Safe Transition (FIRST) Act, legislation that enables states to establish Individual Development Accounts for youth aging out of foster care.

Over the years, I have hosted several foster youth interns in my Senate office through programs sponsored by the Orphan Foundation of America and the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute. I know firsthand that these individuals have extraordinary talent and potential, and have seen many of them go on to graduate school, law school, and the workforce; flourished by the experience. Without meaningful connections to employment, however, many foster youth will experience obstacles to building successful, independent lives. I encourage my colleagues to participate in the various internship programs that bring these young and talented individuals to work in the Congress and it is my hope that my colleagues will join me in expressing the Senate's support for foster youth as these young adults strive toward bright futures.

SENATE RESOLUTION 631—EX-PRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE SENATE HAS LOST CONFIDENCE IN THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, STEPHEN L. JOHNSON, THAT THE ADMINISTRATOR SHOULD RESIGN HIS POSITION IMMEDIATELY, AND THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE SHOULD OPEN AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE VERACITY OF HIS CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY REGARDING THE CALIFORNIA WAIVER DECISION AND PURSUE ANY PROSECUTORIAL ACTION THE DEPARTMENT DETERMINES TO BE WARRANTED

Mrs. BOXER (for herself, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. SANDERS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works:

S. RES. 631

Whereas, for most of its nearly 4-decade history, people of the United States could look to the Environmental Protection Agency for independent leadership, grounded in science and the rule of law, with a sole mission to protect our health and our environment;

Whereas, since Stephen L. Johnson was sworn in as Administrator, the Environmental Protection Agency has failed to carry out its mission, and has issued decision after decision that fails to adequately protect public health and the environment;

Whereas, on the issue of pollution from ozone, the Environmental Protection Agency under Administrator Johnson rejected the recommendations of agency scientists, public health officials, and the agency's own scientific advisory committees, and instead established an ozone standard that fails to protect the public, especially children and the elderly, from the harmful effects of ozone pollution, such as lung disease and asthma;

Whereas, on the issue of pollution from soot, known as "particulate matter", Administrator Johnson bowed to pressure from industry and failed to strengthen an outdated standard limiting the annual average levels of soot pollution, despite calls from the agency's own scientific advisory committees and health and medical experts to strengthen that standard to protect public health;

Whereas, on the issue of pollution from lead, Administrator Johnson failed to heed the Environmental Protection Agency's own scientists and proposed a standard that would leave children in harm's way;

Whereas, on the issue of the Toxic Release Inventory, the Agency's decision to weaken the community right-to-know rules for toxic chemicals used and released in communities across the country will quadruple the quantity of toxic pollutants that companies can release before the companies are required to provide to the public detailed information about the releases;

Whereas the Environmental Protection Agency went forward with those changes to the Toxic Release Inventory despite objections from 23 State agencies and attorneys general, and despite concerns raised by the Agency's own science advisory board;

Whereas, on the issue of the toxin perchlorate, the Environmental Protection Agency promulgated a rule revoking the requirement for testing of tap water for perchlorate, a contaminant that has been found in the drinking water of millions of people in

35 States, and which interferes with the thyroid and is especially risky to pregnant women and newborns, and as a result, people in the United States will lack up-to-date information on whether their tap water is contaminated with that toxin;

Whereas, on the issue of vehicle tailpipe emissions, Administrator Johnson denied a waiver that would have allowed California and up to 18 other States to enact strict restrictions on global warming pollution from automobiles, despite the reportedly unanimous recommendations of his professional staff in favor of granting the waiver at least in part, and finding that denying it would very likely be successfully challenged in court;

Whereas, on the issue of global warming pollution, in defiance of the Supreme Court's decision in *Massachusetts v. E.P.A.* (549 U.S. 497), Administrator Johnson has failed to take action after the Court's ruling that the Environmental Protection Agency has the authority, under the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.), to regulate greenhouse gas emissions that pollute our air, instead bowing to pressures from the Bush White House to punt the issue to the next administration;

Whereas, under Administrator Johnson, the Environmental Protection Agency has offered legal arguments for its insufficient standards that have provoked ridicule by the courts, which, for example, have accused the agency of employing the "logic of the Queen of Hearts" and living in "a Humpty-Dumpty" world in attempting to evade the intent of Congress and the clear meaning of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.);

Whereas, Administrator Johnson has allowed the Environmental Protection Agency's scientific advisory panels to be infiltrated by the very industries they are meant to regulate and control, while at the same time removing from those panels without justification qualified scientists who opposed industry positions;

Whereas a report issued on April 23, 2008, by the Union of Concerned Scientists, entitled "Interference at the EPA", uncovered widespread political influence in the Environmental Protection Agency decisions, noting, for example, that 60 percent of the Environmental Protection Agency career scientists surveyed had personally experienced at least 1 incident of political interference during the past 5 years;

Whereas the Environmental Protection Agency under Administrator Johnson has altered administrative procedures of the agency to allow the White House Office of Management and Budget and Pentagon secret influence over agency decisionmaking, such as through the Integrated Risk Information System process, an action which the Government Accountability Office has found to be "inconsistent with the principle of sound science that relies on, among other things, transparency";

Whereas Administrator Johnson's response to widespread criticism that his agency is in crisis, and that he allows White House political operatives and polluting industries to dictate his decisions rather than the law and science, has been to label those who have raised those concerns, many of whom are dedicated career employees of his agency, as "yammering critics";

Whereas, in defiance of his charge under the Constitution of the United States, Administrator Johnson has personally and repeatedly refused to cooperate with Congress in its efforts to conduct regular oversight of the Executive branch, refusing to produce documents as part of legitimate oversight investigations, refusing to appear before committees of Congress, and, when he has appeared, refusing to answer questions in a forthright manner;