

adults, their families, and healthcare providers, and injury prevention programs that focus on the reduction and prevention of falls among older adults; and

Whereas the Falls Free Coalition Advocacy Work Group, its numerous supporting organizations and all other supportive organizations, should be commended for their efforts to raise awareness and to promote greater understanding, research, and pilot programs to prevent falls among older adults: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates September 22, 2008, as “National Falls Prevention Awareness Day”;

(2) commends the National Falls Free Coalition and all other supportive organizations for their efforts to promote awareness about preventing and reducing falls among older people in the United States;

(3) encourages the private sector, the public health community, healthcare providers, advocacy organizations, and Federal, State, and local governments to work together to increase education and awareness about the prevention of falls; and

(4) urges national and community organizations, businesses, individuals, and the media to use National Falls Prevention Awareness Day to promote awareness of this important public health problem in an effort to reduce the incidence of falls among older people in the United States.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I rise today to submit legislation designating September 22, 2008, as National Falls Prevention Awareness Day. Earlier this year Senator ENZI and I worked together to pass a law that expands research and education on elder falls. Passing our resolution is yet another way we can help raise awareness and educate the Nation about this serious issue. Falls prevention helps seniors live longer, healthier, and more independent lives.

Falls are the leading cause of injury deaths among older adults. In 2005, falls among older adults accounted for 16,000 deaths, 1.8 million emergency department visits, and 433,000 hospitalizations. In Maryland alone, falls resulted in roughly 340 deaths, 23,000 falls-related emergency room visits, and 13,000 hospitalizations. The resulting costs to the individual, their families, and the health care system are avoidable.

I am pleased to continue to work with the Falls Free Coalition Advocacy Work Group comprised of the Home Safety Council, the National Council on Aging, the National Safety Council, the American Occupational Therapy Association, the American Physical Therapy Association, AARP, and many other concerned advocates to prevent elder falls. Together, I am hopeful we can continue to improve the quality of life for America’s seniors through awareness and prevention.

SENATE RESOLUTION 675—EX-PRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE GOALS OF NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY AND NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH BY PROMOTING NATIONAL AWARENESS OF ADOPTION AND THE CHILDREN AWAITING FAMILIES, CELEBRATING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES INVOLVED IN ADOPTION, AND ENCOURAGING AMERICANS TO SECURE SAFETY, PERMANENCY, AND WELL-BEING FOR ALL CHILDREN

Ms. LANDRIEU (for herself, Mr. COLEMAN, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. BAYH, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. INHOFE, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. BURR, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. SMITH, Mr. DEMINT, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. BROWNBACK, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. OBAMA, Mr. ENZI, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. VITTER, Mr. KERRY, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. THUNE, Mrs. DOLE, Mr. COBURN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. INOUE, Mr. SALAZAR, Mrs. HUTCHISON, and Mr. MENENDEZ (submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 675

Whereas there are approximately 510,000 children in the foster care system in the United States, approximately 129,000 of whom are waiting for families to adopt them;

Whereas 61 percent of the children in foster care are age 10 or younger;

Whereas the average length of time a child spends in foster care is over 3 years;

Whereas, for many foster children, the wait for a loving family in which they are nurtured, comforted, and protected seems endless;

Whereas the number of youth who “age out” of foster care by reaching adulthood without being placed in a permanent home has continued to increase since 1998, and more than 26,000 foster youth age out every year;

Whereas every day loving and nurturing families are strengthened and expanded when committed and dedicated individuals make an important difference in the life of a child through adoption;

Whereas a 2007 survey conducted by the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption demonstrated that though “Americans overwhelmingly support the concept of adoption, and in particular foster care adoption . . . foster care adoptions have not increased significantly over the past five years”;

Whereas, while 4 in 10 Americans have considered adoption, a majority of Americans have misperceptions about the process of adopting children from foster care and the children who are eligible for adoption;

Whereas 71 percent of those who have considered adoption consider adopting children from foster care above other forms of adoption;

Whereas 45 percent of Americans believe that children enter the foster care system because of juvenile delinquency, when in reality the vast majority of children who have entered the foster care system were victims of neglect, abandonment, or abuse;

Whereas 46 percent of Americans believe that foster care adoption is expensive, when in reality there is no substantial cost for adopting from foster care and financial sup-

port is available to adoptive parents after the adoption is finalized;

Whereas both National Adoption Day and National Adoption Month occur in November;

Whereas National Adoption Day is a collective national effort to find permanent, loving families for children in the foster care system;

Whereas, since the first National Adoption Day in 2000, more than 20,000 children have joined forever families during National Adoption Day;

Whereas, in 2007, adoptions were finalized for over 4,200 children through more than 260 National Adoption Day events in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico; and

Whereas the President traditionally issues an annual proclamation to declare November as National Adoption Month, and National Adoption Day is on November 15, 2008: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

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

(2) recognizes that every child should have a permanent and loving family; and

(3) encourages the citizens of the United States to consider adoption during the month of November and all throughout the year.

SENATE RESOLUTION 676—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF RED RIBBON WEEK

Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself, Mr. BAYH, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. COCHRAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CRAPO, Mrs. DOLE, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. INOUE, Mr. KERRY, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. SPECTER, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. SALAZAR, and Mrs. CLINTON, (submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 676

Whereas the Red Ribbon Campaign was established to commemorate the service of Enrique “Kiki” Camarena, an 11-year special agent of the Drug Enforcement Administration who was murdered in the line of duty in 1985 while engaged in the battle against illicit drugs;

Whereas the Red Ribbon Campaign has been sponsored by the National Family Partnership and nationally recognized since 1988 to preserve Special Agent Camarena’s memory and further the cause for which he gave his life, and is now the oldest and largest drug prevention program in the Nation, reaching millions of young people each year during Red Ribbon Week;

Whereas the Drug Enforcement Administration, committed throughout its 35 years to aggressively targeting organizations involved in the growing, manufacturing, and distribution of controlled substances, has been a steadfast partner in commemorating Red Ribbon Week;

Whereas the Governors and Attorneys General of the States, the National Family Partnership, Parent Teacher Associations, Boys and Girls Clubs of America, the Drug Enforcement Administration, and more than 100 other organizations throughout the United States annually celebrate Red Ribbon Week during the period of October 23 through October 31;

Whereas the objective of Red Ribbon Week is to promote the creation of drug-free communities through drug prevention efforts,