

lifestyle counseling, diagnostic and therapeutic procedures, and cardiac rehabilitation and are more likely to die or have a second heart attack, demonstrating inequalities between women and men in access to health care;

Whereas persisting health care disparities also are evident in that Hispanic and Native American women and children are 3 times as likely, and African-American women are nearly twice as likely, to be uninsured than non-Hispanic white women;

Whereas in 2005, nearly 80 percent of the female population with HIV/AIDS was African-American or Hispanic, and HIV/AIDS incidence rates are dramatically higher for African-American and Hispanic women and adolescents (60.2 and 15.8 per 100,000, respectively) than for white women and adolescents (3.0 per 100,000);

Whereas women are less likely than men to receive health insurance through their employers and more likely than men to be insured as a dependent, making them more vulnerable than men to insurance loss in the event of divorce or death of a spouse;

Whereas 64 percent of uninsured women are in families with at least 1 adult working full-time;

Whereas health care costs are increasingly unaffordable for working families and employers, with employer-sponsored health insurance premiums having increased 87 percent between 2000 and 2006;

Whereas the approximately 9,100,000 women-owned businesses in the United States employ 27,500,000 individuals, contribute \$3,600,000,000 to the economy, and face serious obstacles in obtaining affordable health care coverage for their employees;

Whereas the lack of affordable health care coverage creates barriers for women who want to change jobs or create their own small businesses;

Whereas health care professionals, a significant portion of which are women, have a stake in achieving reform that allows them to provide the highest quality of care for their patients;

Whereas 56 percent of all health caregivers are women;

Whereas although the United States spends twice as much on health care as the median industrialized nation, among the 30 developed nations of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the health care system of the United States ranks near the bottom on most measures of health status and ranks 37th in overall health performance among 191 nations; and

Whereas the Institute of Medicine estimates that the cost of achieving full health insurance coverage in the United States would be less than the loss in economic productivity from existing coverage gaps: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) commits to passing, not later than 18 months after the adoption of this resolution by Congress, legislation that guarantees health care for women and all individuals and establishes coverage that enables women to attain good health that they can maintain during their reproductive years and throughout their lives and that—

(A) recognizes the special role that women play as health care consumers, caregivers, and providers;

(B) guarantees a level of benefits and care, including comprehensive reproductive health care, pregnancy-related care, and infant care, that is necessary to achieve and maintain good health throughout a woman's lifetime and lessen the burdens caused by poor health;

(C) promotes primary and preventive care, including family planning, contraceptive equity, and care continuity;

(D) provides a choice of public and private health insurance plans and direct access to a choice of health care providers to ensure continuity of coverage and a delivery system that meets the needs of women;

(E) eliminates health disparities in coverage, treatment, and outcomes on the basis of gender, culture, race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, health status, and sexual orientation;

(F) shares responsibility for financing among employers, individuals, and the government, while taking into account the needs of small businesses;

(G) ensures that access to health care is affordable;

(H) enhances health care quality and patient safety;

(I) ensures a sufficient supply of qualified providers through expanded medical and public health education and adequate reimbursement;

(J) ensures every woman access to a woman's "medical home", including direct access to women's health care providers and care coordination, throughout each woman's lifetime;

(K) recognizes and promotes the role of women as providers of health care; and

(L) promotes administrative efficiency, reduces unnecessary paperwork, and is easy for health care consumers and providers to use; and

(2) urges the President to sign such legislation into law.

NOTICE OF HEARING

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a hearing has been scheduled before the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. The hearing will be held on Thursday, February 26, 2009, at 2:15 p.m., in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The purpose of the hearing is to provide recommendations for reducing energy consumption in buildings through improved implementation of authorized DOE programs and through other innovative federal energy efficiency policies and programs.

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record may do so by sending it to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510-6150, or by e-mail to Rosemarie_Calabro@energy.senate.gov.

For further information, please contact Deborah Estes at (202) 224-5360 or Rosemarie Calabro at (202) 224-5039.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during

the session of the Senate on Wednesday, February 11, 2009, at 11:30 a.m., in room SD366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, February 11, 2009, at 2:30 p.m., to hold a roundtable entitled "Foreign Policy Implications of the Global Economic Crisis."

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

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Ms. STABENOW. 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 on Wednesday, February 11, 2009, at 5 p.m.

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

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, February 11, 2009, at 10 a.m.

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, to conduct a hearing entitled "The Need for Increased Fraud Enforcement in the Wake of the Economic Downturn" on Wednesday, February 11, 2009, at 10 a.m., in room SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

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

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Rules and Administration be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, February 11, 2009, at 10:30 a.m.

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

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent for the Committee on Veterans' Affairs to be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, February 11, 2009, to conduct a hearing to review veterans' disability compensation and the appeals process. The Committee will meet in 418 Russell Senate Office Building, at 9:30 a.m.

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

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select

Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, February 11, 2009, at 2:30 p.m.

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

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Tom Edwards, a Secret Service fellow in my office, be granted floor privileges during the consideration of the nomination of Mr. William J. Lynn, III, to be the Deputy Secretary of Defense.

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

HONORING MIAMI UNIVERSITY

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 35, 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. 35) honoring Miami University for its 200 years of commitment to public higher education.

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

Mr. DURBIN. 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. 35) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 35

Whereas article III of the Northwest Ordinance, enacted by the Second Continental Congress in 1787, states that: "Religion, morality, and knowledge, being necessary to good government and the happiness of mankind, schools and the means of education shall forever be encouraged.";

Whereas Miami University was chartered on February 17, 1809;

Whereas Miami University is the Nation's tenth oldest public institution of higher learning;

Whereas Miami University's motto is "Prodesse Quam Conspici", meaning, "to accomplish without being conspicuous";

Whereas, former Poet Laureate Robert Frost once referred to Miami University as "the most beautiful college there is";

Whereas Miami University is the birthplace of the "McGuffey Eclectic Readers", written by William Holmes McGuffey, who was known as "School Master to the Nation" and who wrote and compiled the first 4 such readers while a Miami University faculty member;

Whereas Miami University is cited annually by national college rankings as being one of the Nation's best values among public universities;

Whereas Miami University is a university committed to empowering its students, faculty, and staff to become engaged citizens

who use their knowledge and skills with integrity and compassion to improve the future of our global society;

Whereas Miami University has continued to fulfill its mission by attracting some of the Nation's brightest faculty, staff, and students;

Whereas Miami University consistently ranks among the top 25 colleges and universities in the Nation for the number of undergraduate students who study abroad;

Whereas Miami University has a graduation rate that exceeds the national averages for undergraduates, students of color, and athletes;

Whereas Miami University is known as the "Mother of Fraternities", as it is the Alpha Chapter for 5 National Greek organizations: Beta Theta Pi, Sigma Chi, Phi Delta Theta, Phi Kappa Tau, and Delta Zeta;

Whereas Miami University has more than 150,000 living alumni who reside in every State in the Nation and numerous countries throughout the world, where they contribute significantly to their local and global communities;

Whereas Miami University ranks forty-fourth among all schools for producing Peace Corps volunteers since the inception of the Peace Corps and is ranked seventh on the Peace Corps' 2009 list of the top 25 volunteer-producing, medium-sized schools in the Nation, with 39 alumni currently serving as volunteers and a total of 809 Miami alumni having served as volunteers since the inception of the Peace Corps in 1961;

Whereas Miami University alumni have a history of service to the United States and include a President of the United States, the Honorable Benjamin Harrison; 9 United States Senators, including one sitting Senator, the Honorable Maria Cantwell of Washington; 31 United States Representatives, including two sitting Members, the Honorable Paul Ryan of Wisconsin and the Honorable Steve Driehaus of Ohio, and a former Speaker of the House; the parents of a First Lady; the grandparents of a President; 6 Governors; 11 United States Generals; 6 United States Ministers to foreign governments; and 1 United States Ambassador;

Whereas Miami University's alumni include 27 college presidents;

Whereas Miami University has enriched our Nation in the arts, humanities, and sciences through students and alumni who have reached the pinnacle of their professions, such as a United States Poet Laureate, Pulitzer Prize winners, a National Teacher of the Year, National Institutes of Health Fellows, National Science Foundation award recipients, National Endowment of the Arts awardees, and renowned journalists;

Whereas Miami University is known as the "Cradle of Coaches" for the unparalleled number of nationally prominent collegiate and professional coaches it has produced, 18 of whom have been recognized as national coaches of the year, including Paul Brown (Cleveland Browns), Walter "Smokey" Alston (Brooklyn/Los Angeles Dodgers), Woody Hayes (Ohio State University), Bo Schembechler (University of Michigan), and Vicki Korn (Miami University);

Whereas Miami University has created a "Culture of Champions", an environment that teaches student athletes to excel in their chosen endeavors, and which led students to earn distinctions that include a National Football League Rookie of the Year, National Football League Super Bowl Champions, National Basketball Association World Champions, National Hockey League Stanley Cup Champions, Major League Baseball World Series Champions, and Olympic gold medalists;

Whereas Miami University has contributed to the economic growth of the United States

through the education of men and women who have gone on to lead some of our most august corporations such as AT&T, Procter & Gamble, the J.M. Smucker Company, and United Parcel Service of America; and

Whereas Miami University is the largest employer in Butler County, Ohio, with an economic impact of over \$1,000,000,000 per year to the State of Ohio: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates Miami University on the momentous occasion of the university's 200th anniversary;

(2) expresses its best wishes for Miami University's continued success; and

(3) requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit an official copy of this resolution to Miami University for appropriate display.

PROVIDING FOR A JOINT SESSION OF CONGRESS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H. Con. Res. 41 at the desk and just received from the House.

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 41) providing for a joint session of Congress to receive a message from the President.

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

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, without intervening action or debate.

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

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 41) was agreed to.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2009

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow, Thursday, February 12, for the celebration of the 200th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birth; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate proceed to a period for the transaction of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each; further, that the Senate recess from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, at 11:30 a.m., there will be a ceremony honoring the 200th anniversary of the birth