

Sportsmen’s Caucuses, National Rifle Association, National Trappers Association, National Wild Turkey Foundation, North American Bear Foundation, North American Grouse Partnership, Orion-The Hunters’ Institute, Pheasants Forever, Pope and Young Club, Public Lands Foundation, Quail Forever, Quality Deer Management Association, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Ruffed Grouse Society, Safari Club International, Texas Wildlife Association, The Conservation Fund, Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, Whitetails Unlimited, Wildlife Forever, and Wildlife Management Institute

NAWCA was first enacted in 1989 and incentivizes non-federal contributions to maintain and restore wetland habitat throughout North America. Since its inception, each Federal dollar has been matched, on average, by \$3.20 in state and private funds. Not only do these funds help to support waterfowl populations that were once nearing all time lows, these voluntary projects also support nearly 7,500 new jobs annually.

The success of this program lies in the fact that these projects are not top down regulations coming from the Federal Government. These projects involve multiple partners from private organizations and the Federal Government who work together voluntarily to protect and restore millions of acres of wetlands.

In my home State of Oklahoma, NAWCA currently has 12 projects either completed or underway. These projects have conserved 26,869 acres of wildlife habitat and leveraged \$11.3 million in partner contributions. These projects benefit outdoor recreation, hunting and fishing, as well as boosting local economies.

NAWCA is a great example of how environmental conservation should be achieved. This program should put to rest the notion that voluntary efforts aren’t successful. I would argue that these voluntary programs have been more successful and more cost effective than other mandatory Federal regulations.

I look forward to this reauthorization moving quickly through the Senate. Thank you.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 411—CONGRATULATING THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY IFC/PANHELLENIC DANCE MARATHON ON ITS CONTINUED SUCCESS IN SUPPORT OF THE FOUR DIAMONDS FUND AT PENN STATE HERSHEY CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL

Mr. CASEY submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 411

Whereas the Pennsylvania State University IFC/Panhellenic Dance Marathon (re-

ferred to in this preamble as “THON”) is the largest student-run philanthropy in the world, with 700 dancers, more than 300 supporting organizations, and more than 15,000 volunteers involved in the annual event;

Whereas student volunteers at the Pennsylvania State University annually collect money and dance for 46 consecutive hours at the Bryce Jordan Center for THON, bringing energy and excitement to the Pennsylvania State University campus for the mission of conquering pediatric cancer and promoting awareness of the disease to thousands of individuals;

Whereas all THON activities support the mission of the Four Diamonds Fund at Penn State Hershey Children’s Hospital, which provides financial and emotional support to pediatric cancer patients and their families and funds research on pediatric cancer;

Whereas, each year, THON is the largest donor to the Four Diamonds Fund at Penn State Hershey Children’s Hospital, having raised more than \$88,000,000 since 1977, when the 2 organizations first became affiliated;

Whereas, in 2012, THON set a new fundraising record of \$10,686,924.83, surpassing the previous record of \$9,563,016.09, set in 2011;

Whereas THON—

(1) has helped more than 2,000 families through the Four Diamonds Fund;

(2) is helping to build a new Pediatric Cancer Pavilion at Penn State Hershey Children’s Hospital; and

(3) has supported pediatric cancer research that has caused some pediatric cancer survival rates to increase to nearly 90 percent; and

Whereas THON has inspired similar events and organizations across the United States, including at high schools and institutions of higher education, and continues to encourage students across the United States to volunteer and stay involved in great charitable causes in their communities: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the Pennsylvania State University IFC/Panhellenic Dance Marathon (referred to in this resolution as “THON”) on its continued success in support of the Four Diamonds Fund at Penn State Hershey Children’s Hospital; and

(2) commends the Pennsylvania State University students, volunteers, and supporting organizations who worked hard to put together another record-breaking THON.

SENATE RESOLUTION 412—COMMENDING THE AFRICAN UNION FOR COMMITTING TO A COORDINATED MILITARY RESPONSE, COMPRISED OF 5,000 TROOPS FROM UGANDA, THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC, THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO, AND SOUTH SUDAN, IN ORDER TO FORTIFY ONGOING EFFORTS TO ARREST JOSEPH KONY AND SENIOR COMMANDERS OF THE LORD’S RESISTANCE ARMY AND TO STOP THE CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY AND MASS ATROCITIES COMMITTED BY THEM

Ms. LANDRIEU (for herself and Mr. BROWN of Ohio) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 412

Whereas the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA) is one of Africa’s oldest and most violent armed groups, responsible for commit-

ting crimes against humanity against civilian populations, including women and children, and believed to be operating since 2006 in the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and what would become South Sudan;

Whereas the ongoing atrocities committed by LRA members target innocent civilians, including women and children, and include abduction, murder, mutilation, burning and looting of villages, and destruction of communities and livelihoods, causing the massive displacement of human populations and creating a humanitarian crisis;

Whereas the abduction of children and their forced conversion into LRA fighters is an LRA hallmark and involves initiating children into combat through brutal methods and brainwashing and subjects girls to forced sexual slavery and servitude;

Whereas the governments of those countries most affected by the LRA’s reign of terror for over twenty years, including Uganda, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and what would become Southern Sudan, are leading efforts, with international support, to apprehend Kony and neutralize the LRA;

Whereas the African Union convened a regional ministerial meeting in October 2010 to bring together countries affected by the LRA, the United Nations, and international partners to address the LRA threat and promote humanitarian assistance and development aid to affected populations, and subsequently authorized, in November 2011, the Regional Cooperation Initiative for the Elimination of the Lord’s Resistance Army (RCI-LRA), with a mission to strengthen the operational capabilities of the affected countries and create an environment conducive to stabilizing those areas;

Whereas, on March 5, 2012, the nonprofit organization Invisible Children reinvigorated the national and global dialogue on the LRA and Kony by engaging millions of young citizens via creative social media and inspiring them to demand action and accountability of global leaders, which in turn has mobilized leaders within and outside of the United States Government in support of these concerns;

Whereas, on March 24, 2012, the African Union’s Special Envoy for the LRA, Francisco Madeira, and Head of the United Nation’s Regional Office for Central Africa, Abou Moussa, launched the operational phase of RCI-LRA by formally announcing the planned deployment of up to 5,000 soldiers to advance anti-LRA and anti-Kony efforts, and the next day formally inaugurated the Headquarters of the Regional Task Force in South Sudan to coordinate efforts to eliminate Kony and neutralize the LRA;

Whereas, in December 2008, Operation Lightning Thunder, a multinational effort, failed to capture and kill Kony in northern Congo, and escaping LRA fighters killed more than 800 civilians, abducted at least 160 children, and pillaged villages en route to the Central African Republic in an incident known as the Christmas Massacres, according to Human Rights Watch; and

Whereas enhanced international and regional cooperation and coordination are necessary to apprehend Kony and LRA leaders while protecting civilian populations against devastating retaliatory attacks: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends the African Union for committing to enhanced troop deployments that will fortify the military response to the Lord’s Resistance Army, in coordination with the Governments of Uganda, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and the Republic of South Sudan, in order to strengthen ongoing efforts

to arrest Joseph Kony and senior commanders of the Lord's Resistance Army;

(2) supports increasing collaboration and coordination between the African Union and the Governments of Uganda, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and the Republic of South Sudan so that together they may swiftly and effectively implement RCI-LRA and bring Kony's criminal spree to an end;

(3) supports ongoing efforts by members of the United States Armed Forces currently deployed to serve as advisors to and partners of these national militaries and African Union forces; and

(4) supports continued efforts by the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense, and other representatives of the United States Government to work with partner nations and the international community to strengthen the operational capabilities of African Union and other regional military forces deployed as part of RCI-LRA to protect civilians and neutralize the leadership of the Lord's Resistance Army.

SENATE RESOLUTION 413—SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF APRIL 2012 AS NATIONAL AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. CASEY submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 413

Whereas autism is a general term used to describe a group of complex developmental brain disorders known as pervasive developmental disorders, commonly known as autism spectrum disorders;

Whereas autism is a neurodevelopmental disorder that results in difficulties with communication and social interaction, as well as repetitive behaviors;

Whereas autism affects individuals differently, mildly affecting some and significantly disabling others;

Whereas according to a 2012 report published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, as of 2008, autism affects an estimated 1 in every 88 children in the United States, including 1 in 54 boys, which is a 23 percent increase from 2006;

Whereas autism is 4 times more likely to be diagnosed in boys than in girls;

Whereas autism can affect anyone regardless of race, ethnicity, or other factors;

Whereas the lifetime incremental cost of caring for a person with autism is \$3,200,000;

Whereas the cost nationally of caring for persons affected by autism is estimated to be at least \$90,000,000,000 per year;

Whereas the number of autistic adults grows daily and, absent fundamental breakthroughs, will continue to increase in the years and decades ahead;

Whereas it is both a moral and fiscal imperative that services be made available that maximize the potential of each unique adult living with autism to contribute to the greatest extent possible to the society and economy of the United States;

Whereas it is well established that early intervention can improve outcomes by significantly improving the cognitive, language, and adaptive skills of people with autism;

Whereas the promise of early intervention is not being realized as close to 80 percent of adults with autism, even those without an intellectual disability, are unemployed and living at home with relatives rather than independently;

Whereas a variety of physical, medical, and mental-health issues may accompany au-

tism, resulting in marked functional impairment in all activities of daily living;

Whereas these conditions may include epilepsy, Down syndrome, fragile X syndrome, gastrointestinal problems, immune-system disorders, sleep disturbance, sensory integration dysfunction, and metabolic disorders;

Whereas many individuals on the autism spectrum face co-occurring mental-health challenges, including anxiety, obsessive compulsions, and depression;

Whereas individuals living with autism are highly valued and deserve the highest level of dignity and acceptance by society; and

Whereas April 2012 would be an appropriate month to designate as National Autism Awareness Month to increase public awareness of the need to support individuals with autism and the family members and medical professionals who care for individuals with autism: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses support designating April 2012 as National Autism Awareness Month;

(2) recognizes and commends both individuals living with autism and the parents and relatives of those individuals for the sacrifice and dedication in providing for the special needs of autistic individuals and for absorbing financial costs for specialized education, medical clinical interventions, and support services;

(3) recognizes that—

(A) autism is a major public health crisis that is taking an enormous toll on millions of families who need answers that can come only through further research;

(B) meeting the education, employment, and service-provision needs of individuals on the autism spectrum is a clear and compelling public policy issue that requires a rapid national response; and

(C) individuals and families are desperate to access services that are, at this point, inadequate to meet the current and growing needs of individuals with autism;

(4) stresses the need to begin early intervention services soon after a child has been diagnosed with autism, noting that there is a strong consensus that intensive treatment as soon as possible following diagnosis can significantly improve cognitive functioning, language, and adaptive behavior, reduce the cost of lifetime care, and yield the most positive life outcomes for children with autism;

(5) recognizes—

(A) the importance of assistance in the areas of comprehensive early intervention, health, recreation, job training, employment, housing, transportation, and early, primary, and secondary education; and

(B) that with access to, and assistance with, this type of service and support, individuals with autism can live rich, full, and productive lives;

(6) recognizes that services for transitioning youth and adults with autism are an especially pressing need, as are services that enhance the safety of individuals with autism of any age; and

(7) recognizes that by providing adequate service and support at crucial points in life, adults with autism can become tax-paying citizens with productive and rewarding lives.

SENATE RESOLUTION 414—COMMEMORATING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT PEMBROKE

Mr. BURR (for himself and Mrs. HAGAN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 414

Whereas the University of North Carolina at Pembroke (referred to in this preamble as "the University") was founded on March 7, 1887, in Robeson County, North Carolina by an act of the General Assembly of North Carolina;

Whereas the University, originally named the Croatan Normal School, was created in response to a petition from the Indian people of Robeson County;

Whereas the University was founded for the purpose of training American Indian school teachers;

Whereas the University opened in the fall of 1887 with 15 students and 1 teacher;

Whereas the University moved to its present location in Pembroke, North Carolina in 1909;

Whereas a 2-year program beyond high school was added to the University in 1926;

Whereas the length of the program of college studies at the University was extended to 4 years in 1939;

Whereas, in 1941, the General Assembly of North Carolina changed the name of the University to Pembroke State College for Indians;

Whereas, until 1953, the University was the only State-supported 4-year college for Indians in the United States;

Whereas, in 1969, the General Assembly of North Carolina changed the name of the University to Pembroke State University and made the University a regional State university that provided instruction at both the undergraduate level and the graduate level;

Whereas, in 1972, the General Assembly of North Carolina established the 17-campus University of North Carolina system and made Pembroke State University 1 of the constituent institutions of the system;

Whereas, on July 1, 1996, Pembroke State University became the University of North Carolina at Pembroke;

Whereas, today, approximately 6,000 students from diverse backgrounds are enrolled in 41 undergraduate programs and 17 graduate programs at the University of North Carolina at Pembroke; and

Whereas March 7, 2012, marks the 125th anniversary of the founding of the University of North Carolina at Pembroke: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate commemorates the 125th anniversary of the University of North Carolina at Pembroke.

SENATE RESOLUTION 415—DESIGNATING APRIL 4, 2012, AS "NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF JUNIOR AUXILIARIES DAY"

Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. PRYOR) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 415

Whereas the National Association of Junior Auxiliaries and the members of the National Association of Junior Auxiliaries provide valuable service and leadership opportunities for women who wish to take an active role in their communities;

Whereas the mission of the National Association of Junior Auxiliaries is to encourage member chapters to render charitable services that—

(1) are beneficial to the general public; and
(2) place a particular emphasis on providing for the needs of children; and

Whereas since the founding of the National Association of Junior Auxiliaries in 1941, the