

mathematics (STEM) fundamental research and related education;

Whereas an excellent STEM higher-education system is critical to the development of a robust and inclusive U.S. STEM workforce and to U.S. global science and engineering preeminence;

Whereas Congress and President Harry S. Truman created the National Science Foundation (NSF), an independent Federal agency, 62 years ago specifically to advance scientific discovery and innovation through the Nation's basic research and STEM education infrastructure;

Whereas fundamental research supported by NSF across all scientific disciplines have resulted in many significant contributions to Americans' health and security, as well as to technological innovation and U.S. economic prosperity;

Whereas advances in knowledge are made possible by researchers who focus on the fundamental properties of nature, and who mentor and educate the next generation of scientists and engineers;

Whereas 60 years ago, NSF purposefully created the Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP) as an instrument to prepare the Nation's reservoir of science and engineering talent;

Whereas the GRFP, the country's oldest graduate fellowship program, supports outstanding graduate students pursuing masters and doctoral degrees in research at accredited U.S. institutions;

Whereas the GRFP has contributed to the development of outstanding U.S. scholars, entrepreneurs, teachers, mentors, and inventors who continue to support and promote the Nation's science and engineering enterprise and the next generation of scientists and engineers;

Whereas this flagship program helps maintain high-quality and highly skilled graduates who enter the Nation's STEM workforce prepared to innovate and collaborate in the global scientific arena;

Whereas NSF has funded more than 46,500 competitive graduate research fellows with selection criteria based on the intellectual merit of their research and its potential broader impacts for society;

Whereas of the more than 200 NSF-supported Nobel laureates, 40 were selected as graduate research fellows, and more than 440 graduate research fellows have become members of the National Academy of Sciences;

Whereas graduate research fellows have an exceptionally high rate of doctorate completion;

Whereas since 2001, graduate research fellows have filed more than 1,000 patents while working toward their graduate degrees, thus contributing directly to scientific advancement and discovery;

Whereas since 2007, 1145 graduate research fellows were selected from Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research jurisdictions; and

Whereas NSF's GRFP continues to be an essential component of the Nation's discovery and innovation ecosystem, and is instrumental in STEM workforce development: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) commemorates the 60th anniversary of the Graduate Research Fellowship Program of the National Science Foundation; and

(2) continues to recognize U.S. STEM graduate education as central to U.S. workforce competitiveness and our country's international leadership and economic prosperity.

#### AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3310. Mr. CARDIN (for Mr. KERRY (for himself, Mr. LUGAR, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr.

INHOFE, and Mr. DEMINT)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 3331, to provide for universal intercountry adoption accreditation standards, and for other purposes.

#### TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

**SA 3310.** Mr. CARDIN (for Mr. KERRY (for himself, Mr. LUGAR, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. INHOFE, and Mr. DEMINT)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 3331, to provide for universal intercountry adoption accreditation standards, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

##### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Intercountry Adoption Universal Accreditation Act of 2012".

##### SEC. 2. UNIVERSAL ACCREDITATION REQUIREMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The provisions of title II and section 404 of the Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 14901 et seq.), and related implementing regulations, shall apply to any person offering or providing adoption services in connection with a child described in section 101(b)(1)(F) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(b)(1)(F)), to the same extent as they apply to the offering or provision of adoption services in connection with a Convention adoption. The Secretary of State, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Attorney General (with respect to section 404(b) of the Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 14944)), and the accrediting entities shall have the duties, responsibilities, and authorities under title II and title IV of the Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000 and related implementing regulations with respect to a person offering or providing such adoption services, irrespective of whether such services are offered or provided in connection with a Convention adoption.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The provisions of this section shall take effect 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) TRANSITION RULE.—This Act shall not apply to a person offering or providing adoption services as described in subsection (a) in the case of a prospective adoption in which—

(1) an application for advance processing of an orphan petition or petition to classify an orphan as an immediate relative for a child is filed before the date that is 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act; or

(2) the prospective adoptive parents of a child have initiated the adoption process with the filing of an appropriate application in a foreign country sufficient such that the Secretary of State is satisfied before the date that is 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

##### SEC. 3. AVAILABILITY OF COLLECTED FEES FOR ACCREDITING ENTITIES.

(a) Section 403 of the Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 14943) is amended by striking subsection (c).

(b) REPORT REQUIREMENT.—Section 202(b) of the Intercountry Adoption act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 14922(b)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(5) REPORT ON USE OF FEDERAL FUNDING.—Not later than 90 days after an accrediting entity receives Federal funding authorized by section 403, the entity shall submit a report to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives that describes—

"(A) the amount of such funding the entity received; and

"(B) how such funding was, or will be, used by the entity."

##### SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act, the terms "accrediting entity", "adoption service", "Convention adoption", and "person" have the meanings given those terms in section 3 of the Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 14902).

#### AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR AND PENSIONS

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. 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 December 5, 2012.

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

#### SUBCOMMITTEE ON AFRICAN AFFAIRS

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on December 5, 2012, at 9 a.m., to hold a African Affairs subcommittee hearing entitled, "Assessing Developments in Mali: Restoring Democracy and Reclaiming the North."

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

#### PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following members of Senator BAUCUS's staff be granted floor privileges during the consideration of H.R. 6156: Lisa Pearlman, Rebecca Nolan, Heather Sykes, Owen Haacke, and Dan West.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a detailee to the Committee on Banking, Housing, Urban Affairs, Catherine Topping, be granted the privileges of the floor for the remainder of this session.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, on behalf of the Senator from Maryland, Mr. CARDIN, I ask unanimous consent that floor privileges be granted to Kyle Parker, a staff member on the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe—also known as the Helsinki Commission, which Senator CARDIN co-chairs—during Senate consideration of H.R. 6156.

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

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Steven Garrett, Christopher Hanna, Shawn Novak, Lauren Felice, and Richard Chovanec of the Finance Committee be granted the privilege of the floor for the duration of Senate consideration of H.R. 6156 and for the remainder of this session of Congress.

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

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that an intern from