

Whereas various United States and international assessments indicate that the next priority for the Government of Haiti should be to repair the country's basic infrastructure, including its schools, roads, hospitals, telecommunications infrastructure, and government buildings;

Whereas Haiti's leaders have advocated that—

(1) reconstruction should not follow the inefficient practices of the past; and

(2) Haitians should be given the opportunity to accelerate and implement long planned reforms and new ways of doing business in every sector;

Whereas Haiti enjoys several advantages that can facilitate its rebuilding, including—

(1) people committed to education and hard work;

(2) duty-free, quota-free access to United States markets;

(3) a large pool of low-cost labor;

(4) a large, hardworking North American diaspora sending money back to Haiti; and

(5) regional neighbors who are peaceful, prosperous, and supportive of Haiti's success;

Whereas international experience from rebuilding other countries recovering from natural disaster confirms that—

(1) stability and security are essential preconditions to longer-term development; and

(2) economic development and political reform should relieve poverty and foster governance and social justice;

Whereas employment is essential to breaking the vicious cycle of poverty, corruption, insecurity, and loss of faith in democracy;

Whereas the Haitian people, like all people, deserve the income and dignity that gainful employment provides;

Whereas, in addition to providing emergency assistance and relief, the Government of Haiti must grapple with the longer-term issue of how to provide permanent, sustainable shelter to an estimated 1,000,000 Haitians displaced by the earthquake;

Whereas, the impact of natural disaster on Haiti is—

(1) exacerbated by weak building codes and poor infrastructure; and

(2) more fundamentally the result of an impoverished state unable to provide most of its people with minimal public services, including security, clean water, shelter, electricity, health care, and education;

Whereas assistance to Haiti should be delivered in a manner that enhances, not diminishes, the ability of the state to provide services to its people;

Whereas the Haitian state should be rebuilt with communities in a central role in the national recovery process led by the Government of Haiti, so that foreign assistance upholds and empowers Haitian mayors, local councils, and municipalities in areas outside of Port-au-Prince; and

Whereas international donors and non-governmental organizations, which have a responsibility to support the Government of Haiti in its rebuilding efforts, should not supplant the ability of local institutions and the government to manage resources and provide essential services: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) urges the United States Government and the international community to provide resources, manpower, and technical assistance to support the Government of Haiti's leadership of international assistance efforts and to conduct a comprehensive post-disaster needs assessment that will focus on—

(A) social sector services, including access to, and delivery of, basic services, including—

(i) health care delivery, including reinstating disrupted care and addressing new needs;

(ii) all levels of education, including ensuring access to lessons as quickly as possible;

(iii) social support for communities;

(iv) improving the welfare of children; and

(v) recognition of the importance of gender equality and the role of women as economic guardians;

(B) population resettlement, including services and sustainable livelihoods to support new communities and settlements;

(C) stable and democratic governance, ensuring that the Government of Haiti will appropriately steward state resources through a process embracing transparency, civic participation, political moderation, and institutional accountability;

(D) economic sustainability, emphasizing employment generation, macroeconomic stability, and market economy sustainability;

(E) security, ensuring legitimate state efforts to prevent and respond to crime, especially violence, and instilling public order and confidence in Haitian security forces; and

(F) rule of law, developing a just legal framework that—

(i) is accountable;

(ii) provides access to justice; and

(iii) ensures public order;

(2) encourages the United States Government and the international community to support the leadership of the Government of Haiti and key nongovernmental and private sector Haitian stakeholders to create a comprehensive national strategy for recovery and development that will—

(A) be led by the Government of Haiti;

(B) address the findings from the needs assessment conducted under paragraph (1);

(C) coordinate new resources flowing into Haiti;

(D) channel such resources in concrete and specific ways towards key sectoral objectives identified by the Government of Haiti and its people;

(E) take feasible steps to recognize and rectify the social injustice of poverty, and decrease the vulnerability of the poor, through job creation, the provision of health care, the provision of safe shelter and settlements, food security, and education;

(F) place communities at the center of the rebuilding process, by employing local labor and consulting local leaders and communities for their experience and vision;

(G) encourage rebuilding and development of programs that are environmentally sustainable and respectful and restorative of Haiti's natural resources;

(H) work with the Government of Haiti and the international community to reduce the risk of future disasters, including floods and hurricanes, through the relief and recovery efforts focusing on the most vulnerable communities; and

(I) address the difficult issues related to land use, land tenure, the need for land for reconstruction, and land price escalations;

(3) applauds the international community's response to the preliminary appeal for assistance made at Montreal, Canada, on January 25, 2010;

(4) affirms that—

(A) the international donors conference for Haiti, which will be held in New York on March 22–23, 2010, is an opportunity for Haiti to accelerate and implement long-planned projects and priorities in key infrastructural, economic, and social sectors outlined in a comprehensive national strategy;

(B) large-scale international assistance provides significant leverage to promote change and reform in Haiti; and

(C) the international community should be prepared to fully commit to the outcomes of the New York donors conference, including

full disbursement and subsequent implementation;

(5) encourages international financial institutions and international organizations, including the United Nations and the World Bank, to continue their engagement and leadership in support of critical economic and security priorities, including—

(A) economic and social assistance programs;

(B) strengthening Haitian national institutions;

(C) security sector reform;

(D) ensuring fair and legitimate elections; and

(E) supporting political and governance reform;

(6) encourages the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and the Inter-American Development Bank, which hold the majority of Haiti's existing external debt obligations, to—

(A) work together to relieve Haiti of its external debt obligations to the multilateral community and bilateral lenders; and

(B) seek considerable new resources for Haiti without adding to Haiti's existing debt obligations, primarily through provision of grants; and

(7) urges the United States Government to ensure unity of effort by assigning a single person to—

(A) coordinate all aspects of United States assistance to Haiti; and

(B) work with Congress to responsibly ensure sufficient appropriations to facilitate the long-term and sustainable recovery, rehabilitation, and development of Haiti.

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANT PROGRESS MADE IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS IN UKRAINE

Mr. BAUCUS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Foreign Relations Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 422 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 422) recognizing the important progress made by the people of Ukraine in the establishment of democratic institutions following the presidential runoff election on February 7, 2010.

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

Mr. BAUCUS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and any statements related to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 422) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 422

Whereas adherence by Ukraine to democratic, transparent, and fair election standards has been necessary for full integration into the democratic community;

Whereas steps undertaken by Ukraine in recent years, including reform of election laws and regulations, the development of a pluralistic and independent press, and the establishment of public institutions that respect human rights and the rule of law, have enhanced Ukraine's progress toward democracy and prosperity;

Whereas the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) concluded that "most OSCE and Council of Europe commitments were met" with regard to the conduct of the run-off presidential election on February 7, 2010;

Whereas international monitoring groups concluded that prior elections in Ukraine on January 17, 2010, and in 2007, 2006, and 2004, were also generally in accordance with international election norms;

Whereas the United States has closely supported the people of Ukraine in their efforts to pursue a free and democratic future since the declaration of their independence in 1991;

Whereas the NATO Freedom Consolidation Act of 2007 (Public Law 110-17; 22 U.S.C. 1928 note), signed into law by President George W. Bush on April 9, 2007, recognized the progress made by Ukraine toward meeting the responsibilities and obligations for membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and designated Ukraine as eligible to receive assistance under the NATO Participation Act of 1994 (title II of Public Law 103-447; 22 U.S.C. 1928 note);

Whereas Ukraine has made steps toward integration within European institutions through a joint European Union-Ukraine Action Plan, as part of the European Neighbourhood Policy; and

Whereas the United States-Ukraine Strategic Partnership Commission was inaugurated by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Ukrainian Foreign Minister Petro Poroshenko on December 9, 2009; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the important progress made by the people of Ukraine in establishing democratic institutions and carrying out peaceful elections on January 17 and February 7, 2010;

(2) supports ongoing progress by Ukraine in addressing remaining challenges in the electoral processes as identified by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and other international election monitoring entities;

(3) encourages all parties to respect the independence and territorial sovereignty of Ukraine, as well as the full integration of Ukraine into the international democratic community;

(4) pledges further support for the development of a fully free and open democratic system, as well as a transparent free market economy, in Ukraine; and

(5) reaffirms its commitment to engage the Government of Ukraine in further development of bilateral cooperation through the United States-Ukraine Strategic Partnership Commission.

SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK WEEK

Mr. BAUCUS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 426, and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

dered. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 426) designating the week of February 28 through March 7, 2010, as "School Social Work Week".

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

Mr. BAUCUS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and any statements relating to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 426) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 426

Whereas the importance of school social work through the inclusion of school social work programs has been recognized in the current authorizations of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.) and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.);

Whereas school social workers serve as vital members of a school educational team, playing a central role in creating a positive school climate and vital partnerships between the home, school, and community to ensure student academic success;

Whereas school social workers are especially skilled in providing services to students who face serious challenges to school success, including poverty, disability, discrimination, abuse, addiction, bullying, divorce of parents, loss of a loved one, and other barriers to learning;

Whereas there is a growing need for local educational agencies to offer the mental health services that school social workers provide when working with families, teachers, principals, community agencies, and other entities to address emotional, physical, and environmental needs of students so that students may achieve behavioral and academic success;

Whereas, to achieve the goal of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (Public Law 107-110) of helping all children reach their optimal levels of potential and achievement, including children with serious emotional disturbances, schools must work to remove the emotional, behavioral, and academic barriers that interfere with student success in school;

Whereas fewer than 1 in 5 of the 17,500,000 children in need of mental health services actually receive these services, and research indicates that school mental health programs improve educational outcomes by decreasing absences, decreasing discipline referrals, and improving academic achievement;

Whereas school mental health programs are critical to early identification of mental health problems and in the provision of appropriate services when needed;

Whereas the national average ratio of students to school social workers recommended by the School Social Work Association of America is 400 to 1; and

Whereas the celebration of "School Social Work Week" highlights the vital role school social workers play in the lives of students in the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of February 28 through March 7, 2010, as "School Social Work Week";

(2) honors and recognizes the contributions of school social workers to the success of students in schools across the Nation; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to observe "School Social Work Week" with the appropriate ceremonies and activities that promote awareness of the vital role of school social workers, in schools and in the community as a whole, in helping students prepare for their futures as productive citizens.

CHILDREN'S DENTAL HEALTH MONTH

MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS AWARENESS WEEK

SUPPORTING THOSE AFFECTED BY THE NATURAL DISASTERS ON MADEIRA ISLAND

IRAQI PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS

READ ACROSS AMERICA DAY

Mr. BAUCUS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following Senate resolutions: S. Res. 434, S. Res. 435, S. Res. 436, S. Res. 437, and S. Res. 438.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Mr. BAUCUS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc.

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

The resolutions were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

The resolutions, with their preambles, read as follows:

S. RES. 434

Whereas several national dental organizations have observed February 2010 as Children's Dental Health Month;

Whereas Deamonte Driver, a 12-year-old Marylander, died on February 25, 2007, of complications resulting from untreated tooth decay;

Whereas the passing of Deamonte Driver has led to increased awareness nationwide about the importance of access to high-quality, affordable preventative care and treatment for dental problems;

Whereas the primary purpose of Children's Dental Health Month is to educate parents, children, and the public about the importance and value of oral health;

Whereas Children's Dental Health Month showcases the overwhelmingly preventable nature of tooth decay and highlights the fact that tooth decay is on the rise among the youngest children in the Nation;

Whereas Children's Dental Health Month educates the public about the treatment of childhood dental caries, cleft-palate, oral facial trauma, and oral cancer through public