

Whereas according to the Department of State, Mexico is the source of between 20 and 30 percent of the heroin and 70 percent of the marijuana shipped into the United States and is a transit point for between 50 and 70 percent of the cocaine shipped into the United States;

Whereas drug traffickers along the United States border with Mexico smuggle approximately \$10,000,000,000 worth of narcotics into the United States annually, and the drug trade generates approximately \$30,000,000,000 annually for the Mexican economy;

Whereas there has been a failure to take effective action against drug cartels and other significant narcotics traffickers in Mexico, including the Juarez and Tijuana drug cartels;

Whereas Mexico has failed to honor requests by the United States for extradition of Mexican nationals indicted in our courts on drug-related charges;

Whereas the number of drug seizures in Mexico in 1996 was only half the number of seizures in 1993, and the number of drug-related arrests in Mexico in 1996 was only half the number of such arrests in 1992;

Whereas there is evidence of official corruption in the counter-drug forces of Mexico, including the recent arrest of General Jesus Gutierrez Rebollo, the highest-ranking counter-drug official of the Government of Mexico;

Whereas the Government of Mexico has refused to permit United States agents to carry their weapons on the Mexican side of the United States border with Mexico;

Whereas the banking and financial sectors in Mexico lack mechanisms to prevent money laundering; and

Whereas the Department of Treasury estimates the amount of drug-related money-laundering in Mexico in 1996 at nearly \$10,000,000,000; Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring),* That it is the sense of Congress—

(1) to express concern about ineffective and insufficient progress by Mexico in halting the production in and transit through Mexico of illegal drugs; and

(2) to urge the President of the United States and the President of Mexico to expand and strengthen their cooperative relationship in order to make additional progress in halting the production in and transit through Mexico of illegal drugs, including meaningful progress in—

(A) the dismantlement of major drug cartels in Mexico and the arrest of their leaders;

(B) the implementation by Mexico of effective money-laundering legislation;

(C) the compliance of Mexico with outstanding extradition requests by the United States, particularly those requested for extradition of Mexican nationals indicted in our courts on drug-related charges;

(D) the interdiction of the flow of narcotics and other controlled substances across the land and sea border between the United States and Mexico;

(E) the cooperation of Mexico with United States law enforcement officials engaged in counter-drug activities, including permission for United States agents to carry weapons on the Mexico side of the United States border; and

(F) the implementation by Mexico of a wide-ranging program to identify, eliminate, and prosecute officials in Mexico, including government, police, and military officials, who are engaged in or corrupted by drug-related activities.

#### SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 10—RELATIVE TO MEXICO

Mr. GRASSLEY submitted the following concurrent resolution; which

was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

#### S. CON. RES. 10

Whereas Mexico is one of the major source countries for narcotic and psychotropic drugs and other controlled substances entering the United States;

Whereas Mexico is a major transit country for cocaine;

Whereas 70 percent to 80 percent of all foreign-grown marijuana in the United States originates in Mexico;

Whereas criminal organizations in Mexico are involved in smuggling across the United States border;

Whereas criminal organizations in Mexico are engaged in the routine corruption of Mexican officials;

Whereas Mexico has not taken adequate steps to prevent or punish bribery and other forms of corruption;

Whereas Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo has stated his commitment to "create a nation of law," combat drug trafficking, investigate assassinations, and punish official corruption at all levels;

Whereas Mexico has not taken adequate steps to arrest or extradite major drug cartel leaders;

Whereas the continued, large-scale transportation of narcotic and psychotropic drugs and other controlled substances from Mexico to the United States is detrimental to the vital national interests of the United States;

Whereas the Government of Mexico has not taken sufficient steps to control its borders against airborne and seaborne smuggling or to implement a promise by President Ernesto Zedillo to develop a radar network along Mexico's border and to take adequate steps to arrest or extradite major drug cartel leaders; and

Whereas the President determined and reported to Congress pursuant to section 490(b) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2291j(b)) that Mexico had taken sufficient steps to combat international narcotic trafficking; Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring),* That it is the sense of the Congress that the President should not certify Mexico pursuant to section 490(b)(1) of the Foreign Assistance Act (22 U.S.C. 2291j(b)(1)) on March 1, 1998, unless the Government of Mexico demonstrates clear progress in the following matters:

(1) Taking steps to develop and deploy a southern tier of radars to monitor aircraft flying into Mexico and to deploy interception capability to close the air bridge into Mexico.

(2) Arresting or extraditing major drug trafficking kingpins and taking adequate steps to disrupt the operations of major criminal organizations operating in and through Mexico.

(3) Taking adequate steps to stop the corruption of Mexican officials at all levels of government and investigating accusations against State governors and public officials.

(4) Taking swift action to implement recent money-laundering and anti-crime legislation.

(5) Permitting United States law enforcement officials on the United States-Mexico border to cross the border with their weapons and reaching agreement to allow United States law enforcement personnel to continue into Mexico while in "hot pursuit" of suspects.

(7) Reaching an agreement to allow refueling for maritime and air interdiction assets.

(8) Reaching an agreement to permit adequate cooperation with United States law enforcement personnel for intercepting maritime smugglers.

(9) Developing and implementing measures to control and monitor maritime smuggling through major ports and container facilities.

(10) Deploying and using vetted units of specially selected and trained law enforcement personnel to disrupt drug trafficking organizations.

SEC. 2. The Secretary of the Senate shall transmit a copy of this concurrent resolution to the President.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, there is no dispute that a lot of drugs reach this country through Mexico. Not we, not the administration, not Mexico challenge this fact. Just as clearly, we must be concerned about this traffic in illegal drugs. We must be concerned for what this poisonous trade is doing to our country and to our kids. We must be concerned for what the drug money that results from this trade is doing to build criminal empires able to challenge and corrupt whole countries. For these reasons, the United States and Mexico have a shared interest in stopping an illegal trade that is so damaging to both our peoples and our institutions.

Mexico acknowledges its responsibility to help in combating the production and transit of illegal drugs. The production and transit of these drugs are illegal under Mexican law. Mexico is a party to a variety of international agreements to stop these practices. It also has bilateral agreements with the United States to the same effect. Thus, by solemn agreement, Mexico, along with most others countries, is committed in principle and practice to taking effective action to stop illegal drug production and transit.

The United States has a long and deeply intertwined relationship with Mexico, a relationship that is very important to both countries. Whether for good or ill, we are linked to Mexico and Mexico to us. Thus, we must be particularly thoughtful in how we treat that relationship.

The resolution I am offering today does not amend the certification process. It does not change the President's decision to certify Mexico—today. What it does do is send a clear, strong message from Congress that, while we have heard many promises, we have seen little action. And actions—appropriate actions—are paramount. While a change in the certification process may be necessary, doing so without taking the time to hold hearings or look at the possible solutions is hasty. We need to consider our next steps carefully.

There has been a lot of discussion in the last few days on what to do about Mexico. The discussion has tended to go from conditions that proposed to go too far, in my judgment, to approaches that do not go far enough. Clearly, striking the right balance on this important issue is not easy. In my view, however, we must lay down benchmarks with a clear time frame for deciding what Congress regards as the minimum we expect. After all that has been said and done in the last several days, to do less falls shy of doing anything.

My resolution affords the Congress the time to make a reasoned determination about what to do. It requires

the Administration to base its decision next March 1 on a specific set of measurable benchmarks. In brief, my proposal requires progress on nine specific issues. These include progress on establishing an interdiction network of radars, progress on extradition, progress on dealing with corruption, steps to resolve carry weapons, steps to reach a maritime agreement, and steps to resolve refueling rights.

I believe that this approach and these measures give us the reasonable terms of reference for how to proceed. This approach gives us the opportunity and time to develop the cooperation on the drug issue that I believe we all want.

This resolution outlines both the concerns that have been expressed by Congress and what we expect Mexico to accomplish before March 1, 1998. Not rhetoric, but actions. We ought to proceed with care before we take steps to fundamentally alter the United States-Mexican relationship. But we must keep faith with our responsibilities to the public.

#### SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 11—RELATIVE TO A NUTRITION PROGRAM

Mr. GREGG (for himself, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. JEFFORDS, and Mr. KENNEDY) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources:

##### S. CON. RES. 11

Whereas older individuals who receive proper nutrition tend to live longer, healthier lives;

Whereas older individuals who receive meals through the nutrition programs carried out under the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.) have better nutrition than older individuals who do not participate in the programs;

Whereas through the programs 123,000,000 meals were served to approximately 2,500,000 older individuals in congregate settings, and 119,000,000 meals were served to approximately 989,000 homebound older individuals in 1995;

Whereas older individuals who participate in congregate nutrition programs carried out under the Act benefit not only from meals, but also from social interaction with their peers, which has a positive influence on their mental health;

Whereas every dollar provided for nutrition services under the Older Americans Act of 1965 is supplemented by \$1.70 from State, local, tribal, and other Federal funds;

Whereas home-delivered meals provided under the Act are an important part of every community's home and community based long-term care program to assist older individuals to remain independent in their homes;

Whereas the home-delivered meals represent a lifeline to many vulnerable older individuals who are not able to shop and prepare meals for themselves;

Whereas the nutrition programs carried out under the Act successfully target the older individuals who are in greatest need and most vulnerable in the community; and

Whereas the nutrition programs have assisted millions of older individuals beginning with the enactment of Public Law 92-258, which established the first Federal nutrition

program for older individuals, and continuing throughout the 25-year history of the programs; Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) celebrates the 25th anniversary of the first amendment to the Older Americans Act of 1965 to establish a nutrition program for older individuals, and

(2) recognizes that nutrition programs carried out under the Older Americans Act of 1965 continuously have made an invaluable contribution to the well-being of older individuals.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 63—PROCLAIMING "NATIONAL CHARACTER COUNTS WEEK"

Mr. DOMENICI (for himself, Mr. DODD, Mr. COCHRAN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. KEMPTHORNE, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. FRIST, Mr. CLELAND, Mr. ROBERTS, and Mr. SPECTER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

##### S. RES. 63

Whereas young people will be the stewards of our communities, Nation, and world in critical times, and the present and future well-being of our society requires an involved, caring citizenry with good character;

Whereas concerns about the character training of children have taken on a new sense of urgency as violence by and against youth threatens the physical and psychological well-being of the Nation;

Whereas more than ever, children need strong and constructive guidance from their families and their communities, including schools, youth organizations, religious institutions, and civic groups;

Whereas the character of a nation is only as strong as the character of its individual citizens;

Whereas the public good is advanced when young people are taught the importance of good character and that character counts in personal relationships, in school, and in the workplace;

Whereas scholars and educators agree that people do not automatically develop good character and, therefore, conscientious efforts must be made by institutions and individuals that influence youth to help young people develop the essential traits and characteristics that comprise good character;

Whereas although character development is, first and foremost, an obligation of families, the efforts of faith communities, schools, and youth, civic, and human service organizations also play a very important role in supporting family efforts by fostering and promoting good character;

Whereas the Senate encourages students, teachers, parents, youth, and community leaders to recognize the valuable role our youth play in the present and future of our Nation and to recognize that character is an important part of that future;

Whereas in July 1992, the Aspen Declaration was written by an eminent group of educators, youth leaders, and ethics scholars for the purpose of articulating a coherent framework for character education appropriate to a diverse and pluralistic society;

Whereas the Aspen Declaration states, "Effective character education is based on core ethical values which form the foundation of democratic society.";

Whereas the core ethical values identified by the Aspen Declaration constitute the 6 core elements of character;

Whereas the 6 core elements of character are trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship;

Whereas the 6 core elements of character transcend cultural, religious, and socioeconomic differences;

Whereas the Aspen Declaration states, "The character and conduct of our youth reflect the character and conduct of society; therefore, every adult has the responsibility to teach and model the core ethical values and every social institution has the responsibility to promote the development of good character.";

Whereas the Senate encourages individuals and organizations, especially those who have an interest in the education and training of our youth, to adopt the 6 core elements of character as intrinsic to the well-being of individuals, communities, and society as a whole; and

Whereas the Senate encourages communities, especially schools and youth organizations, to integrate the 6 core elements of character into programs serving students and children: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved, That the Senate—*

(1) proclaims the week of October 19 through October 25, 1997, as "National Character Counts Week"; and

(2) requests that the President issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States and interested groups to embrace the 6 core elements of character and to observe the week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I rise today to join my colleagues, both Republican and Democrat—and especially Senator DOMENICI—in submitting this year's resolution to designate the week of October 19-25 as Character Counts Week.

I believe it is important that we put character back into our vocabulary. The American people are crying out for virtue and values—character does count and it's essential that we focus our efforts in extending this message.

The Character Counts movement, which emphasizes trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship, seeks to teach the core elements of good character to our Nation's young people.

One of the most important things we can ever do for our children is to help them learn and understand the value of virtue and the importance of character.

The Character Counts Coalition is gaining momentum across the country, and I am proud to be a part of that effort.

I think it is clear from the reports every night on the news, that such a movement has never been more timely. I am proud that the citizens of my home State, Tennessee, have joined the call for character renewal.

Last year, I spoke of the city of Greeneville, TN, which put together a character education program featuring 10 community virtues including self-respect, respect for others, perseverance, courtesy, fairness and justice, responsibility, honesty, kindness, self-discipline, and courage. Since then, Greeneville has extended its character education program from the city schools to the county school district, too.

Mr. President, I am proud that Hamblen County schools in Morristown, TN, have adopted the Character