an original bill to consolidate the foreign affairs agencies of the United States, to authorize appropriations for the Department of State for fiscal years 1998 and 1999, and to provide for reform of the United Nations, and for other purposes.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 33—RELATING THE USE OF THE CAPITOL GROUNDS FOR THE NATIONAL SAFE KIDS CAMPAIGN

Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. ABRAHAM) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

S. CON. RES. 33

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring),

SECTION 1. USE OF CAPITOL GROUNDS FOR NATIONAL SAFE KIDS CAMPAIGN SAFE KIDS BUCKLE UP SAFETY CHECK.

The National SAFE KIDS Campaign and its auxiliary may sponsor a public event on the Capitol Grounds on August 27 and August 28, 1997, or on such other date as the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President pro tempore of the Senate may jointly designate.

SEC. 2. TERMS AND CONDITIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The event authorized under section 1 shall be free of admission charge to the public and arranged not to interfere with the needs of Congress, under conditions to be prescribed by the Architect of the Capitol and the Capitol Police.

(b) EXPENSES AND LIABILITIES.—The National SAFE KIDS Campaign and its auxiliary shall assume full responsibility for all expenses and liabilities incident to all activities associated with the event.

SEC. 3. EVENT PREPARATIONS.

(a) STRUCTURES AND EQUIPMENT.—Subject to the approval of the Architect of the Capitol, the National SAFE KIDS Campaign and its agents are authorized to erect upon the Capitol Grounds any stage, sound amplification devices, and other related structures and equipment required for the event authorized under section 1.

(b) ADDITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS.—The Architect of the Capitol and the Capitol Police Board are authorized to make any other reasonable arrangements as may be required to plan for or administer the event.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise today along with Senator ABRAHAM to introduce a resolution that will allow the National Safe Kids Campaign to use a small portion of the Capitol Hill grounds to provide a very important community service, a Car Seat Check-Up event. This initiative, called Safe Kids Buckle-Up, is a joint project of the National Safe Kids Campaign and the General Motors Corporation. Its purpose is to educate families about the importance of buckling up on every ride. Child passenger safety has received significant attention in the past year, and this program will provide parents and care givers with the essential information they need to ensure that their children are safely restrained in an automobile.

Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of unintentional injury-related death to children ages 14 and under, yet 40 percent of kids are still riding unrestrained! More disturbing is the fact that, of the children who are buckled up, eight out of ten are restrained incorrectly. Each year more than 1400 children die in automobile accidents, and an additional 280,000 are injured. Tragically, most of these injuries could have been prevented. Child safety seats are proven life savers, reducing the risk of death by 69 percent for infants and 47 percent for toddlers.

It will take a nationwide effort to combat this problem. Safe Kids Buckle-Up will be part of such effort. It is a national grassroots effort that will disseminate key safety messages through the more than 200 Safe Kids Coalitions, health and education outlets—such as hospitals and community health centers—and GM dealerships in all 50 states. Additionally, educational workshops and Car Seat Check Up events will be available at participating GM dealerships.

On August 28, 1997, this program will be launched here at the Capitol, highlighted by a Car Seat Check Up for Federal employees, Congressional members and staff, and others from the metropolitan area. This event will kick off Labor Day weekend—one of the biggest travel weekends of the year. I am honored to be supporting this event and the overall program with my friend and colleague Senator ABRAHAM. We urge our colleagues to support this Congressional Resolution allowing this event to take place. Protecting our children is a critical national priority that deserves national attention.

SENATE RESOLUTION 100—RELATIVE TO THE EDUCATION OF AMERICAN INDIANS AND ALASKA NATIVES

Mr. DOMENICI (for himself, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. INOUYE, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. DORGAN, and Mr. WELLSTONE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs:

S. RES. 100

Whereas, there exists a unique legal and political relationship between the United States and tribal governments and a unique Federal responsibility to American Indians and Alaska Natives; and

Whereas, under law and practice, the United States has undertaken a trust responsibility to protect and preserve Indian tribes, Indians, and tribal assets and resources; and

Whereas, the federal government's commitment to Indian education has been recognized, reinforced and carried out through most treaties with Indian tribes, Congressional legislation, numerous court decisions and presidential executive orders; and

Whereas, this Federal responsibility includes working with tribal governments and their members to improve the education of tribal members; and

Whereas, the 1990 Census shows the poverty rate for American Indians and Alaska Natives was nearly twice the national average—31 percent of Indians live below the poverty level, compared to 13 percent of the total population. Nearly 38 percent of Indian children above the age of 5 were living below the poverty level in 1990, compared with 11 percent of non-minority children; and

Whereas, the development of tribal economies is dependent on physical infrastructure, capital investment, and highly developed human capital and an educated labor force; and

Whereas, excellence in educational facilities and services is a key to building the skills necessary for Indian people to develop vibrant tribal economies; and

Whereas, ever-increasing regional, national, and international economic competition demands that Indians have every competitive advantage accruing from achieving excellence in education; and

Whereas, there are approximately 600,000 American Indian and Alaska Native children attending schools in this country. An estimated 87% of these children attend public schools located on or near reservations and in urban areas; another 10% attend schools funded by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and an estimated 3 percent attend private schools; and

Whereas, these schools have experienced an increase in student population of 3–4 percent in the past five years, however, annual funding for the education of Indian children has not increased proportionately; and

Whereas, U.S. Census data shows that the Indian and Alaska Native population has increased significantly in the past three decades. Primary growth concentrations are at ages 5 through 19; and

Whereas, the 1994 National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP) showed over 50 per cent of American Indian fourth graders scored below the basic level in reading proficiency, compared with 42 percent of all students; and

Whereas, American Indian students have the highest dropout rate of any racial ethnic group (36 percent) and the lowest high school completion and college attendance rates of any minority group. As of 1990, only 66 percent of American Indians aged 25 years or older were high school graduates, compared to 78 percent of the general population; and

Whereas, the demonstrated need for improvements to Indian schools and colleges is acute as reflected in the great disparity between average annual college funding per student of $2,900 for Indian students, and $6,200 for non-Indians in America, and the Federal Government should assist in bringing the Indian schools and colleges up to parity with the rest of America; and

Whereas, tribal scholarship programs nationally are only able to serve an estimated 40 percent of the eligible college student population and funding for graduate scholarships has been cut in half in the past two years; and

Whereas, there is a major backlog of $680 million in funding need for facilities construction, maintenance and repair for the 185 BIA-funded schools as well as for public schools located on and near Indian reservations; and

Whereas, there exists an alarming decline in the use of Native languages indigenous to the United States. A 1969 Senate Committee report stated that in 1969 there were 300 separate languages still being spoken. In 1996, the number had dropped to 206 still being spoken. These languages are spoken nowhere else in the world; and

Whereas, despite these alarming statistics, funding for the education of Indian and Alaska Native students has been reduced substantially in the past three years. The U.S. Congress in FY 1996 eliminated discretionary education programs in the Office of Indian Education budget which had funded adult education, research and demonstration programs, the Indian Fellowship Program and teacher training and professional development projects. At the same time, funding for reservation-based education programs in the BIA budget was reduced by more than $100 million in the FY 1996 budget. Now, therefore, be it