

SENATE RESOLUTION 173

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the names of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. DASCHLE), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. TORRICELLI), the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU), and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SPECTER) were added as cosponsors of Senate Resolution 173, A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate with respect to the protection of reproductive health services clinics.

SENATE RESOLUTION 174—
RELATIVE TO THAILAND

Mr. ROTH (for himself, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. THOMAS, and Mr. LUGAR) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 174

Whereas, the United States maintains a close bilateral partnership with Thailand and has a profound interest in furthering that relationship;

Whereas, the friendship between our two countries goes back farther than that with any other Asian nation dating back to the Treaty of Amity and Commerce and Navigation of 1833;

Whereas, the bilateral trade relationship is robust and promises to grow even more so in time;

Whereas, the U.S. security relationship with Thailand is one of our most critical, and it is in both countries' interest to maintain and strengthen that relationship;

Whereas, the new government in Thailand has committed itself to making significant structural reforms to its economy in line with the conditions placed upon it by the International Monetary Fund, including improving financial and economic transparency and cutting its budget;

Whereas, the conditions imposed on Thailand by the IMF were developed in August of 1997 when the economic environment in Asia was vastly different from that existing today;

Whereas, an example of those changed circumstances is the fact that both Korea and Indonesia provided second line of defense contingency loans to Thailand in August, 1997, amounting to US\$500 million each;

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that:

(1) The United States should be prepared to take appropriate steps to help ensure that Thailand's economic recovery efforts will continue uninterrupted and to enhance the close political, economic and security relations between Thailand and the United States; and

(2) Thailand deserves praise and commendation from the United States for the measures it has implemented to resolve its financial problems.

Mr. ROTH. Mr. President, I rise today on behalf of myself, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. THOMAS, and Mr. LUGAR, to submit a Resolution to state the sense of the Senate that Thailand remains one of America's most important partners and closest friends, and that Bangkok has been making important strides in executing its responsibilities under its arrangements with the International Monetary Fund.

Mr. President, America's friendship with Thailand is our longest-standing in Asia. Our first Envoy to Thailand

negotiated a Treaty of Amity and Commerce with that country in 1833.

Thailand was the first country afflicted with the so-called Asian contagion, and the first to receive IMF assistance. However, at the time the IMF put the package together for Thailand in August, 1977, Asia's regional economy looked far different than it does today. Let me give one compelling example of how things have changed: Last year, both Korea and Indonesia were economically secure enough to pledge so-called "second line of defense" contingency loans to Thailand.

The point is, Mr. President, many of the assumptions that the IMF used in formulating the conditions for Thailand's package are no longer applicable.

Despite the changes, however, the new Government of Thailand has been making important progress in fulfilling its IMF obligations. Already Thailand has taken steps to improve financial and economic transparency and cut its budget.

I recently visited Thailand and was very impressed by the new leadership in Bangkok, by the steps they have taken thus far and by their resolve in fulfilling their IMF obligations.

Mr. President, I believe I am safe in saying that all of us in this chamber—and Americans all across this land—are great admirers of Thailand and Thai culture. I remain optimistic about Thailand's future. Given the Thai people's energy and initiative, the country's remarkable history, and its record of economic success, I hope and expect to see Thailand's return to prosperity in the not-too-distant future.

SENATE RESOLUTION 175—TO DESIGNATE "NATIONAL CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES WEEK"

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

S. RES. 175

Whereas the operation of correctional facilities represents a crucial component of our criminal justice system;

Whereas correctional personnel play a vital role in protecting the rights of the public to be safeguarded from criminal activity;

Whereas correctional personnel are responsible for the care, custody and dignity of the human beings charged to their care; and

Whereas correctional personnel work under demanding circumstances and face danger in their daily work lives: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate designates the week of May 3, 1998 as "National Correctional Officers and Employees Week." The President is authorized and requested to issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe such week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

Mr. ROBB. Mr. President, I rise today to submit a Senate resolution to designate the week of May 2, 1998 as "National Correctional Officers and Employees Week."

Mr. President, this resolution gives needed recognition to the vital role

that correctional personnel play in our communities.

Correctional officers and employees put their lives on the line every day to protect the public from dangerous criminals. These brave men and women also protect incarcerated individuals from the violence of their circumstance, and they help prisoners work toward returning to lawful society.

I urge my colleagues to join with me to recognize the work and contributions of our nation's correctional officers and employees.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS

COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I would like to announce for information of the Senate and the public that a hearing of the Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources will be held on Tuesday, February 10, 1998, 10:00 a.m., in SD-430 of the Senate Dirksen Building. The subject of the hearing is Tobacco Settlement IV. For further information, please call the committee, 202/224-5375.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I would like to announce for information of the Senate and the public that a hearing of the Subcommittee on Public Health and Safety, Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources will be held on Wednesday, February 11, 1998, 9:30 a.m., in SD-430 of the Senate Dirksen Building. The subject of the hearing is Agency for Health Care Policy and Research (AHCPR). For further information, please call the committee, 202/224-5375.

COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I would like to announce for information of the Senate and the public that a hearing of the Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources will be held on Thursday, February 12, 1998, 10:00 a.m., in SD-430 of the Senate Dirksen Building. The subject of the hearing is Education of the Deaf Act. For further information, please call the committee, 202/224-5375.

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I wish to announce that the Committee on Small Business will hold a hearing entitled "IRS Reform: What America's Taxpayers Need Now." The hearing will be held on February 12, 1998, beginning at 9:30 a.m. ET in three locations: room 428A of the Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.; St. Louis, Missouri; and Salt Lake City, Utah. Description of hearing: Senate Committee on Small Business meets cyberspace; holds first virtual committee hearing on the Internet on proposals to reform the IRS and improve taxpayer rights. For further information, please contact Mark Warren at 224-5175.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the public that an