

February 8, 2000, which shall be available for inspection in the appropriate offices of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

SEC. 4. PURPOSES OF REFUGE.

The purposes of the Refuge are—

(1) to conserve, enhance, and restore the native bottomland community characteristics of the lower Mississippi alluvial valley (including associated fish, wildlife, and plant species);

(2) to conserve, enhance, and restore habitat to maintain and assist in the recovery of animals (such as the Louisiana black bear) and plants that are listed as endangered species or threatened species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.);

(3) to conserve, enhance, and restore habitats as necessary to contribute to the migratory bird population goals and habitat objectives as established through the Lower Mississippi Valley Joint Venture under the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 4401 et seq.);

(4) to achieve the habitat objectives of the Lower Mississippi River Aquatic Resources Management Plan, prepared by the Lower Mississippi River Conservation Committee;

(5) to authorize the Secretary, through consultation with Federal, State, and local agencies and adjacent landowners, to assist in the restoration of forest habitat linkages between refuge land and other land to reverse past impacts associated with habitat fragmentation on wildlife and plant species;

(6) to provide compatible opportunities for hunting, fishing, wildlife observation and photography, and environmental education and interpretation; and

(7) to encourage the use of volunteers and to facilitate partnerships among the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, local communities, conservation organizations, and other non-Federal entities to promote public awareness of the resources of the Cat Island National Wildlife Refuge and the National Wildlife Refuge System (including public participation in the conservation of those resources).

SEC. 5. ADMINISTRATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall administer all land and waters (including any interest in land or waters) acquired under section 3(d) in accordance with—

(1) the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 668dd et seq.);

(2) Public Law 87-714 (commonly known as the "Refuge Recreation Act") (16 U.S.C. 460k et seq.); and

(3) the purposes of the Refuge described in section 4.

(b) USE OF OTHER AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may use such additional statutory authority as is available to the Secretary to conduct projects and activities at the Refuge in accordance with this Act, including projects or activities to conserve or develop—

(1) wildlife and natural resources;

(2) water supplies;

(3) water control structures;

(4) outdoor recreational activity programs; and

(5) interpretive education programs.

SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATION.

There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary such sums as are necessary for—

(1) the acquisition of interests in land and waters described in section 3(d)(1); and

(2) the development, operation, and maintenance of the Refuge.

Mr. BREAUX. Mr. President, I am pleased to join Senator LANDRIEU in offering legislation to establish the Cat

Island National Wildlife Refuge in West Feliciana Parish, Louisiana.

The Mississippi River has provided for the commerce, transportation, and nourishment that has sustained Louisianians for over 300 years. Over time, communities have adapted to the unique environment that exists near the River. Today marks a milestone in the effort to preserve one of the last remaining tracts in the lower Mississippi Valley that is still influenced by the natural dynamics of the great River.

The area known as Cat Island is the southernmost unleveed portion of the Mississippi River. It is actually a peninsula of bottomland hardwood forest adjacent to the River and located thirty miles north of our state capital at Baton Rouge. It supports one of the highest densities of virgin bald cypress trees in the entire Mississippi River Valley, including the nation's champion cypress tree, which is 17 feet wide and 53 feet in circumference. By designating this area as a National Wildlife Refuge, we aim to protect the habitat of several declining species of forest songbirds, thousands of wintering waterfowl, and breeding ground for Wood Ducks. The area also supports high populations of deer, squirrel, turkey, and furbearers such as bobcat and mink.

The Cat Island Project represents a collaborative effort among several entities who have remained committed to its conservation. The Nature Conservancy spearheaded the effort, marshaled public support from Louisianians of all stripes, and worked diligently to secure the necessary funding for the initial acquisition of land from commercial and private landowners in the area. In fact, the Migratory Bird Commission provided the seed money to begin the acquisition process. Senator LANDRIEU and I have worked hard to find appropriate sources of federal funding to contribute to the cause, and we are delighted that the President has included \$4 million for the Cat Island Project in his budget request for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. We have enjoyed the support of officials from the Department of the Interior as well. Assistant Secretary David Hayes visited the site of the planned refuge along with Senator LANDRIEU and me in February. As I said, this project is the result of the good faith, dedication and continued cooperation of many players. I express my sincere gratitude and congratulations to all who have been involved.

The final piece in the completion of this project is the designation of the land as a National Wildlife Refuge. I am proud to offer legislation that will ensure the conservation of wild Louisiana for future generations to experience.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 20

At the request of Mr. LAUTENBERG, the name of the Senator from Rhode Is-

land (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 20, a bill to assist the States and local governments in assessing and remediating brownfield sites and encouraging environmental cleanup programs, and for other purposes.

S. 309

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 309, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide that a member of the uniformed services shall be treated as using a principal residence while away from home on qualified official extended duty in determining the exclusion of gain from the sale of such residence.

S. 317

At the request of Mr. DORGAN, the names of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. DASCHLE) and the Senator from Washington (Mr. GORTON) were added as cosponsors of S. 317, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an exclusion for gain from the sale of farmland which is similar to the exclusion from gain on the sale of a principal residence.

S. 345

At the request of Mr. ALLARD, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 345, a bill to amend the Animal Welfare Act to remove the limitation that permits interstate movement of live birds, for the purpose of fighting, to States in which animal fighting is lawful.

S. 351

At the request of Mr. GRAMS, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. DASCHLE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 351, a bill to provide that certain Federal property shall be made available to States for State and local organization use before being made available to other entities, and for other purposes.

S. 484

At the request of Mr. CAMPBELL, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. COVERDELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 484, a bill to provide for the granting of refugee status in the United States to nationals of certain foreign countries in which American Vietnam War POW/MIAs or American Korean War POW/MIAs may be present, if those nationals assist in the return to the United States of those POW/MIAs alive.

S. 514

At the request of Mr. COCHRAN, the names of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) and the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 514, a bill to improve the National Writing Project.

S. 662

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. ABRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 662, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide medical assistance for certain women screened and found to have breast or

cervical cancer under a federally funded screening program.

S. 764

At the request of Mr. THURMOND, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KYL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 764, a bill to amend section 1951 of title 18, United States Code (commonly known as the Hobbs Act), and for other purposes.

S. 784

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 784, a bill to establish a demonstration project to study and provide coverage of routine patient care costs for Medicare beneficiaries with cancer who are enrolled in an approved clinical trial program.

S. 1369

At the request of Mr. JEFFORDS, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. TORRICELLI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1369, a bill to enhance the benefits of the national electric system by encouraging and supporting State programs for renewable energy sources, universal electric service, affordable electric service, and energy conservation and efficiency, and for other purposes.

S. 1419

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VOINOVICH), and the Senator from Nevada (Mr. BRYAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1419, a bill to amend title 36, United States Code, to designate May as "National Military Appreciation Month."

S. 1440

At the request of Mr. GRAMM, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. BENNETT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1440, a bill to promote economic growth and opportunity by increasing the level of visas available for highly specialized scientists and engineers and by eliminating the earnings penalty on senior citizens who continue to work after reaching retirement age.

S. 1617

At the request of Mr. DEWINE, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mr. GORTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1617, a bill to promote preservation and public awareness of the history of the Underground Railroad by providing financial assistance, to the Freedom Center in Cincinnati, Ohio.

S. 1762

At the request of Mr. COVERDELL, the names of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) and the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. KOHL) were added as cosponsors of S. 1762, a bill to amend the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to provide cost share assistance for the rehabilitation of structural measures constructed as part of water resources projects previously funded by the Secretary under such Act or related laws.

S. 1805

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from South Da-

kota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1805, a bill to restore food stamp benefits for aliens, to provide States with flexibility in administering the food stamp vehicle allowance, to index the excess shelter expense deduction to inflation, to authorize additional appropriations to purchase and make available additional commodities under the emergency food assistance program, and for other purposes.

S. 1806

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. KERREY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1806, a bill to authorize the payment of a gratuity to certain members of the Armed Forces who served at Bataan and Corregidor during World War II, or the surviving spouses of such members, and for other purposes.

S. 1883

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. ASHCROFT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1883, a bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to eliminate an inequity on the applicability of early retirement eligibility requirements to military reserve technicians.

S. 1905

At the request of Mr. SANTORUM, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1905, a bill to establish a program to provide for a reduction in the incidence and prevalence of Lyme disease.

S. 1915

At the request of Mr. JEFFORDS, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CONRAD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1915, a bill to enhance the services provided by the Environmental Protection Agency to small communities that are attempting to comply with national, State, and local environmental regulations.

S. 1995

At the request of Mr. KOHL, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. WELLSTONE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1995, a bill to amend the National School Lunch Act to revise the eligibility of private organizations under the child and adult care food program.

S. 2061

At the request of Mr. BIDEN, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. BREAU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2061, a bill to establish a crime prevention and computer education initiative.

S. 2068

At the request of Mr. GREGG, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2068, a bill to prohibit the Federal Communications Commission from establishing rules authorizing the operation of new, low power FM radio stations.

S. 2078

At the request of Mr. BUNNING, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. DEWINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2078, a bill to authorize the President

to award a gold medal on behalf of Congress to Muhammad Ali in recognition of his outstanding athletic accomplishments and enduring contributions to humanity, and for other purposes.

S. 2084

At the request of Mr. LUGAR, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2084, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the amount of the charitable deduction allowable for contributions of food inventory, and for other purposes.

S. 2158

At the request of Mr. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. MACK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2158, a bill to amend the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States to eliminate the duty on certain steam or other vapor generating boilers used in nuclear facilities.

S. 2217

At the request of Mr. CAMPBELL, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. THOMAS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2217, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the National Museum of the American Indian of the Smithsonian Institution, and for other purposes.

S. 2220

At the request of Mr. ALLARD, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2220, a bill to protect Social Security and provide for repayment of the Federal debt.

S. 2232

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2232, a bill to promote primary and secondary health promotion and disease prevention services and activities among the elderly, to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to add preventive benefits, and for other purpose.

S. 2235

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2235, a bill to amend the Public Health Act to revise the performance standards and certification process for organ procurement organizations.

S. 2243

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2243, a bill to reauthorize certain programs of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes.

S. 2265

At the request of Mrs. HUTCHISON, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2265, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to preserve marginal domestic oil and natural gas well production, and for other purposes.

S. 2274

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. L. CHAFEE), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN), the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. WELLSTONE), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. EDWARDS), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD), the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER), and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. ROBB) were added as cosponsors of S. 2274, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide families and disabled children with the opportunity to purchase coverage under the medicaid program for such children.

S. 2277

At the request of Mr. ROTH, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAIG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2277, a bill to terminate the application of title IV of the Trade Act of 1974 with respect to the People's Republic of China.

S. 2311

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the names of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. BREAUX), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2311, a bill to revise and extend the Ryan White CARE Act programs under title XXVI of the Public Health Service Act, to improve access to health care and the quality of health care under such programs, and to provide for the development of increased capacity to provide health care and related support services to individuals and families with HIV disease, and for other purposes.

S. 2322

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. ROBB) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2322, a bill to amend title 37, United States Code, to establish a special subsistence allowance for certain members of the uniformed services who are eligible to receive food stamp assistance, and for other purposes.

S. 2330

At the request of Mr. BREAUX, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2330, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the excise tax on telephone and other communication services.

At the request of Mr. ROTH, the names of the Senator from Texas (Mr. GRAMM), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KYL), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS), and the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. HAGEL) were added as cosponsors of S. 2330, *supra*.

S. 2341

At the request of Mr. GREGG, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) and the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2341, a bill to authorize appropriations for part B of the Indi-

viduals with Disabilities Education Act to achieve full funding for part B of that Act by 2010.

S. 2344

At the request of Mr. BROWNBACK, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. ALLARD) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. COVERDELL) were added as cosponsors of S. 2344, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to treat payments under the Conservation Reserve Program as rentals from real estate.

S. 2353

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2353, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to improve the program for American Indian Tribal Colleges and Universities under part A of title III.

S. 2365

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. BURNS) were added as cosponsors of S. 2365, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to eliminate the 15 percent reduction in payment rates under the prospective payment system for home health services.

S. 2408

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the names of the Senator from Utah (Mr. BENNETT) and the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. FEINGOLD) were added as cosponsors of S. 2408, a bill to authorize the President to award a gold medal on behalf of the Congress to the Navajo Code Talkers in recognition of their contributions to the Nation.

S. 2417

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2417, a bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to increase funding for State nonpoint source pollution control programs, and for other purposes.

S. CON. RES. 60

At the request of Mr. FEINGOLD, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 60, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that a commemorative postage stamp should be issued in honor of the U.S.S. *Wisconsin* and all those who served aboard her.

S. CON. RES. 81

At the request of Mr. ROTH, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 81, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress that the Government of the People's Republic of China should immediately release Rabiya Kadeer, her secretary, and her son, and permit them to move to the United States if they so desire.

S. CON. RES. 104

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Missouri

(Mr. ASHCROFT) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 104, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress regarding the ongoing prosecution of 13 members of Iran's Jewish community.

S. CON. RES. 107

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, the names of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. KERREY), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. KOHL), and the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) were added as cosponsors of S. Con. Res. 107, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress concerning support for the Sixth Nonproliferation Treaty Review Conference.

S. J. RES. 3

At the request of Mr. INOUE, his name was withdrawn as a cosponsor of S. J. Res. 3, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to protect the rights of crime victims.

S. J. RES. 44

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the names of the Senator from Texas (Mr. GRAMM), the Senator from Montana (Mr. BAUCUS), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. LOTT), and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SPECTER) were added as cosponsors of S. J. Res. 44, a joint resolution supporting the Day of Honor 2000 to honor and recognize the service of minority veterans in the United States Armed Forces during World War II.

S. RES. 247

At the request of Mr. CAMPBELL, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. GREGG), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. KOHL), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. LOTT), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY), the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY), the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. THOMAS), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. DOMENICI), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. FITZGERALD), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. L. CHAFEE), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 247, a resolution commemorating and acknowledging the dedication and sacrifice made by the men and women who have lost their lives while serving as law enforcement officers.

S. RES. 248

At the request of Mr. ROBB, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) and the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 248, a resolution to designate the week of May 7, 2000, as "National Correctional Officers and Employees Week."

S. RES. 287

At the request of Mr. MACK, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 287, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding U.S. policy toward Libya.

SENATE RESOLUTION 294—DESIGNATING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER 2000 AS “CHILDREN’S INTERNET SAFETY MONTH”

Mr. ABRAHAM (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 294

Whereas the Internet is one of the most effective tools available for purposes of education and research and gives children the means to make friends and freely communicate with peers and family anywhere in the world;

Whereas the new era of instant communication holds great promise for achieving better understanding of the world and providing the opportunity for creative inquiry;

Whereas it is vital to the well-being of children that the Internet offer an open and responsible environment to explore;

Whereas access to objectionable material, such as violent, obscene, or sexually explicit adult material may be received by a minor in unsolicited form;

Whereas there is a growing concern in all levels of society to protect children from objectionable material;

Whereas the technological option for parents or guardians to filter, block, or review objectionable Internet material is available and effective;

Whereas information on Internet filtering or blocking technology is unavailable to many parents or guardians; and

Whereas the Internet is a positive educational tool and should be seen in such a manner rather than as a vehicle for entities to make objectionable materials available to children: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates October 2000 as “Children’s Internet Safety Month” and supports its official status on the Nation’s promotional calendar; and

(2) supports parents and guardians in promoting the creative development of children by encouraging the use of the Internet in a safe, positive manner with the aid of Internet filtering and blocking technologies.

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to offer a resolution designating October 2000 as “Children’s Internet Safety Month” on our national promotional calendar. This resolution, which I am submitting along with my colleague, Senator MCCAIN, recognizes the valuable information and opportunities for creative development provided by the Internet. It supports parents and guardians as they work to promote children’s intellectual growth by encouraging safe, positive internet use with the aid of Internet filtering and blocking technologies.

Filtering and blocking technologies can help parents and guardians protect their children from objectionable material. This is particularly important in those frequent instances when such material is obtained by accident, via unsolicited correspondence. With more than 5,000 new web sites appearing on the Internet each day, we must recognize the problems raised by the significant number of sites containing objectionable material (defined as material that is violent, obscene or sexually explicit). Unfortunately, one-third of all Internet web sites are devoted to objectionable material. This presents our

nation with a moral challenge: to find the means to sustain the wonderful freedom of the Internet while protecting children from unwanted and potentially harmful Internet material.

By designating October 2000 as “Children’s Internet Safety Month” on the nation’s promotional calendar, we can help parents, guardians, and concerned community leaders in their efforts to provide responsible Internet protection for our children. We can focus public attention on this important issue and encourage development of positive, community based programs and events highlighting the need to protect children from objectionable Internet material.

This resolution will help empower the young people of the Internet Generation to share ideas and dreams; and to do so free from unwanted and intrusive, objectionable Internet material.

SENATE RESOLUTION 295—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE CARRYING OF FIREARMS INTO PLACES OF WORSHIP OR EDUCATIONAL AND SCHOLASTIC SETTINGS SHOULD BE PROHIBITED

Mr. LIEBERMAN (for himself Mr. DASCHLE, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. KOHL, Mr. DODD, Mr. KERRY, Mr. REED, Mr. BAYH, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. REID, Mr. TORRICELLI, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. BREAUX, Mr. WELLSTONE, Mr. BRYAN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. ROBB, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. AKAKA, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. MOYNIHAN, Mr. SARBANES, and Mr. LEAHY) submitted the following resolution, which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 295

Whereas repeated incidents of senseless and horrific gun violence have led many Americans to conclude that neither they nor their children can feel completely secure anywhere at anytime anymore;

Whereas the epidemic of gun violence in our Nation has invaded schools, youth sporting events, places of worship, and other spaces that the American people once thought of as sanctuaries of safety;

Whereas these shootings have shattered the confidence of parents and educators and clergy in their ability to protect children from the increasingly dangerous world around them;

Whereas in response to this trend, Congress previously acted to protect America’s children by prohibiting the possession of firearms in school zones;

Whereas no American adult or child should have to fear for their safety when studying, praying in their places of worship, or participating in any other activities at or related to their schools or places of worship;

Whereas it is the obligation of America’s elected leaders to do all they can to protect our children from harm and ensure that adults and children alike can learn, play, or pray in safety; and

Whereas there is no rational reason for anyone other than a law enforcement officer to carry a gun into a place of worship, a school, or a school-related event: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that the carrying of firearms into places of worship or educational and scholastic settings should be prohibited.

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, the first anniversary of the Columbine massacre has been a time for great contemplation and reflection—contemplation of the horror and tragedy of that event, and reflection on what has become of the safety and security so many of us once took for granted. From Paducah, Kentucky, to Jonesboro, Arkansas, to Springfield, Oregon, to Mount Morris Township, Michigan, to Littleton, Colorado, the surreal has too often become mortally real. Senseless, horrific and seemingly random gun violence has invaded all corners of our nation. These incidents have shattered our collective sense of security. What’s worse, they have done so with respect to the very places where we and our children have the right to feel most secure: our schools and our places of worship.

There are many facets to this problem—a media culture that desensitizes our children to violence, a feeling of hopelessness that invades too many of our children and the often too easy accessibility of firearms. We must address all of these problems, and I hope we soon will start to do so by taking action on the long-stalled juvenile justice bill with its several sensible gun-safety provisions and its measures aimed at the culture of violence surrounding our children.

But there is one more thing we can do for ourselves and our children: restore a sense of sanctuary and safe haven to spaces where guns have no place. Ask parents, educators or congregants, and they’ll say every community is entitled to at least a few sites of sanctuary, where they can honor their families and their God without fearing for their safety or their lives. But the reality is that at least 22 states permit gun owners to carry concealed weapons into places of worship, and many allow them at school events off campus.

Why does anyone other than a law enforcement or security officer need to carry a firearm into these spaces? Why at this moment of such concern about gun violence do we want to add to it the potential for more terror and tragedy in what should be our safest places? Why after at least a dozen shootings in American churches and synagogues over the last five years do we want to invite another?

Making clear that guns have no place in what are supposed to be sanctuaries would put the law on the right side of reason. It would help diminish the odds that another Columbine is around the corner. And it would reassure the American people that it is possible for us to come together on common ground to fight this threat to our safety and security.

With these thoughts in mind, and with the Million Mom March against gun violence soon to occur in Washington, I am today joining a coalition