

the only community located in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, supports coastal plain development; and

Whereas the state will ensure the continued health and productivity of the Porcupine Caribou herd and the protection of land, water, and wildlife resources during the exploration and development of the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge; and

Whereas coastal plain development could provide hundreds of thousands of jobs and billions of dollars in government revenue, and could contribute billions of dollars to the nation's economy; and

Whereas many national groups may argue against the development of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge gas reserves because there is no vehicle to bring the gas to market; be it

Resolved, That the Alaska Legislature supports Alaska's role in providing this nation with a major portion of its domestic oil and encourages the United States Congress to pass S. 2214, a bill opening the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to responsible exploration, development, and production of its oil and gas resources; and be it further

Resolved, That oil exploration and development activity be conducted in a manner that protects the wildlife and the environment and utilizes the state's work force to the maximum extent possible; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska Legislature opposes any efforts to declare the coastal plain a national monument; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska Legislature urges the current leaseholders on the North Slope to make every effort to promptly build a natural gas pipeline to bring Alaska's natural gas to market and thereby avoiding resistance by national organizations that the gas resources in the Alaska National Wildlife Refuge would be stranded.

Copies of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Bill Clinton, President of the United States; the Honorable Al Gore, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Bruce Babbitt, United States Secretary of the Interior; the Honorable J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Trent Lott, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress; and to all other members of the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives serving in the 106th United States Congress.

POM-519. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii relative to extending Medicare to prescription drugs for the elderly and disabled; to the Committee on Finance.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 73

Whereas, outpatient prescription drugs, which are not covered under Medicare, are a substantial out-of-pocket burden for many Medicare beneficiaries, as over one-third of beneficiaries have no coverage for prescription drugs; and

Whereas, it has been argued that because roughly two-thirds of beneficiaries have some type of drug coverage from other sources, a Medicare drug benefit for all beneficiaries is not necessary; and

Whereas, however, recent research has identified many gaps in private drug coverage and the degree of protection it affords; and

Whereas, the Prescription Drug Fairness for Seniors Act (Act) (H.R. 664/S. 731) would allow 39,000,000 Medicare beneficiaries to buy

prescription drugs at up to forty percent of current retail prices; and

Whereas, as of February 10, 2000, 138 House congressional members and 12 Senate congressional members have co-sponsored the Act, making it the most broadly supported drug reform bill in Congress; and

Whereas, this legislation would end price discrimination among prescription drug makers against the elderly and disabled on Medicare who have no or inadequate prescription drug insurance coverage; and

Whereas, a number of states have state-funded programs, separate from Medicare, to assist elderly and disabled individuals to purchase prescription drugs, however, Hawaii is not among these states; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the Twentieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2000, the House of Representatives concurring, That the United States Congress is urged to support legislation to extend Medicare benefits to include prescription drug coverage for the elderly and disabled; and be it further

Resolved, That certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the Senate of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, each member of Hawaii's Congressional Delegation, the State Director of Health, and the State Director of Human Services.

POM-520. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the Legislature of the State of Hawaii relative to extending Medicare to prescription drugs for the elderly and disabled; to the Committee on Finance.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 28

Whereas, outpatient prescription drugs, which are not covered under Medicare, are a substantial out-of-pocket burden for many Medicare beneficiaries, as over one-third of beneficiaries have no coverage for prescription drugs; and

Whereas, it has been argued that because roughly two-thirds of beneficiaries have some type of drug coverage from other sources, a Medicare drug benefit for all beneficiaries is not necessary; and

Whereas, however, recent research has identified many gaps in private drug coverage and the degree of protection it affords; and

Whereas, the Prescription Drug Fairness for Seniors Act (Act) (H.R. 664/S. 731) would allow 39,000,000 Medicare beneficiaries to buy prescription drugs at up to forty percent of current retail prices; and

Whereas, as of February 10, 2000, 138 House congressional members and 12 Senate congressional members have co-sponsored the Act, making it the most broadly supported drug reform bill in Congress; and

Whereas, this legislation would end price discrimination among prescription drug makers against the elderly and disabled on Medicare who have no or inadequate prescription drug insurance coverage; and

Whereas, a number of states have state-funded programs, separate from Medicare, to assist elderly and disabled individuals to purchase prescription drugs, however, Hawaii is not among these states; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the Twentieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2000, That the United States Congress is urged to support legislation to extend Medicare benefits to include prescription drug coverage for the elderly and disabled; and be it further

Resolved, That certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the President of the Senate of the United States Senate, the

Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, each member of Hawaii's Congressional Delegation, the State Director of Health, and the State Director of Human Services.

POM-521. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the Legislature of the State of Michigan relative to voluntary, individual, unorganized, and non-mandatory prayer in public schools; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 158

Whereas, the United States of America was founded by men and women with varied religious beliefs and ideals; and

Whereas, The First Amendment to the United States Constitution states that "Congress shall make no laws respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof . . ." which means that the government is prohibited from establishing a state religion. However, no barriers shall be created against the practice of any religion; and

Whereas, The establishment clause of the First Amendment was not drafted to protect Americans from religion, rather, its purpose was clearly to protect Americans from government mandates with respect to religion; and

Whereas, The Michigan Legislature strongly believe that reaffirming a right to voluntary, individual, unorganized, and non-mandated prayer in public schools is an important element of religious choice guaranteed by the Constitution, and will reaffirm those religious rights and beliefs upon which the nation was founded; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That the members of this legislative body memorialize the Congress of the United States to strongly support voluntary, individual, unorganized, and non-mandatory prayer in the public schools of this nation; and be it further.

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. SMITH, of New Hampshire, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works, with a amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1691: A bill to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to authorize programs for predisaster mitigation, to streamline the administration of disaster relief, to control the Federal costs of disaster assistance, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 106-295).

By Mr. Smith, of New Hampshire, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works, without amendment:

H.R. 707: A bill to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to authorize a program for predisaster mitigation, to streamline the administration of disaster relief, to control the Federal costs of disaster assistance, and for other purposes.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. LOTT (for himself, Mr. MURKOWSKI, and Mr. VOINOVICH):

S. 2557. A bill to protect the Energy Security of the United States and decrease America's dependency on foreign oil sources to 50 percent by the year 2010 by enhancing the use of renewable energy resources, conserving energy resources, improving energy efficiencies, and increasing domestic energy supplies, mitigating the effect of increases in energy prices on the American consumer, including the poor and the elderly, and for other purposes; read the first time.

By Mr. BIDEN:

S. 2558. A bill to amend the Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997 to provide for consistent treatment of survivor benefits for public safety officers killed in the line of duty; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 2559. A bill for the relief of Vijai Rajan; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. THURMOND:

S. 2560. A bill to reduce temporarily the duty on Mesamoll; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. THURMOND:

S. 2561. A bill to reduce temporarily the duty on Vulkalent E/C; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. THURMOND:

S. 2562. A bill to reduce temporarily the duty on Baytron M; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. THURMOND:

S. 2563. A bill to reduce temporarily the duty on Baytron C-R; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. SNOWE:

S. 2564. A bill to provide tax incentives for the construction of seagoing cruise ships in United States shipyards, and to facilitate the development of a United States-flag, United States-built cruise industry, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. HUTCHISON:

S. 2565. A bill to reform the financing of Federal elections, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. FRIST (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN):

S. 2566. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to grant the Secretary of Health and Human Services the authority to regulate tobacco products, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions.

By Mrs. BOXER:

S. 2567. A bill to provide Outer Continental Shelf Impact Assistance to State and local governments, to amend the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, the Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Act of 1978, and the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act (commonly referred to as the Pittman-Robertson Act) to establish a fund to meet the outdoor conservation and recreation needs of the American people, and for other purposes; read the first time.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. KERRY, and Mr. WELLSTONE):

S. 2568. A bill to protect the public health by providing the Food and Drug Administration with certain authority to regulate tobacco products; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BOND (for himself, Mr. KERRY, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. MURKOWSKI, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. DASCHLE, and Mr. BAUCUS):

S. 2569. A bill to ensure and enhance participation in the HUBZone program by small business concerns in Native America, to expand eligibility for certain small businesses on a trial basis, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Mr. FRIST (for himself, Mr. THOMPSON, and Mr. COCHRAN):

S. 2570. A bill to provide for the fair and equitable treatment of the Tennessee Valley Authority and its ratepayers in the event of restructuring of the electric utility industry; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. WYDEN:

S. 2571. A bill to provide for the liquidation or reliquidation of certain entries of athletic shoes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BURNS (for himself, Mr. BREAUX, Mr. ENZI, Mr. GRAMS, and Mrs. LINCOLN):

S. 2572. A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to promote deployment of advanced services and foster the development of competition for the benefit of consumers in all regions of the Nation by relieving unnecessary burdens on the Nation's two percent local exchange telecommunications carriers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. MOYNIHAN (for himself, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. LOTT, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. ASHCROFT, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. HELMS, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. WELLSTONE, and Mr. SARBANES):

S. Con. Res. 113. A concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress in recognition of the 10th anniversary of the free and fair elections in Burma and the urgent need to improve the democratic and human rights of the people of Burma; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 2559. A bill for the relief of Vijai Rajan; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

PRIVATE RELIEF LEGISLATION GRANTING UNITED STATES CITIZENSHIP TO VIJAI RAJAN

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I am pleased to introduce legislation today to grant United States citizenship to Vijai Rajan. Ms. Rajan is a twenty-four year old permanent resident from India whose naturalization application was denied because of physical disabilities that make it impossible for her to take the oath of allegiance.

Ms. Rajan has lived in the United States since she was four months old. Her sister, Inbhu, was born in Cincinnati and is an American citizen by right of her birth in the United States. Her father Sunder Rajan became a naturalized citizen in 1980. But Ms. Rajan's mother Shakunthala, was not naturalized until 1994, just after Vijai's 18th birthday. If both parents had become citizens before Rajan turned 18, she would have automatically qualified for citizenship.

Unfortunately, due to this peculiar circumstance, the law now requires that Ms. Rajan undergo the rigors of the regular naturalization process, in-

cluding taking the oath of allegiance, before she can become a United States citizen.

An anomaly in the law has resulted in Ms. Rajan being left out of her family's American dream, for no other reason than because her physical disabilities prevent her from taking the oath of allegiance. Ms. Rajan suffers from cerebral palsy, muscular dystrophy, seizures, and Crohn's disease.

American citizenship is the most visible sign of one's attachment to the United States. The naturalization process, including the oath of allegiance, should be credible, and it must be accorded the formality and ceremony appropriate to its importance. I would not support any steps that would detract from the meaningfulness, solemnity, and dignity of this time-honored tradition.

In 1952, when Congress codified the requirements for becoming an American citizen, it required that the oath contain five elements: (1) support for the Constitution; (2) renunciation of the Constitution against all enemies; (3) true faith and allegiance; and (4) a commitment to bear arms or perform non-combatant service when required.

I believe these principles should remain intact. But I also believe that we should carry out these ideals with compassion and sufficient flexibility that persons who are so severely disabled, like Ms. Rajan, are not automatically disqualified from becoming U.S. citizens.

I believe the case of Vijai Rajan is compelling and warrants Congress' immediate consideration. Moreover, I am aware that there are other cases in which a physical disability has prevented an otherwise qualified person from becoming an American citizen. I intend to work to enact legislation that will give the Attorney General the discretion to act on such compelling cases without having to resort to a private act of Congress.

In the meantime, I urge my colleagues to support this private legislation on behalf of Vijai Rajan.

By Mr. THURMOND:

S. 2560. A bill to reduce temporarily the duty on Mesamoll; to the Committee on Finance.

S. 2561. A bill to reduce temporarily the duty on Vulkalent E/C; to the Committee on Finance.

S. 2562. A bill to reduce temporarily the duty on Baytron M; to the Committee on Finance.

S. 2563. A bill to reduce temporarily the duty on Baytron C-R; to the Committee on Finance.

LEGISLATION TO SUSPEND THE DUTY ON CERTAIN CHEMICALS USED IN THE MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce four bills which will suspend the duties imposed on certain chemicals that are important components in a wide array of