Whereas Fragile X research, both basic and applied, has been vastly underfunded despite the prevalence of the disorder, the potential for the development of a cure, the established benefits of available treatments and intervention, and the significance that Fragile X research has for related disorders; and

Whereas the Senate as an institution and Members of Congress as individuals are in unique positions to help raise public awareness about the need for increased funding for research and early diagnosis and treatment for the disorder known as Fragile X: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate designate July 22, 2000 as ''National Fragile X Awareness Day''.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 894

Mr. ROTH. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk due for its second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 894) to encourage States to incarcerate individuals convicted of murder, rape, or child molestation.

Mr. ROTH. Mr. President, I object to further proceeding on this bill at this time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill will be placed on the calendar.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 2869

Mr. ROTH. Mr. President, I understand that S. 2869 is at the desk. I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2869) to protect religious liberty, and for other purposes.

Mr. ROTH. I now ask for its second reading and object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

CONGRATULATING THE PEOPLE OF MEXICO

Mr. ROTH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 335 submitted earlier by Senator HELMS for himself and others.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 335) congratulating the people of Mexico on the occasion of the democratic elections in that country.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, unanimity is a rare event in the Senate these days but I suspect that there may be unanimous approval of a resolution I am proposing commending and congratulating the people of Mexico for their July 2 democratic elections, which shocked the experts who had predicted that the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) could not be defeated and driven from power. An articulate and steadfast candidate named Vicente Fox Quesada thought differently—and he was right.

With the support of millions of Mexicans across the political spectrum, Governor Fox won 42.5 percent of the votes cast—six points ahead of the PRI candidate, Francisco Labistida. And since the third-place candidate received nearly 17 percent of the vote, that meant that 60 percent of the 37.6 million Mexicans who voted wanted to put an end to the PRI's stranglehold.

Thus the conventional wisdom that regarded the PRI political machine as being invincible avoided two facts: (1) the legendary PRI political machine had never been in a fair fight; and (2) the Mexican people have been striving for decades to put an end to the one-party rule that has wrought corruption, poverty, and insecurity.

Mexico's president-elect, Vicente Fox, has pledged to root out the grinding corruption that has locked 40 percent of the Mexican population into poverty and the others into insecurity. Mr. Fox has an agenda of free-market policies with a commitment that no Mexican will be excluded from economic opportunity and development.

Furthermroe, president-elect Fox has a sensible plan to reform the Mexican Government to make it accountable to the people. And, he has vowed to work with the United States and other countries to fight the deadly gangsters who traffic in illegal drugs in Mexico with virtual impunity.

So, this ambitious reform agenda is good news for the American people as well as Mexicans. For the first time, we will have a full partner in a truly legitimate and sovereign Mexican Government—one willing to work with us to make the most of shared opportunities and to confront common challenges.

Outgoing President Ernesto Zedillo's election-night address, in which he recognized the victory of Vicente Fox and pledged to work for a smooth and orderly transition, seals his place in Mexican history. From his earliest days in office, President Zedillo had declared his intent to break the cycle of election thievery that had marked 70 years of PRI rule, and the gentleman kept his word.

A special tribute is due the men and women of the Federal Electoral Institute who systematically ensured that Mexicans would get the free and honest elections they demanded. The IFE lived up to its mandate and has shown itself to be one of the premier electoral bodies in the world.

My resolution congratulates the Mexican people, President-elect Fox, and President Ernesto Zedillo. It is a new day in Mexico and for relations between our two great nations.

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I rise today in support of Senator HELM's resolution that commends Mexico on the results of their elections. There is no doubt that this was an event of historic proportions. The Mexican people have, through careful consideration and a peaceful political process, ended over seven decades of rule by a single political party. By doing so they have turned their country into a true democracy. They deserve this recognition.

My colleague's resolution captures the significance of this vote to the United States in terms of our national interest and our social welfare. As my state sits right across the border from Mexico, New Mexicans are well aware that the destinies of our two countries have been, and will be, intertwined. We have always shared similarities in heritage and language with the Mexican people, and this has established the means by which cultural and economic interaction can increase rapidly and consistently over time.

It is clear that the new President of Mexico, Vincente Fox, faces a broad range of tough challenges as he assumes office and plots a course for the future. Expectations are high and the obstacles are great. Privatization, corruption, education, economic growth, narcotics, crime and health—all these issues require immediate attention. It is encouraging to see President Ernesto Zedillo already working in tandem with the new government to ensure a successful transition. This will inevitably benefit the Mexican people.

I concur with the goals of the resolution, specifically the pledge for increased cooperation with the Government of Mexico so that we might confront the threats that our countries face and improve the quality of life for our people. I wish President-elect Fox luck in his efforts, and I look forward to working with him in the future.

Mr. ROTH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 335) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 335

Whereas the United States and Mexico share a border of more than 2,000 miles;

Whereas Mexico is the second largest trade partner of the United States, with a two-way trade of $174,000,000,000;

Whereas United States companies have invested more than $25,000,000,000 in Mexico from 1994–1999;

Whereas more than 20,000,000 people now in the United States are of Mexican descent, a fact that in and of itself forges profound and permanent cultural ties between our 2 countries;

Whereas the well-being and security of the United States and Mexico require governments willing and able to cooperate fully to