

Whereas more than 300,000 people in the United States suffer from scleroderma;

Whereas the symptoms of scleroderma include hardening and thickening of the skin, swelling, disfigurement of the hands, spasms of blood vessels causing severe discomfort in the fingers and toes, weight loss, joint pain, difficulty swallowing, extreme fatigue, and ulcerations on the fingertips which are slow to heal;

Whereas people with advanced scleroderma may be unable to perform even the simplest tasks;

Whereas 80 percent of the people suffering from scleroderma are women between the ages of 25 and 55;

Whereas scleroderma is the 5th leading cause of death among all autoimmune diseases for women who are 65 years old or younger;

Whereas the wide range of symptoms and localized and systemic variations of scleroderma make it difficult to diagnose;

Whereas the average diagnosis of scleroderma is made 5 years after the onset of symptoms;

Whereas the cause of scleroderma is still unknown and there is no known cure; and

Whereas the estimated annual direct and indirect costs of scleroderma in the United States are \$1,500,000,000: Now therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That it is the sense of the Congress that—

(1) private organizations and health care providers should be recognized for their efforts to promote awareness of and research on scleroderma;

(2) the people of the United States, including the medical community, should make themselves aware of the symptoms of scleroderma and contribute to the fight against scleroderma;

(3) the Federal Government has a responsibility to promote awareness regarding scleroderma, to adequately fund research projects regarding scleroderma, and to continue to consider ways to improve the quality of health care services provided for scleroderma patients, including making prescription medication more affordable;

(4) the National Institutes of Health should continue to play a leadership role in the fight against scleroderma by—

(A) working more closely with private organizations and researchers to find a cure for scleroderma;

(B) funding research projects regarding scleroderma conducted by private organizations and researchers;

(C) holding a scleroderma symposium which would bring together distinguished scientists and clinicians from across the United States to determine the most important priorities in scleroderma research;

(D) supporting the formation of small workgroups composed of experts from diverse but related scientific fields to study scleroderma;

(E) conducting more genetic, environmental, and clinical research regarding scleroderma;

(F) training more basic and clinical scientists to carry out such research; and

(G) providing for better dissemination of the information learned from such research; and

(5) the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention should give priority consideration to the establishment of a national epidemiological study to better track the incidence of scleroderma and to gather information about the disease that could lead to a cure.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 525. Mr. SESSIONS (for Mr. NELSON of Florida) proposed an amendment to the reso-

lution S. Res. 97, expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the arrests of Cuban democracy activists by the Cuban Government.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 525. Mr. SESSIONS (for Mr. NELSON of Florida) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 97, expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the arrests of Cuban democracy activists by the Cuban Government; as follows:

Delete the preamble and insert in lieu thereof:

Whereas on March 18, 2003, Fidel Castro and the Government of Cuba began an island-wide campaign to arrest and jail dozens of prominent democracy activists and critics of the repressive regime;

Whereas since March 19, 2003, the Cuban police have arrested approximately 80 Cubans for engaging in free speech under Law 88, the Law for the Protection of National Independence and the Economy of Cuba, which is a notorious law passed 3 years ago by the communist party;

Whereas the imprisoned political opponents of Castro include librarians, journalists, and others who have supported the Varela Project, which seeks to bring free speech, open elections, and democracy to the island nation;

Whereas during this crackdown, widely recognized as the most severe in some time, Fidel Castro is inhumanely pursuing the harshest punishments for these political prisoners, including pursuing life sentences for as many as 12; and

Whereas the failure to condemn the Cuban Government's renewed political repression of democracy activists will undermine the opportunity for freedom on the Island.

THE CALENDAR

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed, en bloc, to the immediate consideration of the following bills on the calendar: No. 35, S. 164; No. 36, S. 212; No. 37, S. 220; No. 38, S. 278; No. 39, S. 328, No. 40, S. 347, and No. 42, H.R. 397.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the bills by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 164) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of sites associated with the life of Cesar Estrada Chavez and the farm labor movement.

A bill (S. 212) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to cooperate with the High Plains States in conducting a hydrogeologic characterization, mapping, modeling and monitoring program for the High Plains Aquifer, and for other purposes.

A bill (S. 220) to reinstate and extend the deadline for commencement of construction of a hydroelectric project in the State of Illinois.

A bill (S. 278) to make certain adjustments to the boundaries of the Mount Naomi Wilderness Area, and for other purposes.

A bill (S. 328) to designate Catoctin Mountain Park in the State of Maryland as the "Catoctin Mountain National Recreation Area", and for other purposes.

A bill (S. 347) to direct the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to conduct a joint special resources study to evaluate the suitability and feasibility of establishing the Rim of the Valley Corridor as

a unit of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, and for other purposes.

A bill (H.R. 397) to reinstate and extend the deadline for commencement of construction of a hydroelectric project in the State of Illinois.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bills, en bloc.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that, where applicable, the committee amendments be agreed to; that the bills, as amended, if amended, be read a third time and passed; that the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table; and that any statements relating to the bills be printed in the RECORD, the above occurring en bloc.

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

CESAR ESTRADA CHAVEZ STUDY ACT

The Senate proceeded to consider the bill (S. 164) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of sites associated with the life of Cesar Estrada Chavez and the farm labor movement, which had been reported from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

[Strike the part shown in black brackets and insert the part shown in italic.]

S. 164

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

[This Act may be cited as the "César Estrada Chávez Study Act".]

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

[Congress finds that—

(1) on March 31, 1927, César Estrada Chávez was born on a small farm near Yuma, Arizona;

(2) at age 10, Chávez and his family became migrant farm workers after they lost their farm in the Great Depression;

(3) throughout his youth and into adulthood, Chávez migrated across the Southwest, laboring in fields and vineyards;

(4) during this period, Chávez was exposed to the hardships and injustices of farm worker life;

(5) in 1952, Chávez's life as an organizer and public servant began when he left the fields and joined the Community Service Organization, a community-based self-help organization;

(6) while with the Community Service Organization, Chávez conducted—

[(A) voter registration drives; and

(B) campaigns against racial and economic discrimination;

(7) during the late 1950's and early 1960's, Chávez served as the national director of the Community Service Organization;

(8) in 1962, Chávez founded the National Farm Workers Association, an organization that—

[(A) was the first successful farm workers union in the United States; and

(B) became known as the "United Farm Workers of America";

(9) from 1962 to 1993, as leader of United Farm Workers of America, Chávez achieved for tens of thousands of farm workers—