

Whereas, the Convention provides a comprehensive framework for eliminating the various forces that have created and sustained discrimination based on sex against half the world's population; and

Whereas, although women have made major gains in the struggle for equality in social, business, political, legal, educational and other fields in this century, there is much yet to be accomplished, and through its support, leadership and prestige, the United States can help create a world where women are no longer discriminated against and may achieve one of the most fundamental human rights, equality; and

Whereas, the United States has long been a world leader in the promotion of women's rights, and its ratification of the Convention will confirm to its citizens and to citizens of the world that this country unequivocally supports the participation of women in politics, economics and society, at home and throughout the world: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to strongly urge President George W. Bush and Secretary of State Colin L. Powell to place this treaty, the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, in the highest category of priority, in order to accelerate the treaty's passage through the United States Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the full United States Senate, with the goal of the United States Ratification; and be it further

*Resolved*, That this Legislative Body exhort the United States Foreign Relations Committee to pass this treaty favorably out of Committee; and be it further

*Resolved*, That this Legislative Body strongly urges the Senate of the United States to ratify the United Nations Convention's continuing goals; and be it further

*Resolved*, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to President George W. Bush, Secretary of State Colin L. Powell, President of the Senate Richard B. Cheney, Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee Joseph R. Biden, Jr. and all members of the New York State Congressional Delegation.

POM-257. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Maine relative to Homeland Security costs; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

#### JOINT RESOLUTION

Whereas, the tragic events that occurred on September 11, 2001 resulted in a horrific loss of thousands of lives as hijacked planes crashed into the Pentagon, into a field in the countryside of Pennsylvania and into both towers of the World Trade Center in New York City, resulting in their total collapse; and

Whereas, these planned assaults on our nation were perpetrated by terrorists who sought to harm us, our freedoms and our way of life, but ironically the events of September 11, 2001 have resulted in a national unity not seen since World War II; and

Whereas, funded by deep pockets overseas, the terrorists were able to take advantage of us by infiltrating and accessing our airports, towns and cities to plan their attacks and have shown us clearly that there are enemies of our way of life both at home and abroad; and

Whereas, to protect our citizenry, our infrastructure, our cities and our highways and to keep our free society, we need to change certain security measures in many parts of our nation on a day-to-day basis; and

Whereas, new guidelines of security all across the country are being planned, such as increased security personnel and equipment, increased public safety response,

heightened surveillance and intelligence gathering, improved medical preparedness, shelter improvements and improved emergency medical staff; and

Whereas, the costs for hour homeland security have already begun to take their toll on states' budgets across the nation with added marine security costs, higher expenses in human services and bureaus of health and increased transportation and public utility costs: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That We, your Memorialists, respectfully urge that the Federal Government be responsible for these increased costs that the states are bearing; and be it further

*Resolved*, That suitable copies of this resolution, duly authenticated by the Secretary of State, be transmitted to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and the President of the United States Senate and to each Member of the Maine Congressional Delegation.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of July 29, 2003, the following reports of committees were submitted on August 26, 2003:

By Ms. SNOWE, from the committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, with amendments:

S. 1375. A bill to provide for the reauthorization of programs administered by the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 108-124).

By Mr. MCCAIN, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 247. A bill to reauthorize the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Act of 1998, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 108-125).

S. 1152. A bill to reauthorize the United States Fire Administration, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 108-126).

S. 1234. A bill to reauthorize the Federal Trade Commission, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 108-127).

S. 1261. A bill to reauthorize the Consumer Product Safety Commission, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 108-128).

By Mr. MCCAIN, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment:

S. 1389. A bill to authorize appropriations for the Surface Transportation Board for fiscal years 2004 through 2008, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 108-129).

By Mr. MCCAIN, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, without amendment:

S. 1250. A bill to improve, enhance, and promote the Nation's homeland security, public safety, and citizen activated emergency response capabilities through the use of enhanced 911 services, to further upgrade Public Safety Answering Point capabilities and related functions in receiving E-911 calls, and to support the construction and operation of a ubiquitous and reliable citizen activated system and other purposes (Rept. No. 108-130).

By Mr. DOMENICI, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with amendments:

S. 391. A bill to enhance ecosystem protection and the range of outdoor opportunities protected by statute in the Skykomish River valley of the State of Washington by designating certain lower-elevation Federal lands as wilderness, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 108-131).

By Mr. DOMENICI, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 434. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to sell or exchange all or part of certain parcels of National Forest System land in the State of Idaho and use the proceeds derived from the sale or exchange for National Forest System purposes (Rept. No. 108-132).

By Mr. DOMENICI, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with amendments:

S. 435. A bill to provide for the conveyance by the Secretary of Agriculture of the Sandpoint Federal Building and adjacent land in Sandpoint, Idaho, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 108-133).

By Mr. DOMENICI, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with an amendment:

S. 452. A bill to require that the Secretary of the Interior conduct a study to identify sites and resources, to recommend alternatives for commemorating and interpreting the Cold War, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 108-134).

By Mr. DOMENICI, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with amendments:

S. 714. A bill to provide for the conveyance of a small parcel of Bureau of Land Management land in Douglas County, Oregon, to the county to improve management of and recreational access to the Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 108-135).

By Mr. DOMENICI, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with an amendment:

S. 1003. A bill to clarify the intent of Congress with respect to the continued use of established commercial outfitter hunting camps on the Salmon River (Rept. No. 108-136).

By Mr. DOMENICI, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with amendments:

H.R. 622. A bill to provide for the exchange of certain lands in the Coconino and Tonto National Forests in Arizona, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 108-137).

By Mr. DOMENICI, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

H.R. 1012. A bill to establish the Carter G. Woodson Home National Historic Site in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 108-138).

By Mr. SPECTER, from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs:

Special Report entitled "Legislative and Oversight Activities During the 107th Congress By the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs" (Rept. No. 108-139).

#### 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. SHELBY (for himself, Mr. BOND, Mr. SARBANES, and Mr. REED):

S. 1571. A bill to increase the Federal Housing Administration mortgage commitment level to carry out the purposes of section 203(b) of the National Housing Act; considered and passed.

By Mr. REID (for Mr. GRAHAM of Florida):

S. 1572. A bill to authorize the expansion of the pilot program of the Department of Veterans Affairs on assisted living for veterans to include three additional health care regions of the Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. BREAUX:

S. 1573. A bill to redesignate the Tensas River National Wildlife Refuge in the State