

the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, to establish and rapidly implement regulations for State driver's license and identification document security standards, to prevent terrorists from abusing the asylum laws of the United States, to unify terrorism-related grounds for inadmissibility and removal, to ensure expeditious construction of the San Diego border fence, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 187, after line 4, insert the following:

REDUCTION IN FUNDING FOR DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR PROGRAMS

The amount for "Diplomatic and Consular Programs" under chapter 2 of title II shall be \$357,700,000.

CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION
SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For an additional amount for "Salaries and Expenses", for the hiring of Border Patrol agents and related mission support expenses and continued operation of unmanned aerial vehicles along the Southwest Border, \$179,745,000, to remain available until September 30, 2006.

CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION
CONSTRUCTION

For an additional amount for "Construction", \$67,438,000, to remain available until expended.

IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT
SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For an additional amount for "Salaries and Expenses", for the enforcement of immigration and customs laws, detention and removal, and investigations, including the hiring of immigration investigators, enforcement agents, and deportation officers, and the provision of detention bed space, \$128,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2006.

FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING
CENTER
SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For an additional amount for "Salaries and Expenses", \$10,471,000, to remain available until September 30, 2006.

ACQUISITION, CONSTRUCTION, IMPROVEMENTS,
AND RELATED EXPENSES

For an additional amount "Acquisition, Construction, Improvements, and Related Expenses", for the provision of training at the Border Patrol Academy, \$3,959,000, to remain available until expended.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION DISCHARGED

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, as in executive session, I ask unanimous consent the Banking Committee be discharged from further consideration of PN 76, Pamela Hughes Patenaude, to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development; I further ask consent that the nomination be confirmed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

The nomination considered and confirmed is as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN
DEVELOPMENT

Pamela Hughes Patenaude, of New Hampshire, to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

LEGISLATION SESSION

Mr. McCONNELL. I finally ask consent that the Senate then resume legislation.

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

ENSURING DEMOCRATIC REFORM
IN THE KURDISH REPUBLIC

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 111 which was submitted earlier today.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 111) urging the United States to increase its efforts to ensure democratic reform in the Kurdish Republic.

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

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, this resolution urges the United States to increase its efforts to ensure democratic reform in the Kyrgyz Republic.

The Kyrgyz Republic has held two rounds of parliamentary elections, the first on February 27 the second on March 13. While both election rounds showed progress toward the goal of a free, fair, and transparent election process, the elections fell short of the Kyrgyz Republic's Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe's OSCE and international commitments to fully meet the accepted criteria for democratic elections.

Violations included instances of vote buying, questionable disqualification of candidates and interference with the media.

Inspired by the recent revolutions in Ukraine and Georgia, the people of the Kyrgyz Republic rose against their corrupt government to demand respect for their democratic rights. Nationwide demonstrations sparked by the flawed parliamentary elections led to the departure of President Askar Akayev on March 22. The opposition moved quickly to consolidate control and established an interim government. On April 4, President Akayev officially resigned. But the situation remains fluid. The outcome in the Kyrgyz Republic is critically important for its future, and for people living in the Central Asia region, who hope for a democratic future.

The United States and the Kyrgyz Republic have formed a close relationship since it declared independence from the Soviet Union in 1991. The United States has provided humanitarian assistance, nonlethal military assistance, and assistance to support economic and political reforms. The Kyrgyz Republic also hosts a U.S. military base that provides crucial support to Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.

However, while the Kyrgyz Republic has advanced quickly in the area of democratic reform since 1991, it has experienced setbacks in recent years. I urge the United States in my resolution to continue its strong support for democratic reform in the Kyrgyz Republic, including respect for the rule of law and human rights.

I also call upon the interim government in the Kyrgyz Republic to move swiftly toward democratic government ratified by the Kyrgyz people by holding free, fair, and transparent presidential elections on July 10, and by ensuring that the new parliament represents the choice of the Kyrgyz people. The United States must provide strong leadership in countries where democracy is still taking root.

I ask my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 111) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, is as follows:

S. RES. 111

Whereas on August 31, 1991, the Kyrgyz Republic declared independence from the Soviet Union;

Whereas the Kyrgyz Republic was ruled by President Askar Akayev from October 1991 to April 2005;

Whereas the Kyrgyz Republic held a first round of parliamentary elections on February 27, 2005;

Whereas the United States Government recognized several areas of improvement in the parliamentary elections in the Kyrgyz Republic, including competitive elections and the active participation of civil society, but it noted the elections fell short of the commitments of the Kyrgyz Republic to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and other international entities to fully meet the accepted criteria for democratic elections;

Whereas nation-wide demonstrations sparked by the flawed parliamentary elections in the Kyrgyz Republic led to the departure of President Akayev and the collapse of his government on March 22, 2005;

Whereas Askar Akayev officially resigned as President of the Kyrgyz Republic on April 4, 2005;

Whereas the Kyrgyz people, through their actions, have created an opportunity for a democratic and stable future for the Kyrgyz Republic;

Whereas the interim government in the Kyrgyz Republic can earn the confidence of the Kyrgyz people and the international community by abiding by its commitment to hold free and fair presidential elections on July 10, 2005, and by ensuring that the members of the new parliament in the Kyrgyz Republic represent the choice of the Kyrgyz people;

Whereas the interim government in the Kyrgyz Republic can move towards resolving the political crisis in the Kyrgyz Republic in a way that confirms the will of the Kyrgyz people by working closely with its immediate neighbors and with the OSCE;

Whereas the United States strongly supports efforts by the OSCE to work with the