

are exposed or infected. Otherwise, we will be forced to impose quarantines, just as our ancestors did in times of pestilence, and we will surely find it as difficult a proposition as they did. Quarantining hundreds, maybe even hundreds of thousands of people would, obviously, be extremely difficult to manage.

Developing ways to prevent, detect, and treat dangerous pathogens must be a priority for our Nation so that we do not face these dreadful scenarios.

Our best defense against bioterrorism is a full medicine chest. We must develop medicines to treat the naturally occurring biologic agents, and, in addition, we need to develop medicines to treat bacteria and viruses that have been genetically manipulated as weapons to cause death or injury to human beings.

Therefore, the biopharma companies must be engaged in these discussions because they will play an integral role.

Our bill, BioShield II, is the next step in the legislative process to ensure bioterror readiness.

We cannot afford to wait. Every day that we sit idle, we encourage our enemies to move forward.

We must abandon business-as-usual and take vigorous steps to protect our Nation, our communities, our citizens and our industries from future bioterrorist attack, especially given the implication of further attacks on the United States.

BioShield II encourages Congress to take vital steps to protect our Nation through an array of intellectual property, tax, procurement, research, liability, and other incentives to ensure the creation of a robust biodefense industry.

Direct government funding can only go so far.

To be effective, we must also enact incentives so that potential investors will want to fund the research associated with building a strong and flexible defense against potential attacks.

But to accomplish this goal, we must unleash the creative genius of the biopharma industry to work with us on these solutions.

Bioshield II will encourage biopharma companies to take the lead in the development of vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics to combat bioterrorism. These efforts will also help protect our Nation against naturally occurring diseases. In fact, a major improvement in this bill is that we allow the array of incentives to be employed against infectious diseases and as well as disease prevalent in the developing world.

All research on infectious disease is interrelated. SARS, HIV, malaria, and avian and pandemic flue are chilling reminders that our public health system must be able to take on all comers; it is not just deliberately engineered agents that threaten us.

Our infrastructure—our researchers, our pharmaceutical industry, our hospitals, and our caregivers—must be

prepared and equipped to fight illness, wherever and however it occurs. By expanding the scope of covered research under this bill, we may also discover cures for diseases that afflict the world's poorest nations.

The goal of our legislation is to have a safer and better prepared America. But, to do this we must provide researchers and investors with the proper incentives. Forming unprecedented and vigorous partnerships with these companies is the key. Otherwise, this endeavor will never work and the American public will remain at great risk.

The harsh reality is that nearly 4 years after 9/11, we have not developed one significant bioterrorism countermeasure.

Aside from vaccines for smallpox and anthrax—both of which have their own downsides—and a handful of antibiotics and anti-infectives—also with their own array of strengths and weaknesses—the cupboard is bare.

This is simply not acceptable.

As new varieties of bioterror weapons are developed, the threat of another attack comes ever-closer to our shores. For this reason, Senator LIEBERMAN and I are introducing the "Project BioShield II Act of 2005".

We plan to work closely with all interested members of Congress, including Senator BURR, Senators ENZI and KENNEDY, chairman and ranking Democratic member of the HELP Committee respectively, Senators GRASSLEY and BAUCUS, chairman and ranking Democratic member of the Finance Committee, Senators SPECTER and LEAHY, chairman and ranking Democratic member of the Judiciary Committee; and Senator COLLINS, chairman of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee.

We will work closely with all the relevant officials in the Bush administration; and we will work with Senate Leadership and with all interested parties in the House.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this very important legislation.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 128—DESIGNATING APRIL 30, 2005, AS "DIA DE LOS NIÑOS: CELEBRATING YOUNG AMERICANS", AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. HATCH (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. MARTINEZ, and Ms. MURKOWSKI) submitted the following resolution; which was submitted and read:

S. RES. 128

Whereas many nations throughout the world, and especially within the Western hemisphere, celebrate "Día de los Niños", or "Day of the Children" on the 30th of April, in recognition and celebration of their country's future—their children;

Whereas children represent the hopes and dreams of the people of the United States;

Whereas children are the center of American families;

Whereas children should be nurtured and invested in to preserve and enhance economic prosperity, democracy, and the American spirit;

Whereas Hispanics in the United States, the youngest and fastest growing ethnic community in the Nation, continue the tradition of honoring their children on this day, and wish to share this custom with the rest of the Nation;

Whereas 1 in 4 Americans is projected to be of Hispanic descent by the year 2050, and as of 2003, approximately 12,300,000 Hispanic children live in the United States;

Whereas traditional Hispanic family life centers largely on children;

Whereas the primary teachers of family values, morality, and culture are parents and family members, and we rely on children to pass on these family values, morals, and culture to future generations;

Whereas more than 500,000 children drop out of school each year, and Hispanic dropout rates are unacceptably high;

Whereas the importance of literacy and education are most often communicated to children through family members;

Whereas families should be encouraged to engage in family and community activities that include extended and elderly family members and encourage children to explore, develop confidence, and pursue their dreams;

Whereas the designation of a day to honor the children of the United States will help affirm for the people of the United States the significance of family, education, and community;

Whereas the designation of a day of special recognition for the children of the United States will provide an opportunity for children to reflect on their future, to articulate their dreams and aspirations, and to find comfort and security in the support of their family members and communities;

Whereas the National Latino Children's Institute, serving as a voice for children, has worked with cities throughout the country to declare April 30 as "Día de los Niños: Celebrating Young Americans"—a day to bring together Hispanics and other communities nationwide to celebrate and uplift children; and

Whereas the children of a nation are the responsibility of all its people, and people should be encouraged to celebrate the gifts of children to society—their curiosity, laughter, faith, energy, spirit, hopes, and dreams: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates April 30, 2005, as "Día de los Niños: Celebrating Young Americans"; and

(2) calls on the people of the United States to join with all children, families, organizations, communities, churches, cities, and States across the United States to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies, including activities that—

(A) center around children, and are free or minimal in cost so as to encourage and facilitate the participation of all our people;

(B) are positive and uplifting and that help children express their hopes and dreams;

(C) provide opportunities for children of all backgrounds to learn about one another's cultures and to share ideas;

(D) include all members of the family, and especially extended and elderly family members, so as to promote greater communication among the generations within a family, enabling children to appreciate and benefit from the experiences and wisdom of their elderly family members;

(E) provide opportunities for families within a community to get acquainted; and

(F) provide children with the support they need to develop skills and confidence, and to

find the inner strength—the will and fire of the human spirit—to make their dreams come true.

SENATE RESOLUTION 129—COM-MENDING THE VIRGINIA RETAIL MERCHANTS ASSOCIATION ON 100 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

Mr. ALLEN submitted the following resolution; which was submitted and read:

S. RES. 129

Whereas 2005 will mark the 100th anniversary of the Virginia Retail Merchants Association (referred to in this resolution as the "Association");

Whereas on May 12 1905, the Association was formed to encourage, stimulate, extend, and promote the business of retail merchants in the Commonwealth of Virginia, and to promote the social, moral, and financial welfare of those engaged in the business of retail merchandising;

Whereas the Association has endeavored to curtail trade abuses in the retail industry and other injurious practices and to secure the cooperation of consumers, retail merchants, and retail suppliers in producing healthy retail trade;

Whereas the Association has worked to secure the enactment of reasonable and proper laws to protect consumers and the retail and services trade;

Whereas it is the goal of the Association to encourage proper and business-like methods in the conduct of business affairs and to advance, by legitimate and fair means, the interests of retail merchants and the free enterprise system;

Whereas, in 1905, the Association chartered the Lynchburg Retail Merchants Association;

Whereas, in 1906, the Association chartered the Retail Merchants Association of Greater Richmond;

Whereas, in 1907, the Association chartered the Petersburg Retail Merchants Association;

Whereas, in 1913, the Association chartered the Hampton Retail Merchants Association;

Whereas, in 1919, the Association chartered the Danville Retail Merchants Association;

Whereas, in the 1950s, the Association chartered the Franklin County Retail Merchants Association and the Williamsburg Retail Merchants Association;

Whereas, in subsequent years, the Association chartered the South Boston Retail Merchants Association and Charlottesville Retail Merchants Association;

Whereas, in 1978, the Association formed the Virginia Retail Political Action Committee or VARPAC;

Whereas the Association and its retail member associations represent more than 5,400 retailers and other associated businesses throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia; and

Whereas the Association has been an active proponent of the free enterprise system for 100 years: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the Virginia Retail Merchants Association on its 100th anniversary; and

(2) recognizes its years of service to the retail community.

SENATE RESOLUTION 130—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF MAY 1 THROUGH MAY 7, 2005, AS "NORTH AMERICAN OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH WEEK (NAOSH)"

Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. OBAMA, and Mr. KENNEDY) submitted the following resolution; which was submitted and read:

S. RES. 130

Whereas every year more than 5,500 people die from job-related injuries and millions more suffer occupational injuries and illnesses;

Whereas every day millions of people go to and return home from work safely due, in part, to the efforts of many unsung heroes, such as occupational safety, health, and environmental practitioners, who work day in and day out identifying hazards and implementing safety and health advances, in all industries and at all workplaces, aimed at eliminating workplace fatalities, injuries, and illnesses;

Whereas these occupational safety, health, and environmental professionals work to prevent accidents, injuries, and occupational diseases, create safer work and leisure environments, develop safer products, and are committed to protecting people, property, and the environment;

Whereas the work of these professionals in the areas of health promotion, disease prevention, and wellness programs contributes greatly to the improvement of overall employee health, increased productivity, and reduction in health care costs, and yields significant returns on investments in occupational safety and health for the employer;

Whereas our society has long recognized that a safe and healthy workplace positively impacts employee morale, health, and productivity;

Whereas the more than 150,000 combined members of the American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE), the Academy of Certified Hazardous Materials Managers (ACHMM), the American Association of Occupational Health Nurses, Inc. (AAOHN), the American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA), and the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) are occupational safety, health, and environmental practitioners committed to protecting people, property, and the environment;

Whereas the purpose of "North American Occupational Safety and Health Week (NAOSH)" is to increase the understanding of the benefits of investing in occupational safety and health, to demonstrate the positive impact that integrating effective safety and health programs in the workplace and the community has on the economy and business, to raise awareness of the role and contribution of safety, health, and environmental professionals in all areas, and to reduce workplace injuries and illnesses by increasing awareness and implementation of safety and health programs; and

Whereas during the week of May 1 through May 7, 2005, and throughout the year, the ASSE, ACHMM, AAOHN, AIHA, and ANSI, and their respective memberships, will work to raise employers', employees', and the public's understanding of the importance of occupational safety, health, and the environment in everyone's lives, and to provide valuable information and resources aimed at decreasing further workplace fatalities, injuries, and illnesses: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of May 1 through May 7, 2005, as "North American Occupational Safety and Health Week (NAOSH)";

(2) commends occupational safety, health, and environmental professionals for their ongoing commitment to protecting people, property, and the environment;

(3) encourages all industries, organizations, community leaders, employers, and employees to support educational activities aimed at increasing awareness of the importance of preventing illness, injury, and death in the workplace during the week of May 1 through May 7, 2005, and throughout the year; and

(4) encourages the people of the United States to observe "North American Occupational Safety and Health Week (NAOSH)" with appropriate programs and activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 131—COMMEMORATING AND ACKNOWLEDGING THE DEDICATION AND SACRIFICE MADE BY THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO HAVE LOST THEIR LIVES WHILE SERVING AS LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

Mr. SPECTER (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. KOHL, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. HATCH, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. DURBIN, and Ms. COLLINS) submitted the following resolution; which was submitted and read:

S. RES. 131

Whereas the well-being of all citizens of the United States is preserved and enhanced as a direct result of the vigilance and dedication of law enforcement personnel;

Whereas more than 850,000 men and women, at great risk to their personal safety, presently serve their fellow citizens as guardians of peace;

Whereas peace officers are on the front line in preserving the right of the children of the United States to receive an education in a crime-free environment, a right that is all too often threatened by the insidious fear caused by violence in schools;

Whereas 154 peace officers across the United States were killed in the line of duty during 2004, which is below the decade-long average of 169 deaths annually;

Whereas a number of factors contributed to this reduction in deaths, including better equipment and the increased use of bullet-resistant vests, improved training, longer prison terms for violent offenders, and advanced emergency medical care;

Whereas every other day, 1 out of every 9 peace officers is assaulted, 1 out of every 25 peace officers is injured, and 1 out of every 6,000 peace officers is killed in the line of duty somewhere in the United States; and

Whereas on May 15, 2005, more than 20,000 peace officers are expected to gather in Washington, D.C. to join with the families of their recently fallen comrades to honor those comrades and all others who went before them: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes May 15, 2005, as Peace Officers Memorial Day, in honor of Federal, State, and local officers killed or disabled in the line of duty; and

(2) calls upon the people of the United States to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and respect.

SENATE RESOLUTION 132—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR PRAYER AT SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS

Mr. VITTER (for himself, Mr. COBURN, and Mr. DEMINT) submitted