SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 53—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT ANY EFFORT TO IMPOSE PHOTO IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR VOTING SHOULD BE REJECTED

Mr. OBAMA (for himself, Mr. DODD, Mr. REID, Mr. CORZINE, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KERRY, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. DAYTON, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. SALAZAR) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. CON. RES. 53

Whereas the most fundamental right accorded to United States citizens by the Constitution is the right to vote, and the unimpeded exercise of this right is essential to the functioning of our democracy;

Whereas historically, certain citizens, especially racial minorities, have been prevented from voting because of significant barriers such as literacy tests, poll taxes, and property requirements;

Whereas the long and difficult struggle to remove these and other barriers to voting resulted in the loss of life but also led to the passage of the 15th, 19th, and 24th Amendments to the Constitution;

Whereas in the face of persistently low voter turnout relative to other industrialized democracies, exaggerated fears of voter impersonation have led to calls for more stringent voter identification requirements, including the requirement of government-issued photo identification cards as the only approved form of voter identification;

Whereas there has been no substantiated evidence of any significant incidence of fraud due to voter impersonation, and the more serious attack on ballot integrity has been the discounting of millions of ballots, including an estimated 6,000,000 ballots lost in the 2000 Presidential election;

Whereas there is no evidence that photo identification requirements address the few isolated instances of such fraud;

Whereas 12 percent of voting-age Americans do not have a driver's license, most of whom are minorities, new United States citizens, the indigent, the elderly, or the disabled;

Whereas government-issued identification cards can cost as much as $85 and are often unnecessary for the daily needs of, or inaccessible to, many urban, rural, elderly, and indigent voters who do not own cars;

Whereas the National Commission on Federal Election Reform reported in 2001 that a photo identification requirement would ''impose an additional expense on the exercise of the franchise, a burden that would fall disproportionately on people who are poorer and urban'';

Whereas an alarming number of States, including most recently the State of Georgia, have passed proposals requiring voters to produce government-issued photo identification at the polls;

Whereas the State of Georgia no longer allows affidavits affirming one's identity to meet the identification requirement for voting, a change that will likely disproportionately affect minorities, new United States citizens, the indigent, the elderly, and the disabled;

Whereas 150,000 senior citizens in the State of Georgia do not have a form of government-issued photo identification;

Whereas residents in the State of Georgia can obtain the newly required voter identification card in only 56 places in all 159 counties in Georgia with no such places currently located in Atlanta, Georgia;

Whereas the State of Georgia permits the use of various forms of proof of identity to obtain government-issued identification that it does not accept in a similar manner when its citizens attempt to exercise their constitutionally protected right to vote;

Whereas the State of Georgia will charge United States citizens at least $20 for voters to purchase 1 of the government-issued photo identification cards required under the new State law unless such citizens wish to endure the potential humiliation of swearing to their indigency;

Whereas poll taxes are prohibited in Federal elections by the 24th Amendment to the Constitution and in State elections by a 1966 Supreme Court case;

Whereas the Secretary of State of Georgia has stated that photo identification would not have resolved any instances of voter fraud;

Whereas the Voting Rights Act of 1965 requires that Georgia and other States with histories of discrimination in elections prove that election laws and practices do not hinder minorities' ability to exercise the franchise, including access to the polls, and that such States have such laws and practices approved by the Department of Justice before implementation;

Whereas the Department of Justice's approval of the Georgia statute in August of 2005 was a troubling example of a recent trend towards weakening voter protections and countenancing voter suppression;

Whereas Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath have destroyed or rendered unusable the official records of many State and local government agencies in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama, as well as the documents of thousands of residents in those states, which will significantly complicate the ability of those residents to obtain photo identification cards;

Whereas the residents of the Gulf Coast region, in particular, those residents displaced by Hurricane Katrina, have already suffered immeasurably in recent weeks and should not be further burdened by losing their right to vote because they cannot obtain photo identification cards;

Whereas the Carter/Baker Election Reform Commission recommended that States implement mandatory State-issued photo identification requirements for voting at the polls, despite the lack of evidence that such identification will address documented instances of voter fraud; and

Whereas an electoral system with integrity is one that allows all eligible voters the opportunity to cast their votes, and thus election reform must further democratic empowerment, not disenfranchisement: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) a requirement that United States citizens obtain photo identification cards before being able to vote has not been shown to ensure ballot integrity and places an undue burden on the legitimate voting rights of such citizens;

(2) the Department of Justice should—

(A) vigorously enforce the Voting Rights Act of 1965; and

(B) challenge any State law that limits a citizen's ability to vote based on discriminatory photo identification requirements; and

(3) any effort to impose national photo identification requirements for voting should be rejected.

Mr. OBAMA. Mr. President, today I am submitting a resolution to express the Senate's strong disapproval of recent efforts to disenfranchise Americans.

In the weeks since Hurricane Katrina ravaged the Gulf Coast, our country has been awakened to the plight of the most vulnerable Americans—the poor, the elderly, the sick, and the disabled. And if we have learned anything from this tragedy, it is that the Government has too often ignored the needs of these citizens in crafting national policy. Whether it is homeland security or education or health care, these Americans have consistently been left behind.

Now, we are in danger of proceeding down another path that disregards the needs of our Nation's neediest—the right to vote. This is the most fundamental right protected by the Constitution and the right for which many Americans have fought and died.

The last two Presidential elections were tainted by allegations of fraud and abuse. The complaints ranged from long polling lines to faulty machines to confusing ballots. The rampant complaints have shaken people's confidence in our election system. And so it is all of our duty to work to restore and protect the integrity of the electoral process.

Unfortunately, in this new millennium, too many electoral reform efforts seem intent on limiting access to the ballot as opposed to expanding it. In the mid-20th century, the poll tax was the preferred means of disenfranchising large minority populations, specifically African Americans. Today, the poll tax is taking on a new form—a photo identification requirement for voters.

According to the National Commission on Federal Election Reform, such a requirement would ''impose an additional expense on the exercise of the franchise, a burden that would fall disproportionately on people who are poorer and urban.'' Nevertheless, a number of States, including Georgia, have recently passed laws mandating government-issued photo identification for voters at the polls.

In Georgia alone, at least 150,000 senior citizens do not have government-issued photo identification, which can cost up to $85. Nationwide, at least 12 percent of eligible drivers do not have a driver's license. And Georgia has made it difficult for rural and urban folks to obtain their voter photo identification. There are currently only 56 places in all 159 counties where such identification is available, with no places available in Atlanta. For people who already lack transportation, which may be why they do not have driver's licenses, it is far-fetched to think that these same people could easily get to another county to obtain a voter identification card.

Earlier today, the Carter-Baker Commission on Federal Election Reform released its recommendations for improving the electoral process. While many of the Commission's recommendations are worthy of consideration, its report recommends the implementation of a national voter identification requirement, despite acknowledging that there is ''no evidence of extensive fraud in U.S. elections or of multiple voting.''

This past weekend, Afghanistan held its second successful national election, and we have seen successes in Iraq's elections as well. If these nascent democracies can commit themselves to bringing any and all citizens to the polls, surely we can do the same.

Many of us both here in Washington and around the country have been asking questions over the past three weeks about our Nation's priorities and our commitment to helping our country's most vulnerable citizens. But a major priority should be ensuring that these citizens can exercise the most fundamental right in a democracy—the right to vote.

The resolution I am submitting today, along with Senator DODD and joined by Senators REID, CORZINE, CLINTON, HARKIN, FEINGOLD, AKAKA, DORGAN, KENNEDY, KERRY, MIKULSKI, LAUTENBERG and others, expresses the Senate's strong disapproval of photo identification requirements for voting. The resolution also urges the Department of Justice to challenge any State law that limits a citizen's ability to vote based on discriminatory photo identification requirements and urges the rejection of any national photo identification requirements for voting.

I am honored that Representative JOHN LEWIS, a civil rights icon who put his life on the line to fight for the right to vote, will be introducing the same resolution in the House later this week.

I urge my colleagues to support this important resolution.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1736. Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Ms. SNOWE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 2744, making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1737. Mr. ALLARD submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2744, supra.

SA 1738. Mr. ALLARD (for himself, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. BURNS, Mr. THUNE, and Mr. HAGEL) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 2744, supra.

SA 1739. Mr. ALLARD submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2744, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1740. Mrs. MURRAY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 2744, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1741. Mr. DEWINE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2744, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1742. Mr. ROBERTS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2744, supra.

SA 1743. Mr. LUGAR submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2744, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1744. Mrs. MURRAY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 2744, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1745. Mrs. MURRAY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 2744, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1746. Mrs. MURRAY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 2744, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1747. Mr. DURBIN (for Mr. REID) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 2744, supra.

SA 1748. Mr. DURBIN (for Mr. INOUYE (for himself, Mr. AKAKA, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN)) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 2744, supra.

SA 1749. Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. ENZI, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mr. BINGAMAN) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 2744, supra.

SA 1750. Mr. BENNETT proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 2744, supra.

SA 1751. Mr. BENNETT proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 2744, supra.

SA 1752. Mr. BENNETT proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 2744, supra.

SA 1753. Mr. ENSIGN (for himself, Mr. BYRD, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. LOTT, Mr. DEMINT, Ms. LANDRIEU, Ms. STABENOW, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. LAUTENBERG, and Mr. CORZINE) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 2744, supra.

SA 1754. Mr. SALAZAR submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2744, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1755. Mr. SALAZAR submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2744, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1756. Mrs. BOXER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 2744, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1757. Mr. LUGAR (for himself and Mr. HARKIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2744, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1758. Mr. LUGAR submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2744, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1759. Mr. LUGAR submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2744, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1760. Mr. DURBIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2744, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1761. Ms. STABENOW (for herself, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. BAYH, and Mr. VOINOVICH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 2744, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1762. Ms. STABENOW submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 2744, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1763. Mr. TALENT (for himself and Mr. PRYOR) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 2744, supra.

SA 1764. Mr. CRAIG (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2744, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1765. Mr. KOHL (for Mr. HARKIN) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 2744, supra.

SA 1766. Mr. KOHL (for Mr. PRYOR) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 2744, supra.

SA 1767. Mr. NELSON of Nebraska submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2744, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1768. Mr. SPECTER (for himself and Mr. LEAHY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2744, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1769. Mr. DAYTON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2744, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 1736. Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Ms. SNOWE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 2744, making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 128, line 19, strike ''$12,400,000'' and insert ''$17,400,000''.

On page 128, line 24, strike ''$1,000,000'' and insert ''$6,000,000''.

On page 129, line 2, insert before the period at the end the following: '': *Provided further*, That $3,000,000 shall be provided to each third round empowerment zone''.

On page 173, after line 24, insert the following:

SEC. 7_____. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, each amount provided by this Act is reduced by the pro rata percentage required to reduce the total amount provided by this Act by $5,000,000.

SA 1737. Mr. ALLARD submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2744, making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 93, line 9, before the period at the end insert the following: '': *Provided further*, That the Secretary, through the Agricultural Research Service, or successor, is authorized to lease approximately 40 acres of land at the Central Plains Experiment Station, Nunn, Colorado, to the Board of Governors of the Colorado State University System, for its Shortgrass Steppe Biological Field Station, on such terms and conditions as the Secretary deems in the public interest: *Provided further*, That the Secretary understands that it is the intent of the University to construct research and educational buildings on the subject acreage and to conduct agricultural research and educational activities in these buildings: *Provided further*, That as consideration for a lease, the Secretary may accept the benefits of mutual cooperative research to be conducted by the Colorado State University and the Government at the Shortgrass Steppe Biological Field Station: *Provided further*, That the term of any lease shall be for no more than 20 years, but a lease may be renewed at the