

RUSSIAN FEDERATION PROTECTION OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent the Committee on Foreign Relations be discharged from further consideration of H. Con. Res. 230, and the resolution be referred to the Committee on Finance.

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

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be discharged and the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H. Con. Res. 230.

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

The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:
A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 230) expressing the sense of the Congress that the Russian Federation must protect intellectual property rights.

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

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

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

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 230) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

HONORING PILOTS OF THE FEDERAL FLIGHT DECK OFFICERS PROGRAM

RECOGNIZING AFRICAN-AMERICAN BASKETBALL TEAMS AND PLAYERS

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent that the Commerce Committee be discharged and the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H. Con. Res. 196 and H. Con. Res. 59, en bloc.

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

The clerk will report the resolutions by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:
A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 196) honoring the pilots of the United States commercial air carriers who volunteered to participate in the Federal flight deck officers program.

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 59) recognizing the contributions of the African-American basketball teams and players for their achievements, dedication, and contributions to the sport of basketball and to the Nation.

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

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, en bloc.

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

The concurrent resolutions (H. Con. Res. 196 and H. Con. Res. 59) were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN CHILD PROTECTION ACT OF 2005

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar 74, S. 119.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:
A bill (S. 119) to provide for the protection of unaccompanied alien children, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent the Feinstein substitute amendment which is at the desk be agreed to, the bill, as amended, be read the third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements related to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

The amendment (No. 2692) was agreed to.

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Text of Amendments.")

The bill (S. 119), as amended, was read the third time and passed.

VOLUNTARY MORTGAGE PAYMENT FORBEARANCE PERIOD

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 347, submitted earlier today by Senator LANDRIEU.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:
A resolution (S. Res. 347) expressing the sense of the Senate that lenders holding mortgages on homes in communities of the Gulf Coast devastated by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita should extend current voluntary mortgage payment forbearance periods and not foreclose on properties in those communities.

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

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements related to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 347) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, is as follows:

S. RES. 347

Whereas the Gulf Coast of the United States has experienced 1 of the worst hurricane seasons on record;

Whereas Hurricane Katrina and multiple levee breaks destroyed an estimated 275,000 homes in the Gulf Coast;

Whereas 20,664 businesses in the Gulf Coast sustained catastrophic damage from Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita;

Whereas, according to the Bureau of Economic Analysis at the Department of Commerce, personal income has fallen more than 25 percent in Louisiana in the third quarter of 2005;

Whereas, in the time since Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Wilma, the Small Business Administration has only approved 20 percent of disaster loan applications for homeowners in the Gulf Coast and has a backlog of more than 176,000 applications for this assistance as of December 21, 2005;

Whereas, of the 20,741 homeowner disaster loan applications that have been approved in the Gulf Coast by the Small Business Administration, only 1,444 have been fully disbursed;

Whereas, in response to these circumstances, commercial banks, mortgage banks, credit unions, and other mortgage lenders voluntarily instituted 90-day loan forbearance periods after Hurricane Katrina and did not require home owners in the Gulf Coast to make mortgage payments until on or about December 1, 2005;

Whereas, after the termination of the 90-day forbearance period, many home and business owners have received notice from their lenders that they face foreclosure unless they make a lump sum balloon payment in the amount of the mortgage payments previously subject to forbearance; and

Whereas foreclosure on homes and businesses in the Gulf Coast will have a detrimental impact on the economy of the area, will deprive property owners of their equity at a time when they can least afford it, and will have a negative impact on lenders who will be holding properties that may not be readily marketable on the open market: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) Congress should act early in the second session of the 109th Congress to consider legislation to provide relief to homeowners in the Gulf Coast; and

(2) commercial banks, mortgage banks, credit unions, and other mortgage lenders should extend mortgage payment forbearance to March 31, 2006, in order to allow Congress the time to consider such legislation.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TO MEET THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS ACT OF 2005

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 281, S. 1315.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:
A bill (S. 1315) to require a report on progress toward the Millennium Development Goals, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with amendments.

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

S. 1315

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 "International Cooperation to Meet the Millennium Development Goals Act of 2005".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) At the United Nations Millennium Summit in 2000, the United States joined more than 180 other countries in committing to work toward goals to improve life for the world's poorest people by 2015.

(2) Such goals include reducing the proportion of people living on less than \$1 per day by ½, reducing child mortality by ¾, and assuring basic education for all children, while sustaining the environment upon which human life depends.

(3) At the 2002 International Conference on Financing for Development, the United States representative reiterated the support of the United States for the Millennium Development Goals and advocated, along with other international participants, for a stronger focus on measurable outcomes derived from a global partnership between developed and developing countries.

(4) On March 22, 2002, President Bush stated, "We fight against poverty because hope is an answer to terror. We fight against poverty because opportunity is a fundamental right to human dignity. We fight against poverty because faith requires it and conscience demands it. We fight against poverty with a growing conviction that major progress is within our reach."

(5) The 2002 National Security Strategy of the United States notes that "a world where some live in comfort and plenty, while half of the human race lives on less than \$2 per day, is neither just nor stable. Including all of the world's poor in an expanding circle of development and opportunity is a moral imperative and one of the top priorities of U.S. international policy".

(6) The National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States concluded that the Government of the United States must offer an example of moral leadership in the world and offer parents and their children a vision of the future that emphasizes individual educational and economic opportunity as essential to the efforts of the United States to defeat global terrorism.

(7) The summit of the Group of Eight scheduled for July 2005, the United Nations summit scheduled for September 2005, and the Sixth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization scheduled for December 2005 will provide opportunities to measure and continue to pursue progress on the Millennium Development Goals.

(8) The summit of the Group of Eight [scheduled for] held July 6 through July 8, 2005, in Gleneagles, Scotland, [will bring] brought together the countries that can make the greatest contribution to alleviating extreme poverty in Africa, the region of the world where extreme poverty is most prevalent.

(9) On June 11, 2005, the United States helped secure the agreement of the Group of Eight Finance Ministers to cancel 100 percent of the debt obligations owed to the World Bank, African Development Bank, and International Monetary Fund by countries that are eligible for debt relief under the Highly Indebted Poor Countries Initiative, the initiative established in 1996 by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund for the purpose of reducing the debt burdens of the world's poorest countries, or under the Enhanced HIPC Initiative, as defined in section 1625 of the International Financial Institutions Act (22 U.S.C. 262p-8), which are poor countries that are on the path to reform.

(10) The report prepared by the Commission for Africa and issued by Prime Minister Tony Blair on March 11, 2005, entitled "Our Common Interest", called for coherence and coordination in the development of an overarching package of actions to be carried out by the countries of Africa and the international community to address the complex interlocking issues that challenge the continent, many of which have already been addressed individually in previous summits and under the Africa Action Plan enacted by the Group of Eight.

(11) The United States has recognized the need for strengthened economic and trade opportunities, as well as increased financial and technical assistance to Africa and other countries burdened by extreme poverty, through significant initiatives in recent years, including—

(A) The African Growth and Opportunity Act (19 U.S.C. 3701 et seq.) that has opened United States markets to thousands of products from Africa;

(B) the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief developed under section 101 of the United States Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Act of 2003 (22 U.S.C. 7611), the major focus of which has been on African countries;

(C) the Millennium Challenge Corporation established under section 604 of the Millennium Challenge Act of 2003 (22 U.S.C. 7703) that is in the process of committing new and significant levels of assistance to countries, including countries in Africa, that are poor but show great promise for boosting economic growth and bettering the lives of their people; and

(D) [the United States has canceled] the cancellation by the United States of 100 percent of the bilateral debt owed to the United States by countries eligible for debt relief under the Enhanced HIPC Initiative.

(12) The report prepared by the Commission for Africa entitled "Our Common Interest" includes the following findings:

(A) The people of Africa must demonstrate the leadership necessary to address the governance challenges they face, setting priorities that ensure the development of effective civil and police services, independent judiciaries, and strong parliaments, all of which reinforce a stable and predictable economic environment attractive to investment.

(B) Many leaders in Africa have pursued personal self-interest rather than national goals, a tendency that has been in some instances exacerbated and abetted by the manipulation of foreign governments pursuing their own agenda in the region to the detriment of the people of Africa.

(C) More violent conflict has occurred in Africa during the period between 1965 and 2005 than occurred in any other continent during that period, and the countries of Africa must engage on the individual, national, and regional level to prevent and manage conflict.

(D) The capacity to trade is constrained by a derelict or nonexistent infrastructure in most African countries as well as by the double-edged sword of tariff and nontariff barriers to trade that complicate markets and discourage investment both within and beyond the continent.

(E) The local resources for investment in people and the institutions necessary for good governance have been squandered, misappropriated, and, to an increasingly devastating effect, spent on servicing debt to the developed world. Such resources should be reoriented to serve the needs of the people through the use of debt forgiveness and support for institutional reform and internal capacity building.

(F) Failing to prevent conflict in Africa results in incalculable costs to African development and expense to the international community and the investment in preventing conflict is a fraction of such costs and expenses, in human, security, and financial terms.

(G) Despite difficulties, there is optimism and energy reflected in the scope of activities of individuals such as 2004 Nobel Peace Prize recipient, Wangari Maathai, as well as those of improved regional organizations such as the African Union and the New Partnership for Economic Development's Peer Review Mechanism, and subregional entities such as the Economic Community of West African States, the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development, and the potential of the Southern African Development Community.

(H) Political reform in Africa has produced results. For example, while in 1985 countries of sub-Saharan Africa ruled by dictators were the norm, by 2005 dictatorships are a minority and democracy has new life with governments chosen by the people increasing fourfold since 1991.

(13) The report prepared by the Commission for Africa entitled "Our Common Interest" includes the following recommendations:

(A) At this vital moment when globalization and growth, technology and trade, and mutual security concerns allow, and common humanity demands, a substantial tangible and coherent package of actions should immediately be taken by the international community, led by the most industrialized countries, in partnership with the countries of Africa, to address the poverty and underdevelopment of the African continent.

(B) The people of Africa must take responsibility and show courageous leadership in addressing problems and taking ownership of solutions as the means for ensuring sustainable development, while implementing governance reform as an underlying prerequisite for foreign assistance effectiveness.

(C) Each developed country has unique strengths and capacity to add value to a comprehensive assistance plan and should join their individual efforts to a coherent whole that is more efficient and responsive to Africa and the people of Africa.

(D) The international community must honor existing commitments to strengthen African peacekeeping capacity and go beyond those commitments to invest in more effective prevention and nonmilitary means to resolve conflict through such regional organizations as the African Union and the subregional Economic Community for West African States.

(E) A massive investment in physical infrastructure should be made to support commerce, extend governance, and provide opportunities for education, healthcare, investment and growth.

(F) Donors and the governments of the countries of Africa should devote substantial investment in the men and women of Africa through the education and health sectors, enabling and extending recent gains made to reach far more broadly into remote regions.

(G) The public sector should actively engage the private sector in driving growth through partnerships by reforming the laws, bureaucracy, and infrastructure necessary to maintain a climate that fosters investment by developing public-private centers of excellence to pursue such reforms.

(H) The countries of Africa must maximize the participation of women in both business and government, protect the rights of women, and work to increase the number of

women in leadership positions so as to capitalize on the ability of women to deliver scarce resources effectively and fairly.

(I) The international community must work together to dismantle trade barriers, including the immediate elimination of trade-distorting commodity support.

(J) International donors should strengthen multilateral institutions in Africa to respond appropriately to local and regional crises as well as to promote economic development and ensure the people of Africa are granted a stronger voice in international forums.

(K) The international community must join in providing creative incentives for commercial firms to research and develop products that improve water, sanitation, health, and the environment in ways that would dramatically reduce suffering and increase productive life-spans in Africa.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.**—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on International Relations of the House of Representatives.

(2) **GROUP OF EIGHT.**—The term “Group of Eight” means the forum for addressing international economic, political, and social issues attended by representatives of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

(3) **MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS.**—The term “Millennium Development Goals” means the goals set out in United Nations Millennium Declaration, resolution [55/1] 55/2 adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on September 8, 2000.

SEC. 4. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

[(1) the President should continue to provide the leadership necessary at the summit of the Group of Eight scheduled for July 2005 at Gleneagles, Scotland, to encourage other countries to develop a true partnership to pursue the Millennium Development Goals;]

(1) *the President should continue to provide the leadership shown at the summit of the Group of Eight held in July 2005 at Gleneagles, Scotland, to continue to encourage other countries to develop a true partnership to pursue the Millennium Development Goals;*

(2) the President should urge the Group of Eight to consider the findings and recommendations contained in the report prepared by the Commission for Africa entitled “Our Common Interest”, as a fundamental guide on which to base their planning, in partnership with the nations of Africa, for the development of Africa;

(3) the Group of Eight, as well as governments of the countries of Africa and regional organizations of such governments, should reaffirm and honor the commitments made in the Africa Action Plan enacted by the Group of Eight in previous years; and

[(4) the international community should pursue further progress toward achieving the Millennium Development Goals at the summit of the Group of Eight scheduled for July 2005, the United Nations summit scheduled for September 2005, and the Sixth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization scheduled for December 2005.]

(4) *the international community should continue to build upon the progress made at the summit of the Group of Eight in July 2005 and the United Nations summit in September 2005 toward achieving the Millennium Development Goals, and should further enable such progress at the Sixth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization scheduled for December 2005.*

SEC. 5. REPORT.

(a) **REQUIREMENT.**—Not later than 60 days after the date of the conclusion of [the World Trade Organization Ministerial meeting in Hong Kong that is scheduled to be held] *the Sixth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization that is scheduled to be held in Hong Kong from December 13 through December 18, 2005*, the Secretary of State in consultation with other appropriate United States and international agencies shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees on the progress the international community is making toward achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

(b) **CONTENT.**—The report required by subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) A review of the commitments made by the United States and other members of the international community at the summit of the Group of Eight [scheduled for] *in July 2005*, the United Nations summit [scheduled for] *in September 2005*, and the Sixth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization scheduled for December 2005, that pertain to the ability of the developing world to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

(2) A review of United States policies and progress toward achieving the Millennium Development Goals by 2015, as well as policies to provide continued leadership in achieving such goals by 2015.

(3) An [evaluation] *evaluation, to the extent possible*, of the contributions of other national and international actors in achieving the Millennium Development Goals by 2015.

(4) An assessment of the likelihood that the Millennium Development Goals will be achieved.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment at the desk be agreed to, the committee-reported amendments, as amended, if amended, be agreed to, the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the measure be printed in the RECORD.

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

The amendment (No. 2693) was agreed to, as follows:

On page 13 line 21–22, strike “as a fundamental guide on which to base their planning.”

The committee-reported amendments were agreed to.

The bill (S. 1315), as amended, was read the third time and passed, as follows:

(The bill will be printed in a future edition of the RECORD.)

VET CENTER ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2005

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 290, S. 716.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 716) to amend title 38, United States Code, to enhance services provided by vet centers, to clarify and improve the provision of bereavement counseling by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The bill (S. 716) was read the third time and passed, as follows:

S. 716

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 “Vet Center Enhancement Act of 2005”.

SEC. 2. EXPANSION OF OUTREACH ACTIVITIES OF VET CENTERS.

(a) **ADDITIONAL OUTREACH WORKERS.**—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall employ not more than 50 veterans of Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom for the purpose of providing outreach to veterans on the availability of readjustment counseling and related mental health services for veterans under section 1712A of title 38, United States Code.

(b) **CONSTRUCTION WITH CURRENT OUTREACH PROGRAM.**—The veterans employed under subsection (a) are in addition to any veterans employed by the Secretary for the purpose described in that subsection under the February 2004 program of the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide outreach described in that subsection.

(c) **ASSIGNMENT TO VET CENTERS.**—The Secretary may assign any veteran employed under subsection (a) to any vet center that the Secretary considers appropriate in order to meet the purpose described in that subsection.

(d) **INAPPLICABILITY AND TERMINATION OF LIMITATION ON DURATION OF EMPLOYMENT.**—Any limitation on the duration of employment of veterans under the program described in subsection (b) is hereby terminated, and shall not apply to veterans employed under such program or under this section.

(e) **EMPLOYMENT STATUS.**—Veterans employed under subsection (a) shall be employed in career conditional status, which is the employment status in which veterans are employed under the program described in subsection (b).

(f) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **VET CENTER.**—The term “vet center” means a center for the provision of readjustment counseling and related mental health services under section 1712A of title 38, United States Code.

(2) **VETERAN OF OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM OR OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM.**—The term “veteran of Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom” means any veteran who served in the Southwest Asia theater of operations during Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom.

SEC. 3. CLARIFICATION AND ENHANCEMENT OF BEREAVEMENT COUNSELING.

(a) **CLARIFICATION OF MEMBERS OF IMMEDIATE FAMILY ELIGIBLE FOR COUNSELING.**—Subsection (b) of section 1783 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by inserting “(1)” before “The Secretary”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(2) For purposes of this subsection, the members of the immediate family of a member of the Armed Forces described in paragraph (1) include the parents of such member.”

(b) **PROVISION OF COUNSELING THROUGH VET CENTERS.**—Such section is further amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (d); and