2179, a bill to require openness in conference committee deliberations and full disclosure of the contents of conference reports and all other legislation.

S. 2182

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2182, a bill to terminate the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, and for other purposes.

S. 2201

At the request of Mr. OBAMA, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2201, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to modify the mediation and implementation requirements of section 40122 regarding changes in the Federal Aviation Administration personnel management system, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. VITTER (for himself, Mr. SANTORUM, and Mr. DEMINT):

S. 2206. A bill to amend title X of the Public Health Service Act to prohibit family planning grants from being awarded to any entity that performs abortions; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, I would like to offer my comments in support of The Title X Family Planning Act, which I introduced today. I am very pleased to have Senator SANTORUM and Senator DEMINT join me as original cosponsors of this very important legislation. The Title X Family Planning Act prohibits the distribution of taxpayer dollars, through Title X family planning funds, to those that provide abortions. I believe that this important legislation is very timely, because this week thousands of pro-life advocates gathered in our Nation's capital for the March for Life, some of which came all the way from my home State of Louisiana.

In 1970, Congress enacted Title X of the Public Health Service Act, which is a program designed to make contraceptive supplies and family planning services available to those unable to afford them without government assistance. Originally, family planning services were not allowed to include abortions, and currently, Federal dollars cannot directly fund abortions.

Current law prohibits the use of Title X family planning funds ''in programs where abortion is a method of family planning''; and current regulations require some form of separation between federally-funded family planning services and abortions. 42 U.S.C. 300a–6 (1970). However, the current regulations do not contain a descriptive standard of what constitutes ''separation.'' 42 CFR part 59 (2000). It only requires that these activities be separated by something more than mere bookkeeping.

This level of separation—separation of accounting records and separation of facilities within the same building—is not enough. When Title X money goes to clinics that perform abortions, even though the money cannot directly fund abortions it is being used to indirectly facilitate abortions. For example, abortion providers are using Title X funding to offset operational costs, which, therefore, frees them to use monies that would otherwise be allocated to operational costs, towards funding abortion.

The Title X Family Planning Act would restore the original intent of Title X by prohibiting the distribution of Title X family planning money to grantees that perform abortions and to grantees whose subgrantees perform abortions, unless a physician certifies that the abortion is necessary to save the life of the mother. The bill specifically exempts hospitals. In order to ensure that grantees who provide abortions do not obtain funding, the bill also requires the Secretary of Health and Human Services to give to Congress a list of grantees that provided abortions in the preceding fiscal year. Grantees that appear on the list would not be eligible to receive Title X family planning funds, unless the grantee submits a certification to the Secretary of Health and Human Services that neither the grantee nor its subgrantees perform abortions.

The rationale behind this prohibition is simple: when abortion is so divisive an issue, when so many Americans have grave moral reservations about it, why should we sustain and underwrite private abortion providers with taxpayer funds?

The Title X Family Planning Act denies no one family planning services. In every locality where a private abortion provider is receiving Title X funds, there are alternative sources for family planning services, inducing both public agencies and private agencies that do not offer abortions.

The Title X Family Planning Act does not cut one penny from family planning funds. It only ensures that those funds are used for actual family planning services.

The Title X Family Planning Act does not infringe upon the right to free speech. In fact, it does not contain language regarding counseling, advocacy, information or expression.

The Title X Family Planning Act does prevent our Federal tax dollars from going to abortion providers. It will save the lives of millions of unborn children. I ask my colleagues to join Senator SANTORUM, Senator DEMINT, and myself in supporting this bill, because the U.S Government should not force taxpayers, many of whom are anti-abortion, to fund abortion.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 356—URGING A COMMITMENT BY THE UNITED STATES AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO CONTINUE RELIEF EFFORTS IN RESPONSE TO THE EARTHQUAKE IN SOUTH ASIA AND TO HELP REBUILD CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE AFFECTED AREAS

Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. BIDEN, and Mr. HARKIN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 356

Whereas on October 8, 2005, a magnitude 7.6 earthquake struck Pakistan, India, and Afghanistan;

Whereas the epicenter of the earthquake was located near Muzaffarabad, approximately 60 miles north-northeast of Islamabad, with aftershocks and landslides continuing to affect the area;

Whereas more than 75,000 people have died, including approximately 17,000 children, nearly 70,000 people are injured and approximately 3,000,000 people are homeless as a result of the earthquake;

Whereas the United States has pledged a total of $510,000,000 in assistance to the affected areas, including $300,000,000 for relief and reconstruction, $110,000,000 to support Department of Defense relief operations, and at least $100,000,000 in anticipated contributions from private entities in the United States;

Whereas, as of January 25, 2006, the total amount of humanitarian assistance provided to Pakistan by the United States Agency for International Development is more than $66,500,000;

Whereas the Department of Defense has deployed approximately 875 members of the Armed Forces and 31 helicopters to aid in the earthquake relief efforts;

Whereas since October 8, 2005, United States helicopters have flown more than 3,200 missions, evacuated approximately 3,800 people, and delivered nearly 15,000,000 pounds of supplies;

Whereas the cost of rebuilding the affected areas could be more than $5,000,000,000;

Whereas Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, during her October 12, 2005 visit to Pakistan, said the United States would support the efforts of the Government of Pakistan over the long-term to provide assistance to the victims of the earthquake and rebuild areas of the country devastated by the earthquake;

Whereas the robust humanitarian response of the Government of the United States to the earthquake disaster has made an impact on the Government and people of Pakistan and demonstrates the United States commitment to Pakistan and the well-being of its residents;

Whereas the United States humanitarian mission in Pakistan may impact positively on the way Americans are viewed, especially in areas where the population may oppose United States counterterrorism policies and where radical groups and affiliates of known terrorist organizations are conducting high-profile relief efforts; and

Whereas the results of a poll taken by the nonprofit organization Terror Free Tomorrow show that, at the end of November 2005, more than 46 percent of Pakistanis had a favorable view of the United States, double the percentage of Pakistanis that held that view in May 2005: Now, therefore, be it