

effectively in their professional role within the health care community;

Whereas medical coders are team players committed to ethical and sound medical documentation and reimbursement practices;

Whereas medical coders work in a variety of health care environments;

Whereas nearly 40 percent of all medical coders in the United States work in hospitals;

Whereas medical coders also work in the offices of physicians, nursing care facilities, outpatient care centers, and home health care providers;

Whereas insurance firms that offer health plans employ professional medical coders to tabulate and analyze health information;

Whereas medical coders in public health departments supervise data collection from health care institutions and assist in research;

Whereas Department of Defense policy requires accurate and prompt documentation and coding of medical encounters within the military health care system to assist military treatment facility operations;

Whereas employment of professional medical coders is expected to grow through 2012, due to the increasing number of medical tests, treatments and procedures, and the consequent responsibility to provide the best quality health care in a market-driven economy; and

Whereas on National Professional Medical Coder Day we honor these sentries of our medical community and may each be held to the highest standard in the interest of national health and prosperity: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates June 21, 2006, as “National Professional Medical Coder Day”;

(2) commends professional medical coders for their outstanding contributions to this great Nation;

(3) salutes professional medical coders for their unyielding dedication; and

(4) encourages all Americans to commemorate this occasion with appropriate programs and activities paying tribute to medical coders and honoring all those who protect the Nation’s health.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I am pleased to submit today, along with my colleagues Senator BOB BENNETT and Senator RICHARD BURR, the National Professional Medical Coder Day resolution.

By passing this resolution, Congress will recognize June 21, 2006, as National Professional Medical Coder Day, which will help to raise awareness about the important work that medical coders perform and their dedication to their profession.

There are about 80,000 professional medical coders employed in the United States, and that number is expected to continue to grow due to the increasing number of medical tests, treatments and procedures, and the consequent scrutiny to provide the best quality health care in a market driven economy. Medical coders are a diverse group of women and men dedicated to “running the numbers” of health care. They translate the information that a physician documents during a patient visit into numerical codes that are used for both payment and statistical purposes.

Medical coders are sentries of our Nation’s health. They communicate regularly with physicians and other health

care professionals to clarify diagnoses or to obtain additional information in the assignment of alphanumeric codes. They are knowledgeable of medical terminology, anatomy, physiology, and the code sets necessary to serve effectively in their professional role within the health care community. They are team players committed to ethical and sound medical documentation and reimbursement practices.

Medical coders work in a variety of health care environments. Nearly 40 percent of all coding jobs are in hospitals. Others work in the offices of physicians, nursing care facilities, outpatient care centers, and home health care services. Insurance firms that offer health plans employ coders to tabulate and analyze health information. Medical coders in public health departments supervise data collection from health care institutions and assist in research. The Department of Defense policy requires accurate and prompt documentation of and coding of medical encounters within the Military Health System to assist Military Treatment Facility operations. The compliance plan for third-party payers of the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Inspector General acknowledges the specialized training of medical coders required due to the greater legal exposure related to coding medical services. Coders also stand as the front line against the potential fraud and abuse of the Medicare and Medicaid Programs while assuring that the physicians, hospitals, and clinics receive accurate compensation for the services provided.

The abilities coders possess to collect data about diagnoses and procedures figure prominently within my own interests for quality health care. Medical coders also provide us with the data we need for making tough choices in health care.

This resolution stems from positive citizen actions. The quest for a national day of recognition began as a grassroots campaign. Over the past 4 years, medical coders from around the country have gathered support through a national petition and State proclamations crediting the work of their coders. The Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services Michael Leavitt made Utah the very first State to honor coders when, as Governor, he signed on April 15, 2003, a proclamation declaring a day of honor for coders in Utah. Since then, 28 other States have signed similar proclamations. The State of Florida was the most recent addition to their campaign, and medical coders continue their efforts in achieving recognition at the State level. Let us now recognize their efforts as a nation.

It is my hope that this resolution will help advance the recognition of professional medical coders; and, therefore, the attention given to their commendable work. It recognizes contributions to the national health care sys-

tem and it reminds us of medical coders’ dedication to the value of hard work in the interest of a national priority—quality health care for everyone. I applaud that contribution and am hopeful that the Senate will pass this resolution marking June 21, 2006, as National Medical Coder Day.

SENATE RESOLUTION 510—DESIGNATING THE PERIOD BEGINNING ON JUNE 28, 2006, AND ENDING ON JULY 5, 2006, AS “NATIONAL CLEAN BEACHES WEEK”, SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF THAT WEEK, AND RECOGNIZING THE CONSIDERABLE VALUE AND ROLE OF BEACHES IN THE CULTURE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. MARTINEZ (for himself, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Ms. SNOWE, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. LOTT, and Mrs. DOLE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 510

Whereas, according to the document entitled “Turning to the Sea: America’s Ocean Future”, published by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, coastal areas produce 85 percent of all tourism revenue in the United States and beaches are the leading tourism destination in the country;

Whereas beaches provide recreational opportunities for numerous citizens and their families, as well as international tourists who, according to the document entitled “The Beach and Your Coastal Watershed” (EPA document number 842-F-98-010), published by the Environmental Protection Agency, together make almost 2,000,000,000 trips to the beach each year to fish, sunbathe, boat, swim, surf, and birdwatch;

Whereas, according to the Army Corps of Engineers, the beaches of the United States are a critical component of the national economy, including global competitiveness;

Whereas beaches represent a critical part of the natural heritage and a beautiful part of the landscape of the United States;

Whereas beaches are sensitive ecosystems that are susceptible to degradation and alteration from pollution, sewage, and improper use;

Whereas coastal tourism and healthy seafood foster robust economies that sustain communities and support jobs throughout the coastal regions of the United States;

Whereas members of the Federal Government, the private sector, nongovernmental organizations, and citizen volunteers have worked hard to clean and protect the beaches of the United States;

Whereas, according to the United States Geological Survey, great progress has been made in understanding the science of watersheds and the connections between inland areas and coastal waters; and

Whereas the Federal Government should develop science-based policies that are commensurate with that knowledge: Now therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the period beginning on June 28, 2006, and ending on July 5, 2006, as “National Clean Beaches Week”;

(2) recognizes—

(A) the value of beaches to the way of life of the citizens of the United States; and

(B) the important contributions of beaches to the economy, recreation, and natural environment of the United States; and

(3) encourages all citizens of the United States to work to keep beaches, a critical part of the natural heritage of the United States, safe and clean for the continued enjoyment of the public.

Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. President, I rise today to submit a resolution that will honor June 28, 2006 through July 5, 2006 as National Clean Beaches Week.

I want to thank my colleague from New Jersey, Senator LAUTENBERG, for agreeing to cosponsor this resolution with me as well as Senators SNOWE, LOTT, MENENDEZ, and STABENOW so we as a nation can recognize the incredible importance beaches and coastal areas have not only for our economy but our Nation's recreational, aesthetic, and environmental wellbeing.

According to data provided by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, 85 percent of tourism revenue generated in the U.S. comes from coastal areas. The Environmental Protection Agency has also stated that a staggering 2 billion trips are made by Americans to beaches and coastal areas to fish, swim, surf, sunbathe, recreate, and enjoy our Nation's beautiful scenery.

Every year roughly 80 million people visit the Sunshine State to enjoy its beautiful beaches, exciting amusement parks, and wonderfully abundant wildlife and natural splendor. The tourism industry alone directly employs nearly 840,000 Floridians and provides an economic impact of \$57 billion to our State's economy. Of the 80 million visitors, a great deal came to Florida to enjoy its pristine coastline and wonderful climate. Families return, year after year, to their favorite vacation spots to relax under our brilliant blue skies, powdery white beaches, and crystal-clear emerald waters. The people of Florida share a love and appreciation of the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico, its coastal habitat, and our wetlands which make it a very complex ecosystem and a very special place to live.

Our beaches and coastline in Florida are very important to the people of Florida. The resolution I submit today will support a national effort to recognize the importance of keeping our beaches clean and vibrant, to continue to support our Nation's ecological treasures for future generations to enjoy, and to encourage Americans of all ages and backgrounds to marvel at their splendor. I urge my colleagues to become a cosponsor and support designating June 28th through July 5th 2006, as National Clean Beaches Week.

SENATE RESOLUTION 511—COMMENDING AND SUPPORTING RADIO AL MAHABA, THE 1ST AND ONLY RADIO STATION FOR THE WOMEN OF IRAQ

Mrs. CLINTON (for herself and Mr. HATCH) submitted the following resolu-

tion; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 511

Whereas Radio Al Mahaba, the 1st and only radio station for the women of Iraq, went on the air for the 1st time on April 1, 2005;

Whereas Radio Al Mahaba is an educational tool that—

(1) is broadcast in 3 different languages; and

(2) provides the women of Iraq with an opportunity to voice their opinions and listen to the opinions of others;

Whereas Radio Al Mahaba airs shows that are dedicated to the rights and issues of women;

Whereas those shows are devoted to issues relating to personal relationships, parenting, and other social topics;

Whereas, despite terrible risks, the staff of Radio Al Mahaba continues to provide the women of Iraq with hope, knowledge, empowerment, support, and a vision of freedom;

Whereas, amid the struggles in Iraq, Radio Al Mahaba has followed the democratic principles of free speech and free press championed by the United States, thereby encouraging the people of Iraq to build an open and democratic civil society;

Whereas Radio Al Mahaba plays a positive and important role in educating the women of Iraq;

Whereas Radio Al Mahaba provides women with an opportunity to exercise their freedom of speech;

Whereas Radio Al Mahaba enables the women of Iraq to secure their role in the civil society of Iraq; and

Whereas Radio Al Mahaba meets a palpable need of the women of Iraq: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends the efforts of Radio Al Mahaba to provide the women of Iraq with an opportunity to—

(A) exercise their freedom of speech; and

(B) be included in, and informed of, the reconstruction of Iraq;

(2) supports the mission of Radio Al Mahaba; and

(3) urges Radio Al Mahaba to continue its important efforts to help create an open, free, and democratic society in Iraq.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 4209. Mr. ALLARD submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2766, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2007 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4210. Mr. SANTORUM submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2766, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4211. Mr. WARNER proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2766, supra.

SA 4212. Mrs. CLINTON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2766, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4213. Mrs. CLINTON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2766, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4214. Mr. DEWINE (for himself and Mr. VOINOVICH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2766, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4215. Mr. JEFFORDS (for himself, Mr. FEINGOLD, and Mr. DAYTON) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2766, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4216. Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2766, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4217. Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. NELSON, of Florida) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2766, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4218. Mr. SALAZAR (for himself, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. MCCONNELL, and Mr. WYDEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2766, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4219. Mr. SALAZAR submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2766, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4220. Mr. SALAZAR submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2766, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 4209. Mr. ALLARD submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2766, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2007 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle I of title X, insert the following:

SEC. 1084. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES IN IRAQ.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) In 2003, members of the Armed Forces of the United States successfully liberated the people of Iraq from the tyrannical regime of Saddam Hussein.

(2) Members of the Armed Forces of the United States have bravely risked their lives everyday over the last 3 years to protect the people of Iraq from terror attacks by Al Qaeda and other extremist organizations.

(3) Members of the Armed Forces of the United States have conducted dozens of operations with coalition forces to track, apprehend, and eliminate terrorists in Iraq.

(4) Members of the Armed Forces of the United States have helped sustain political progress in Iraq by assisting the people of Iraq as they exercised their right to choose their leaders and draft their own constitution.

(5) Members of the Armed Forces of the United States have taught over 150,000 soldiers of Iraq to respect civilian authority, conduct counter-insurgency operations, provide meaningful security, and protect the people of Iraq from terror attacks.

(6) Members of the Armed Forces of the United States have built new schools, hospitals, and public works throughout Iraq.

(7) Members of the Armed Forces of the United States have helped rebuild Iraq's dilapidated energy sector.

(8) Members of the Armed Forces of the United States have restored electrical power and sewage waste treatment for the people of Iraq.