

a national and State level for the educational achievement and success of Hispanic students in higher education;

Whereas the membership of the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities has extended beyond the borders of the United States to include over 45 colleges and universities in Latin America, Spain, and Portugal in order to expand education, research, and outreach through international opportunities for faculty, internships, scholarships, and governmental partnerships for students at Hispanic Serving Institutions; and

Whereas the 4th week in October 2006 is an appropriate time to express such recognition during the 20th Anniversary Conference of the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities in San Antonio, Texas: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the national role of the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities as an advocate and champion for Hispanic higher education and congratulates the organization on its 20th Anniversary;

(2) applauds Hispanic Serving Institutions for their work to provide quality educational opportunities to all Hispanic and other students who attend their institutions; and

(3) urges university presidents, faculty, staff, and supporters of Hispanic higher education to continue their efforts to recruit, retain, educate, and graduate students who might not otherwise pursue a postsecondary education.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I rise today to submit a bipartisan resolution recognizing the contributions of Hispanic Serving Institutions, and the 20 years of educational endeavors provided by The Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities.

Today, there are currently 202 Hispanic Serving Institutions in the United States enrolling nearly half of all Hispanic students in college. I take pride in noting that The Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities was founded in my home state of Texas. From its beginning in the City of San Antonio, the Association has grown from 18 colleges and universities to now recognizing more than 400 United States colleges and universities as Hispanic Serving Institutions, associate members, and partners.

The Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities strives to promote academic success for Hispanic students in higher education. This aspiration is continually met in the United States as the Association is the only national education entity that represents Hispanic Serving Institutions. Though focused on the U.S., the Association is also pursuing this goal of high standards in education by expanding even beyond our borders to 45 colleges and universities in Latin America, Spain and Portugal.

Education offers greater opportunity for every individual, and I commend the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities for their work in developing and enhancing Hispanic Serving Institutions in order to provide a quality higher education experience for Hispanics and other students who attend these institutions.

SENATE RESOLUTION 609—HONORING THE CHILDREN'S CHARITIES, YOUTH-SERVING ORGANIZATIONS, AND OTHER NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS COMMITTED TO ENRICHING AND BETTERING THE LIVES OF CHILDREN AND DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 24, 2006, AS "CHILD AWARENESS WEEK"

Mr. BURR (for himself, Mr. ALEXANDER, and Mr. ISAKSON) submitted the following resolution; which was:

S. RES. 609

Whereas the children and youths of the United States represent the future of the United States;

Whereas numerous individuals, children's organizations, and youth-serving organizations that work with children and youths on a daily basis provide invaluable services that serve to enrich and better the lives of children and youths;

Whereas by strengthening and supporting children's and youth-serving charities and other similar nongovernmental organizations and by encouraging greater collaboration among these organizations, the lives of many more children may be enriched and made better;

Whereas heightening people's awareness of and increasing the support by the United States for children and youth-serving organizations that provide access to healthcare, social services, education, the arts, sports, and other services will help to improve the lives of children and youths;

Whereas September is a time when parents, families, teachers, school administrators, and others increase their focus on preparing children and youths of the United States for the future as they begin a new school year and it is a time for the people of the United States as a whole to highlight and be mindful of the needs of children and youths;

Whereas "Child Awareness Week", observed in September, recognizes the children's charities, youth-serving organizations, and other nongovernmental organizations across the United States for the work they do to improve and enrich the lives of children and youths of the United States; and

Whereas a week-long salute to children and youths is in the public interest and will encourage support for these charities and organizations that seek to provide a better future for the children and youths of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved* That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of September 24, 2006, as "Child Awareness Week";

(2) recognizes with great appreciation the children's charities and youth-serving organizations across the United States for their efforts on behalf of children and youths; and

(3) calls on the people of the United States to—

(A) observe the week of September 24, 2006, by focusing on the needs of the children and youths of the United States;

(B) recognize the efforts of children's charities and youth-serving organizations to enrich and better the lives of the children and youths of the United States; and

(C) support the efforts of the children's charities and youth-serving organizations of the United States as an investment for the future of the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 610—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE UNITED STATES SHOULD PROMOTE THE ADOPTION OF, AND THE UNITED NATIONS SHOULD ADOPT, A RESOLUTION AT ITS OCTOBER MEETING TO PROTECT THE LIVING RESOURCES OF THE HIGH SEAS FROM DESTRUCTIVE, ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED, AND UNREGULATED FISHING PRACTICES

Mr. STEVENS (for himself, Mr. INOUE, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. WARNER, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. CHAFFEE, Mr. DEMINT, Mr. MCCAIN, Ms. SNOWE, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. SMITH, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. DODD, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. KERRY, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) submitted the following resolution; which was:

S. RES. 610

Whereas it is of paramount importance to the United States and all nations to ensure the protection, conservation, and sustainable management of high seas living marine resources;

Whereas fisheries of the high seas annually generate hundreds of millions of dollars in economic activity and support thousands of jobs in the United States and its territories as well as nations throughout the world;

Whereas the high seas constitute a globally significant reservoir of marine biodiversity, and compounds derived from organisms found on the high seas show promise for the treatment of deadly diseases such as cancer and asthma;

Whereas the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization reports that a growing number of high seas fish stocks important to the United States and the world are overfished or depleted;

Whereas the United Nations has called for urgent action to address the impact of high seas fishing practices that have adverse impacts on vulnerable marine species and habitats;

Whereas destructive, illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing by vessels flying non-United States flags threatens high seas fisheries and the habitats that support them;

Whereas nations whose fleets conduct destructive, illegal, unreported, and unregulated high seas fishing enjoy an unfair competitive advantage over United States fishermen, who must comply with the rigorous conservation and management requirements of the Magnuson Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and other laws in order to conserve exhaustible natural resources; and Whereas international cooperation is necessary to address destructive, illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing which harms the sustainability of high seas living marine resources and the United States fishing industry: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved* by the Senate That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the United States should continue to demonstrate international leadership and responsibility regarding the conservation and sustainable use of high seas living marine resources by vigorously promoting the adoption of a resolution at this year's 61st session of the United Nations General Assembly calling on all nations to protect vulnerable marine habitats by prohibiting their vessels from engaging in destructive fishing activity in areas of the high seas where there are no applicable conservation or management measures or in areas with no applicable

international fishery management organization or agreement, until such time as conservation and management measures consistent with the Magnuson-Stevens Act, the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement, and other relevant instruments are adopted and implemented to regulate such vessels and fisheries; and

(2) the United States calls upon the member nations of the United Nations to adopt a resolution at its October meeting to protect the living resources of the high seas from destructive, illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing practices.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, as many of my colleagues are aware, we have been engaged in a long fight to bring international fishing up to the standards we have here in the United States under the Magnuson Stevens Act. The Senate passed this important measure by unanimous consent this past June. One of the most important sections of the bill deals with destructive fishing practices conducted by foreign vessels on the high seas that are not subject to any kind of international regulation and control.

The high seas comprise more than half of the planet's surface, yet only 25 percent of this area is regulated by any regional fishery management organization. Management of fishing on the high seas is patchy at best. Some areas like the donut hole in the Bering Sea off my State of Alaska have adopted strict and effective management measures. However, too many areas have not, and without an effective management regime, destructive fishing practices will continue to be conducted by foreign fleets.

In the United States our fishermen must adhere to an extensive set of management and conservation requirements which are laid out in the Magnuson Stevens Act. The eight regional councils located around the United States and the Caribbean Islands are a model of innovative and effective management approaches.

In contrast, management internationally and especially with respect to high seas bottom trawling is sadly lacking. Illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing as well as expanding industrial foreign fleets and high bycatch levels are monumental threats to sustainable fisheries worldwide. These unsustainable and destructive fishing practices on the high seas threaten the good management that takes place in U.S. waters.

One of the proudest moments of my Senate career was going to the United Nations to fight and end the use of large scale driftnets on the high seas. We now have the opportunity to influence the effects of unregulated high seas bottom trawling. The outlines of an agreement on unregulated bottom trawling on the high seas will be discussed at the UN beginning on October 4th. There is clear political consensus that action is needed and the United States should take the lead in protecting our oceans.

The bipartisan resolution I am introducing today with our co-chairman

Senator INOUE and 16 other Senators calls on the United Nations to put an end to unregulated fishing practices on the high seas. It is my hope that the United States will work to secure adoption of a United Nations General Assembly Resolution calling on nations to stop their vessels from conducting illegal, unreported, and unregulated destructive high seas bottom trawling until conservation and management measures to regulate it are adopted.

SENATE RESOLUTION 611—SUPPORTING THE EFFORTS OF THE INDEPENDENT NATIONAL ELECTORAL COMMISSION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA, POLITICAL PARTIES, CIVIL SOCIETY, RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS, AND THE PEOPLE OF NIGERIA FROM ONE CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT TO ANOTHER INTO THE GENERAL ELECTIONS TO BE HELD IN APRIL 2007

Mr. FEINGOLD (for himself, Mr. HAGEL, Ms. LANDRIEU, and Mr. DEWINE) submitted the following resolution; which was:

S. RES. 611

Whereas the United States maintains strong and friendly relations with Nigeria and values the leadership role that the Nigeria plays throughout the continent of Africa, particularly in the establishment of the New Partnership for African Development and the African Union;

Whereas Nigeria is an important strategic partner with the United States in combating terrorism, promoting regional stability, and improving energy security;

Whereas Nigeria has been, and continues to be, a leading supporter of the peacekeeping efforts of the United Nations and the Economic Community of West African States by contributing troops to operations in Lebanon, Yugoslavia, Kuwait, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Rwanda, and Sudan;

Whereas past corruption and poor governance have resulted in weak political institutions, crumbling infrastructure, a feeble economy, and an impoverished population;

Whereas political aspirants and the democratic process of Nigeria are being threatened by increasing politically-motivated violence, including the assassination of 3 gubernatorial candidates in different states during the previous 2 months; and

Whereas the Chairperson of the Independent National Electoral Commission has—

(1) announced that governorship and state assembly elections will be held on April 14, 2007;

(2) stated that voting for the president and national assembly will take place on April 21, 2007; and

(3) vowed to organize free and fair elections to facilitate a smooth democratic transition: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the importance of Nigeria as a strategic partner and long-time friend of the United States;

(2) acknowledges the increasing significance of the leadership of Nigeria throughout the region and continent;

(3) commends the decision of the National Assembly of Nigeria to reject an amendment to the constitution that would have lifted the existing 2-term limit and allowed for a third presidential term;

(4) encourages the Government of Nigeria and the Independent National Electoral Commission to demonstrate a commitment to successful democratic elections by—

(A) developing an aggressive plan for voter registration and education;

(B) addressing charges of past or intended corruption in a transparent manner; and

(C) conducting objective and unbiased recruitment and training of election officials;

(5) urges the Government of Nigeria to respect the freedoms of association and assembly, including the right of candidates, members of political parties, and others—

(A) to freely assemble;

(B) to organize and conduct public events; and

(C) to exercise those and other rights in a manner free from intimidation or harassment;

(6) urges a robust effort by the law enforcement and judicial officials of Nigeria to enforce the rule of law, particularly by—

(A) preventing and investigating politically-motivated violence; and

(B) prosecuting those suspected of such acts;

(7) urges—

(A) President Bush to ensure that the United States supports the democratic gains made in Nigeria during the last 8 years; and

(B) the Government of Nigeria to actively seek the support of the international community for democratic, free, and fair elections in April 2007; and

(8) expresses the support of the United States for coordinated efforts by the Government of Nigeria and the Independent National Electoral Commission to work with political parties, civil society, religious organizations, and other entities to organize a peaceful political transition based on free and fair elections in April 2007 to further consolidate the democracy of Nigeria.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 121—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE CONGRESS THAT JOINT CUSTODY LAWS FOR FIT PARENTS SHOULD BE PASSED BY EACH STATE, SO THAT MORE CHILDREN ARE RAISED WITH THE BENEFITS OF HAVING A FATHER AND A MOTHER IN THEIR LIVES

Mr. AKAKA submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. CON. RES. 121

Whereas, in the Fatherhood Program provided for in section 119 of H.R. 240, as introduced in the House of Representatives on January 4, 2005, it states that—

(1) in approximately 84 percent of the cases where a parent is absent, that parent is the father;

(2) if current trends continue, half of all children born today will live apart from one of their parents, usually their father, at some point before they turn 18 years old;

(3) where families (whether intact or with a parent absent) are living in poverty, a significant factor is the father's lack of job skills;

(4) committed and responsible fathering during infancy and early childhood contributes to the development of emotional security, curiosity, and math and verbal skills;

(5) an estimated 19,400,000 children (27 percent) live apart from their biological fathers; and

(6) 40 percent of the children under age 18 not living with their biological fathers had