

on, or an amendment between the Houses in relation to, a bill, upon a point of order being made by any Senator pursuant to this section, and such point of order being sustained, such material contained in such conference report or amendment shall be deemed stricken, and the Senate shall proceed to consider the question of whether the Senate shall recede from its amendment and concur with a further amendment, or concur in the House amendment with a further amendment, as the case may be, which further amendment shall consist of only that portion of the conference report or House amendment, as the case may be, not so stricken. Any such motion shall be debatable. In any case in which such point of order is sustained against a conference report (or Senate amendment derived from such conference report by operation of this subsection), no further amendment shall be in order.

SA 639. Mr. CONRAD (for Mr. BAUCUS (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. GREGG, and Mrs. CLINTON)) proposed an amendment to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 21, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2008 and including the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2007 and 2009 through 2012; as follows;

At the end of title III, add the following:
SEC. ____ RESERVE FUND TO IMPROVE THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM.

If the Senate Committee on Finance—

(1) reports a bill, or if an amendment is offered thereto, or if a conference report is submitted thereon, that—

(A) creates a framework and parameters for the use of Medicare data for the purpose of conducting research, public reporting, and other activities to evaluate health care safety, effectiveness, efficiency, quality, and resource utilization in Federal programs and the private health care system; and

(B) includes provisions to protect beneficiary privacy and to prevent disclosure of proprietary or trade secret information with respect to the transfer and use of such data; and

(2) is within its allocation as provided under section 302(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the Chairman of the Senate Committee on the Budget may revise allocations of new budget authority and outlays, the revenue aggregates, and other appropriate measures to reflect such legislation provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit for fiscal year 2008, and for the period of fiscal years 2008 through 2012.

SA 640. Mr. CONRAD (for Mrs. DOLE) proposed an amendment to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 21, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2008 and including the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2007 and 2009 through 2012; as follows;

On page 20, line 12, increase the amount by \$10,000,000.

On page 20, line 13, increase the amount by \$10,000,000.

On page 20, line 16, increase the amount by \$10,000,000.

On page 20, line 17, increase the amount by \$10,000,000.

On page 20, line 20, increase the amount by \$3,000,000.

On page 20, line 21, increase the amount by \$3,000,000.

On page 26, line 12, decrease the amount by \$10,000,000.

On page 26, line 13, decrease the amount by \$10,000,000.

On page 26, line 16, decrease the amount by \$10,000,000.

On page 26, line 17, decrease the amount by \$10,000,000.

On page 26, line 20, decrease the amount by \$3,000,000.

On page 26, line 21, decrease the amount by \$3,000,000.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS/MEETINGS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT OF GOVERNMENT MANAGEMENT, THE FEDERAL, WORKFORCE, AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs' Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce and the District of Columbia be authorized to meet on Monday, March 26, 2007 at 2:30 p.m. for a hearing entitled, Understanding the Realities of REAL ID: A Review of Efforts to Secure Drivers' Licenses and Identification Cards.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FEDERAL FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT, GOVERNMENT INFORMATION, FEDERAL SERVICES, AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs' Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management, Government Information, Federal Services and International Security be authorized to meet on Thursday, March 29, 2007 at 10 a.m. for a hearing entitled, Eliminating and Recovering Improper Payments.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST— S. CON. RES. 24

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the Rules Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Con. Res. 24, and the Senate then proceed to its immediate consideration; that the concurrent resolution be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid on the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Reserving the right to object, and I will object, I don't believe the Rules Committee has had a chance to review this yet. So for the time being, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

APPOINTMENTS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the Republican Leader, pursuant to Public Law 100-696, announces the appointment of the Senator from Colorado, Mr. ALLARD, as a member of the United States Capitol Preservation Commission.

The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, pursuant to Public Law 100-696, appoints the following Senators as members of the United States

Capitol Preservation Commission: the Honorable RICHARD J. DURBIN of Illinois, the Honorable MARY L. LANDRIEU of Louisiana.

THE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed en bloc to consideration of the following calendar items: Calendar No. 28, S. Res. 47; Calendar No. 29, S. Res. 49; Calendar No. 62, S. Res. 78; Calendar No. 63, S. Res. 84; and Calendar No. 64, H. Con. Res. 44.

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

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions and concurrent resolution be agreed to en bloc, the preambles be agreed to en bloc, the motions to reconsider be laid on the table en bloc, that the consideration of these items appear separately in the RECORD, and that any statements be printed in the RECORD.

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

HONORING THE LIFE AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF GEORGE C. SPRINGER

The resolution (S. Res. 47), honoring the life and achievements of George C. Springer, Sr., the Northeast regional director and a former vice president of the American Federation of Teachers, was considered and agreed to. The preamble was agreed to. The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 47

Whereas George C. Springer, Sr., formerly Northeast regional director of the American Federation of Teachers (AFT), president of AFT Connecticut, and AFT vice president, was an accomplished union leader, a pillar of the civil rights community, a high school teacher and athletics coach, and a dedicated family man and devoted friend;

Whereas George Springer was known by those who worked with him as a generous mentor, a conciliator, and a skilled problem-solver;

Whereas George Springer, as president of AFT Connecticut, helped strengthen and expand the statewide organization to include not only teachers but also paraprofessionals and other school-related personnel, higher education faculty, healthcare professionals, and public employees, and united them around his vision of a shared destiny and a common commitment to quality services and professional integrity;

Whereas George Springer was an AFT vice president for 13 years and served for 4 years as the chair of the AFT's human rights and community relations committee;

Whereas George Springer cared deeply about the cause of civil rights, was a leader in the National Commission for African American Education, a board member of Amistad America, Inc., vice president of the John E. Rogers African American Cultural Center, and president of the New Britain, Connecticut chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People;

Whereas George Springer was born in the Panama Canal Zone in 1932, attended Central Connecticut State University, formerly Teachers College of Connecticut, and received a graduate degree from the University of Hartford;

Whereas George Springer was a union activist throughout his 20-year teaching career in New Britain;

Whereas George Springer succumbed on December 19, 2006, at the age of 74, after a long battle with cancer; and

Whereas George Springer is survived by his wife, Gerri Brown-Springer, 4 children, 10 grandchildren, and 4 great-grandchildren: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate honors George C. Springer, Sr. as a dedicated and pioneering leader, and a man of generous spirit who took on tough challenges with courage and compassion.

RECOGNIZING AND CELEBRATING ALASKA STATEHOOD

The resolution (S. Res. 49), recognizing and celebrating the 50th anniversary of the entry of Alaska into the Union as the 49th State, was considered and agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 49

Whereas July 7, 2008, marks the 50th anniversary of the enactment of the Alaska Statehood Act as approved by the United States Congress and signed by President Dwight D. Eisenhower;

Whereas the Alaska Statehood Act authorized the entry of Alaska into the Union on January 3, 1959;

Whereas the land once known as “Seward’s Folly” is now regarded as critical to the strategic defense of the United States and important to our national and economic security;

Whereas the people of Alaska remain committed to the preservation and protection of the Union, with among the highest rates of veterans and residents in active military service of any State in the Nation;

Whereas Alaska is the northernmost, westernmost, and easternmost State of the Union, encompassing an area one-fifth the size of the United States;

Whereas the State of Alaska has an abundance of natural resources vital to the Nation;

Whereas Alaska currently provides over 16 percent of the daily crude oil production in the United States and has 44 percent of the undiscovered oil resources and 36 percent of undiscovered conventional gas in the United States;

Whereas Alaska’s 34,000 miles of shoreline form a gateway to one of the world’s greatest fisheries, providing over 60 percent of the country’s commercial seafood harvest;

Whereas over 230 million acres of Alaska are set aside in national parks, wildlife refuges, national forests, and other conservation units for the benefit of the entire country;

Whereas over 58 million acres are designated wilderness in Alaska, representing 55 percent of the wilderness areas in the United States;

Whereas Alaska Natives, the State’s first people, are an integral part of Alaska’s history, and preserving the culture and heritage of Alaska’s Native people is of primary importance;

Whereas the passage of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act in 1971 signaled a new era of economic opportunity for Alaska Natives;

Whereas Alaska’s Native people have made major contributions to the vitality and success of Alaska as a State;

Whereas the people of Alaska represent the pioneering spirit that built this great Nation

and contribute to our cultural and ethnic diversity; and

Whereas the golden anniversary, on January 3, 2009, provides an occasion to honor Alaska’s entry into the Union: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That Congress recognizes and celebrates the 50th anniversary of the entry of Alaska into the Union as the 49th State.

NATIONAL AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

The resolution (S. Res. 78), designating April 2007 as “National Autism Awareness Month” and supporting efforts to increase funding for research into the causes and treatment of autism and to improve training and support for individuals with autism and those who care for individuals with autism, was considered and agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 78

Whereas autism is a developmental disorder that is typically diagnosed during the first 3 years of life, robbing individuals of their ability to communicate and interact with others;

Whereas autism affects an estimated 1 in every 150 children in the United States;

Whereas autism is 4 times more likely to occur in boys than in girls;

Whereas autism can affect anyone, regardless of race, ethnicity, or other factors;

Whereas it costs approximately \$80,000 per year to treat an individual with autism in a medical center specializing in developmental disabilities;

Whereas the cost of special education programs for school-aged children with autism is often more than \$30,000 per individual per year;

Whereas the cost nationally of caring for persons affected by autism is estimated at upwards of \$90,000,000,000 per year;

Whereas despite the fact that autism is one of the most common developmental disorders, many professionals in the medical and educational fields are still unaware of the best methods to diagnose and treat the disorder; and

Whereas designating April 2007 as “National Autism Awareness Month” will increase public awareness of the need to support individuals with autism and the family members and medical professionals who care for individuals with autism: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates April 2007 as “National Autism Awareness Month”;

(2) recognizes and commends the parents and relatives of children with autism for their sacrifice and dedication in providing for the special needs of children with autism and for absorbing significant financial costs for specialized education and support services;

(3) supports the goal of increasing Federal funding for aggressive research to learn the root causes of autism, identify the best methods of early intervention and treatment, expand programs for individuals with autism across their lifespans, and promote understanding of the special needs of people with autism;

(4) stresses the need to begin early intervention services soon after a child has been diagnosed with autism, noting that early intervention strategies are the primary therapeutic options for young people with autism, and that early intervention signifi-

cantly improves the outcome for people with autism and can reduce the level of funding and services needed to treat people with autism later in life;

(5) supports the Federal Government’s more than 30-year-old commitment to provide States with 40 percent of the costs needed to educate children with disabilities under part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1411 et seq.);

(6) recognizes the shortage of appropriately trained teachers who have the skills and support necessary to teach, assist, and respond to special needs students, including those with autism, in our school systems; and

(7) recognizes the importance of worker training programs that are tailored to the needs of developmentally disabled persons, including those with autism, and notes that people with autism can be, and are, productive members of the workforce if they are given appropriate support, training, and early intervention services.

200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ABOLITION OF SLAVERY IN THE BRITISH EMPIRE

The resolution (S. Res. 84), observing February 23, 2007, as the 200th anniversary of the abolition of the slave trade in the British Empire, honoring the distinguished life and legacy of William Wilberforce, and encouraging the people of the United States to follow the example of William Wilberforce by selflessly pursuing respect for human rights around the world, was considered and agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 84

Whereas, at the age of 21, William Wilberforce was elected to the House of Commons of Great Britain;

Whereas Mr. Wilberforce and his colleagues actively engaged in many initiatives with the sole purpose of renewing British culture at the turn of the 19th century in order to bring about positive social change;

Whereas Mr. Wilberforce advocated prison reform that equally respected justice and human dignity, and encouraged reconciliation;

Whereas Mr. Wilberforce sought to improve the conditions for, and minimize the use of, child laborers;

Whereas Mr. Wilberforce dedicated his life to ending the British slave trade and the abolition of slavery despite forceful opposition;

Whereas Mr. Wilberforce was mentored by former slave trader and author of the hymn “Amazing Grace,” John Newton, on the horrors and inhumanity of the slave trade;

Whereas approximately 11,000,000 human beings were captured and taken from Africa to the Western Hemisphere to be sold as commodities and forced into slavery and bondage;

Whereas Mr. Wilberforce fought for 20 years in the House of Commons to pass legislation banning the slave trade;

Whereas, on February 23, 1807, Parliament passed a bill banning the slave trade in the British Empire as a direct result of the efforts of Mr. Wilberforce;

Whereas Mr. Wilberforce inspired and encouraged those who opposed slavery in the United States, including political leaders like John Quincy Adams, and spread a message of hope and freedom throughout the United States;

Whereas Mr. Wilberforce labored for 46 years to abolish the institution of slavery in