

Whereas, as food stamp purchases made with Program benefits flow through grocery checkout lines, farmers' markets, and other outlets, those benefits generate almost double their value in economic activity, especially for many hard-pressed rural and urban communities desperately in need of business and job stimulus; and

Whereas, hunger has adverse consequences for all Coloradans, particularly for children and mothers; and

Whereas, too many people in our communities lack the resources to consistently put food on their tables for themselves and their families; and

Whereas, while the Program has substantially decreased malnutrition in our country and helps prevent the problem of hunger from becoming worse in our communities, the Program currently reaches only about one-half of eligible low-income working families; and

Whereas, food stamps outreach and nutrition education programs are useful tools in the fight against hunger, but these efforts need more resources in order to fully reach their potential; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the Sixty-sixth General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the House of Representatives concurring herein,

(1) That we, the Colorado General Assembly, support the passage of the 2007 Farm Bill;

(2) That we strongly urge Congress to place top priority on implementing a section of the Farm Bill on nutrition that would renew the provisions of, and improve upon, the Program; and

(3) That we further urge Congress: To improve the adequacy of benefits to help reduce hunger and ensure that everyone in the Program has the resources to assist them in purchasing and preparing a nutritionally adequate diet; to simplify the Program for clients and their caseworkers; and to continue to simplify and streamline the administrative aspects of the Program; and, be it further

Resolved, That copies of this Joint Memorial be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, United States Senator Tom Harkin, United States Representative Collin Peterson, the Colorado Anti-Hunger Network, and to each member of Colorado's Congressional delegation.

POM-139. A resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona urging Congress to take action regarding space exploration; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

SENATE MEMORIAL 1005

Whereas, the United States is a nation of explorers; and

Whereas, when Christopher Columbus made his voyages across the Atlantic in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries his ships carried the inscription "Following the light of the sun, we left the Old World"; and

Whereas, exploration and discovery have been especially important to the American experience, providing vision, hope and economic stimulus, from New World pioneers and American frontiersmen to the Apollo program; and

Whereas just as Lewis and Clark could not have predicted the settlement of the American west within a hundred years of the start of their famous nineteenth century expedition, the total benefits of a single exploratory undertaking or discovery cannot be predicted in advance; and

Whereas, the desire to explore is part of our character and history has shown that space exploration benefits all humankind

through new technologies for everyday application, new jobs across the entire economic enterprise economic contributions through new markets, commercial products, education, inspiration, leadership, increased security and a legacy for future generations; and

Whereas, Arizona has been a leader in the exploration since the dawn of the space age, accounting for hundreds of millions of dollars in direct contracts in the entire state; and

Whereas, our nation's new vision for space exploration charts a new, "building block" strategy to explore destinations across our solar system with robots and humans, allowing our nation to remain competitive in the new industry of space commerce.

Wherefore your memorialist, the Senate of the State of Arizona, prays:

1. That the Congress of the United States enact and fully fund the proposed vision for space exploration, as submitted to Congress in the fiscal year 2008 budget of the United States government, to enable the United States to remain a leader in the exploration and development of space.

2. That the Secretary of State transmit copies of this Memorial to the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and each Member of the Congress from the State of Arizona.

POM-140. A joint resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Maine urging Congress to raise the weight limit on Interstate 95; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

JOINT RESOLUTION

Whereas, Interstate 95 in the State of Maine, which is part of the Dwight D. Eisenhower System of Interstate and Defense Highways and is governed by the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1956, is central to Maine's commerce and industry; and

Whereas, the weight limit on the Interstate Highway System is set at 80,000 pounds by the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1956 and consequently by Maine statute, yet the State of Maine has a 100,000-pound limit on its secondary roads, which does not match the national limit; and

Whereas, the Federal Government has given the State of Maine an exemption from the 80,000-pound limit for the last 5 miles of the Maine Turnpike and Interstate 95, which allows for a 100,000-pound limit, and this exemption matches the limit for the rest of the State; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That We, your Memorialists, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to request that the United States Congress allow the State of Maine a 100,000-pound limit on all of the Interstate Highway System in Maine, not only the authorized 5 miles, and that the United States Congress review this request when the Highway Bill comes up for reauthorization; and be it further

Resolved, That suitable copies of this resolution, duly authenticated by the Secretary of State, be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and to each Member of the Maine Congressional Delegation.

POM-141. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Maine urging Congress to enact the Social Security Fairness Act of 2007; to the Committee on Finance.

JOINT RESOLUTION

Whereas, Social Security is a trust fund that is intended as a compact between gen-

erations, yet it has not always been treated in a manner similar to other trust funds; and

Whereas, Maine's educators, transportation workers, police, firefighters and other civil servants, as well as their spouses, have collectively contributed tens of billions of dollars to Social Security and should in good faith receive such benefits as have been projected to them annually in their personalized Social Security statements; and

Whereas, the federal "government pension offset provision" and the federal "windfall elimination provision," enacted, respectively, in 1977 and 1983, have effectively treated state government pensions as if they were a provenance of Social Security, which they are not, and have in this treatment appropriated hundreds of billions of dollars previously entrusted to Social Security by the civil servants of 15 states and by their spouses; and

Whereas, by unfairly taking these hundreds of billions of dollars from just 15 states, including Maine, these twin federal policies have adversely and disproportionately affected Maine's ability to attract and retain effective and qualified workers, as well as Maine's overall economy, its schools, its tax base and its taxpayers and other residents; and

Whereas, the State of Maine has worked hard, over generations, to attract, retain and provide for its state workers in their retirement and has scrupulously guarded and invested the funds entrusted to its retirement system, bringing those reserves to 100 times the value they had just 4 decades ago; and

Whereas, federal legislation has been introduced entitled the Social Security Fairness Act of 2007, proposing to repeal these unfair takings from Maine and from other states; and

Whereas, all Members of the Maine Congressional Delegation are cosponsors of this legislation, along with more than 200 other members of Congress as of mid-February; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That We, your Memorialists, respectfully urge and request that the United States Congress enact the Social Security Fairness Act of 2007; and be it further

Resolved, That suitable copies of this resolution, duly authenticated by the Secretary of State, be transmitted to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United States, the President of the Senate of the United State, the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States and each Member of the Maine Congressional Delegation.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. LEAHY, from the Committee on the Judiciary, without amendment and with a preamble:

S. Res. 225. A resolution designating the month of August 2007 as "National Medicine Abuse Awareness Month".

S. Res. 230. A resolution designating the month of July 2007 as "National Teen Safe Driver Month".

S. Res. 235. A resolution designating July 1, 2007 as "National Boating Day".

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. HAGEL (for himself, Mr. OBAMA, and Mr. BROWN):