

Senate on Thursday, April 3, 2008, at 9:30 a.m. to hold a hearing on Iraq.

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

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, April 3, 2008, at 10 a.m. to conduct a hearing entitled "The New FEMA: Is the Agency Better Prepared for a Catastrophe Now Than It Was in 2005?"

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, to conduct an executive business meeting on Thursday, April 3, 2008, at 10 a.m. in room SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

Agenda

I. Bills: S.2136, Helping Families Save Their Homes in Bankruptcy Act of 2007, (Durbin, Schumer, Whitehouse, Biden, Feinstein); S.2133, Home Owners "Mortgage and Equity Savings Act", (Specter, Coleman); S.2041, False Claims Act Correction Act of 2007, (Grassley, Durbin, Leahy, Specter, Whitehouse); S.2533, State Secrets Protection Act, (Kennedy, Specter, Leahy, Feingold, Whitehouse); S.702, State Court Interpreter Grant Program Act, (Kohl, Kennedy, Durbin, Biden, Cardin, Leahy, Specter).

II. Resolution: S. Res. 468, designating April 2008 as "National 9-1-1 Education Month", (Clinton, Stevens).

III. Nominations: Catharina Haynes to be United States Circuit Court Judge for the Fifth Circuit, Rebecca Ann Gregory to be United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Texas.

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, to conduct a hearing on Thursday, April 3, 2008, at 2:15 p.m., in room SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

Witness list: Mark S. Davis to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Virginia; David Gregory Kays to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Missouri; David J. Novak to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Virginia; Stephen N. Limbaugh, Jr. to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Missouri; Elisebeth C. Cook to be Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Legal Policy, Department of Justice.

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

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent for the Committee on Veterans' Affairs to be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, April 3, 2008 to conduct a Joint Hearing with the House Veterans' Affairs Committee to hear the Legislative Presentations from the: AMVETS, Military Order of the Purple Heart, Gold Star Wives of America, Fleet Reserve Association, The Retired Enlisted Association, Military Officers Association of America, and National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs. The Committee will meet in room 216 of the Hart Senate Office Building, at 9:30 a.m.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON AIRLAND

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Airland of the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, April 3, 2008, at 3 p.m., in open session to receive testimony on Army modernization in review of the defense authorization request for fiscal year 2009 and the future years defense program.

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

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

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs' Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, April 3, 2008 at 2 p.m. to conduct a hearing entitled, "Managing Diversity of Senior Leadership in the Federal Workforce and Postal Service."

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

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Special Committee on Aging be authorized to meet on Thursday, April 3, 2008, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Dirksen 608 for the purpose of conducting a hearing

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

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following fellows and interns on the staff of the Finance Committee be allowed floor privileges during consideration of the Foreclosure Prevention Act: Ben Miller, Blake Thompson, Bridget Mallon, Damian Kudelka, Emily Schwartz, Ezana Teferra, Kayleigh Brown, Mary Baker, Tom Louthan, and Tyler Gamble.

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

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, on behalf of Senator LANDRIEU, I ask unani-

mous consent that Dionne Thompson, a fellow in Senator LANDRIEU's office, be granted privileges of the floor during consideration of H.R. 3221 and for the duration.

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

NATIONAL HEALTH CARE
DECISIONS DAY

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Con. Res. 73, introduced earlier today by Senator WYDEN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 73) expressing Congressional support for the goals and ideals of National Health Care Decisions Day.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements relating to the concurrent resolution be printed in the RECORD.

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

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 73) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The concurrent resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. CON. RES. 73

Whereas National Health Care Decisions Day is designed to raise public awareness of the need to plan ahead for health care decisions related to end-of-life care and medical decision-making whenever patients are unable to speak for themselves and to encourage the specific use of advance directives to communicate these important decisions;

Whereas the Patient Self-Determination Act (42 U.S.C. 1395cc(f) et seq.) guarantees patients the right to information about their rights under State law regarding accepting or refusing medical treatment;

Whereas it is estimated that only a minority of Americans have executed advance directives, including those who are terminally ill or living with life-threatening or life-limiting illnesses;

Whereas advance directives offer individuals the opportunity to discuss with loved ones in advance of a health care crisis and decide what measures would be appropriate for them when it comes to end-of-life care;

Whereas the preparation of an advance directive would advise family members, health care providers, and other persons as to how an individual would want to be treated with respect to health care;

Whereas to avoid any legal or medical confusion due to the emotions involved in end-of-life decisions, it is in the best interest of all Americans that each person over the age of 18 communicate his or her wishes by creating an advance directive;

Whereas the Conditions of Participation in Medicare and Medicaid, section 489.102 of title 42, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this resolution), require all participating facilities to

provide information to patients and the public on the topic of advance directives;

Whereas the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services has recognized that the use of advance directives is tied to quality health care and has included discussions of advance directives in the criteria of the Physician Quality Reporting Initiative;

Whereas establishing National Health Care Decisions Day will encourage health care facilities and professionals as well as chaplains, attorneys, and others to participate in a collective, nationwide effort to provide clear, concise, and consistent information to the public about health care decision-making, particularly advance directives; and

Whereas as a result of National Health Care Decisions Day, recognized on April 16, 2008, more Americans will have conversations about their health care decisions, more Americans will execute advance directives to make their wishes known, and fewer families and health care providers will have to struggle with making difficult health care decisions in the absence of guidance from the patient: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Health Care Decisions Day;

(2) supports the goals and ideals of advance care planning for all adult Americans;

(3) encourages each person in the United States who is over the age of 18 to prepare an advance directive to assist his or her loved ones, health care providers, and others as they honor his or her wishes;

(4) calls upon all members of Congress to execute such documents and discussions for themselves; and

(5) encourages health care, civic, educational, religious, and for- and non-profit organizations to encourage individuals to prepare advance directives to ensure that their wishes and rights with respect to health care are protected.

RECOGNIZING AND HONORING 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF FAIR HOUSING ACT AND 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF FAIR HOUSING AMENDMENTS ACT OF 1988

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 503, submitted earlier today by Senator DURBIN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 503) recognizing and honoring the 40th anniversary of the Fair Housing Act and the 20th anniversary of the Fair Housing Amendments Act of 1988.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today I rise to support this resolution honoring the 40th anniversary of the Fair Housing Act and the 20th anniversary of the Fair Housing Amendments Act.

But first I want to honor a man whose work helped pave the way for this landmark civil rights legislation. Forty years ago, the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. lost his life to a sniper's bullet. Today, we remember him as one of the greatest civil rights leaders of our country. We know his dream. We are intimately familiar with it. It is a dream conceived in the found-

ing of our country and enshrined in the words of the Declaration of Independence and in the Constitution, a dream that lives today in our values, our identities, our highest ideals as Americans.

This is the dream: that all men are created equal, and that in a just society all are afforded the same opportunities.

A week after Dr. King's assassination, and in a step closer to the fulfillment of this dream, Congress passed the Fair Housing Act as part of the Civil Rights Act of 1968. The Fair Housing Act prohibits discrimination in housing on the basis of race, color, national origin, and religion. In 1974, Congress added protection on the basis of sex. In 1988, thanks to the leadership of Senator KENNEDY and Senator SPECTER, Congress included protection on the basis of familial status and disability.

We have made a lot of progress since the summer of 1966, when Dr. King led a movement to protest housing discrimination and slum conditions for African Americans in Chicago. But if he were alive today, he would be the first to say—we aren't there yet. Segregation persists in our schools and neighborhoods. We are in the middle of a housing crisis that is hitting African-American and Hispanic families and communities particularly hard. In Chicago, African-American borrowers were 14 times more likely to have a higher cost loan from Wells Fargo than were White borrowers. This is a pattern that repeats all across the country. African-American and Latino families were dramatically more likely to have subprime loans than White families. Right now, millions face the possibility of foreclosure. And when they lose their homes, they lose their assets. They lose their plans for financing their kids' education, for building a better life for themselves in the future, for closing the income and education gaps.

For too many Americans, the dream is still just that—a dream, with little chance of becoming reality. We may have all been created equal, but since then we have been treated very differently. We are treated differently because of the color of our skin, the faith we practice, whether we are a man or a woman, single or with children, or use a wheelchair and a ramp to enter our apartment.

The irony is that we have fair housing laws that make this kind of treatment not only unfair but illegal—and we have had them for 40 years. Yet 3.7 million violations of these laws occur each year against African Americans, Latinos, Asian Americans, and Indian Americans. This doesn't even include the number of violations that occur on the basis of other protected classes. Only 1 percent of people who believe they are victims of fair housing violations report it to the Government. Testing on the enforcement of fair housing laws shows a high rate of dis-

crimination in the rental, sales, mortgage lending, and insurance markets. More than four decades after Dr. King and his supporters marched through the streets of Chicago to fight housing discrimination, African Americans and Latinos in Cook County report substantial levels of unfair—and illegal—treatment in the housing industry.

The intent of the Fair Housing Act was broad and inclusive: to advance equal opportunity in housing and achieve racial integration for the benefit of all Americans. But enforcement of this law has been narrow and incomplete. Where you live profoundly affects where you work, what you do, where you send your kids to school, whether they grow up healthy and safe. As long as our commitment to fair housing laws—to civil rights—remains timid, we will never end segregation. We will never declare victory over poverty. We will never build a truly just society.

As we honor Dr. King, former Senator Walter Mondale and former Senator Edward Brooke, who cosponsored the original Fair Housing Act, and others who made possible fair housing laws, we need to remember that it is not enough to pass laws. We have to enforce them. The dream of equality is our Nation's moral compass. Our duty as legislators and as citizens is to make sure the needle points in the right direction.

I thank Senators SPECTER, KENNEDY, DODD, BROWN, and VOINOVICH for joining me today in honoring the 40th anniversary of the Fair Housing Act and the 20th anniversary of the Fair Housing Amendments Act, and I urge my colleagues in Congress to renew their dedication to upholding these laws. These laws may be 40 years old, but the dream they seek to make real is as old as our country.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and any statements related to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 503) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 503

Whereas 2008 marks the 40th anniversary of the enactment of the Fair Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 3601 et seq.);

Whereas 2008 also marks the 20th anniversary of the enactment of the Fair Housing Amendments Act of 1988 (Public Law 100-430; 102 Stat. 1619);

Whereas the Chicago Freedom Movement, which took place from 1965 to 1967 and was led by the Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King, Jr., raised the national consciousness about housing discrimination and shaped the debate that led to landmark fair housing legislation;

Whereas the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders, appointed by President Lyndon B. Johnson and commonly