

SENATE RESOLUTION 548—RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE MEMBERS AND ALUMNI OF AMERICORPS AND THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF AMERICORPS TO THE LIVES OF THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. DODD (for himself, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. MCCAIN, Mrs. CLINTON, Ms. SNOWE, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. WICKER, Mr. OBAMA, Mr. SMITH, Mr. BROWN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. BAYH, Mr. CASEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. LIEBERMAN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 548

Whereas, since the inception of the AmeriCorps national service program in 1994, AmeriCorps has proven to be highly effective at promoting the ethic of service and volunteering and engaging people in the United States in meeting a wide range of local needs;

Whereas, since 1994, more than \$5,000,000,000 in AmeriCorps funds have been invested in nonprofit, community, educational, and faith-based groups, and those funds have led to the contribution of hundreds of millions of dollars of additional funds and in-kind donations from other sources;

Whereas, since 1994, approximately 542,000 people have taken the AmeriCorps pledge to “get things done for America” by becoming AmeriCorps members;

Whereas, each year, AmeriCorps provides opportunities for 75,000 people across the United States to give back in an intensive way to their districts, their States, and the Nation;

Whereas AmeriCorps members have served a total of more than 705,000,000 hours nationwide, helping to improve the lives of the Nation’s most vulnerable citizens, protect the environment, contribute to public safety, respond to disasters, and strengthen the educational system of the United States;

Whereas, in 2007, AmeriCorps members recruited and supervised more than 1,700,000 community volunteers, demonstrating the value of AmeriCorps as a powerful force for encouraging people to become involved in volunteering;

Whereas, in 2007, AmeriCorps members served 4,100 nonprofit organizations, schools, and faith-based and community organizations;

Whereas AmeriCorps members nationwide, in return for their service, have earned nearly \$1,430,000,000 to use to further their own educational advancement at the Nation’s colleges and universities;

Whereas, after AmeriCorps members complete their terms of service, those members remain engaged in their communities as volunteers, teachers, and nonprofit professionals in exceptionally high levels; and

Whereas “AmeriCorps Week” is observed the week beginning May 11, 2008, and is an opportune time for the people of the United States to salute current and former AmeriCorps members for their powerful impact on the lives of people in the United States, to thank AmeriCorps’s community partners for making the program possible, and to encourage more people in the United States to become involved in service and volunteering: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) encourages the people of the United States to join in a national effort to salute

AmeriCorps members and alumni and raise awareness about the importance of national and community service;

(2) acknowledges the significant accomplishments of the members, alumni, and community partners of AmeriCorps;

(3) recognizes the important contributions of AmeriCorps members and alumni to the lives of the people of the United States; and

(4) encourages people of all ages to consider opportunities to serve in AmeriCorps.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise today along with Senator COCHRAN and others to celebrate the achievements of the members and alumni of AmeriCorps and to recognize the week of May 11, 2008, as “AmeriCorps Week.” These young men and women have dedicated their time and efforts toward improving the lives of all Americans by protecting the environment, strengthening education, responding to disasters, and supporting public health and safety.

Since 1994, AmeriCorps has encouraged citizens to volunteer, serve, and address the unmet needs of our Nation. About 542,000 people have become AmeriCorps members and have pledged “to get things done for America.” These citizens have provided more than 705,000,000 hours of service, hard work, and dedication to improve our communities. In addition, since its inception, more than \$5 billion of AmeriCorps funds have been invested back into our communities and have helped leverage hundreds of millions of dollars of additional funds and in-kind donations from external sources.

Last year, 75,000 AmeriCorps members were able to give back to this Nation, and those members recruited more than 1,700,000 community volunteers to join them in their mission. Their volunteers served in over 4,000 nonprofit organizations, schools, and faith-based and community organizations across the country.

In return for service, AmeriCorps members have earned more than \$1.4 billion to go toward furthering their education, and after completing their service, many alumni remain engaged in their communities as volunteers, teachers, and nonprofit professionals.

In my home State of Connecticut, since AmeriCorps was created, more than 7,000 AmeriCorps members have served about 9.5 million hours and earned over \$20 million toward their education. From my own experience as a Peace Corps member, I know it takes a tremendous amount of perseverance, commitment, and passion to serve, but I also know the emotional reward achieved in dedicating your time to help others. Emerson wrote, “It is one of the most beautiful compensations of life that no man can sincerely try to help another without helping himself.” It is my hope that all Americans take the opportunity to develop a deeper sense of community, a renewed sense of national purpose, and a shared experience of sacrifice to serve our country.

During this “AmeriCorps Week,” we must take the time to recognize, salute, and thank those Americans who

have answered the call to serve by joining AmeriCorps; we must acknowledge the tremendous accomplishments and important contributions of the AmeriCorps members, alumni, and community partners; and, we must raise awareness about the importance of national and community service. Our collective imaginations, ideas, energy, and resolve are needed to solve our Nation’s problems and rekindle our American community. I encourage citizens of all ages to consider serving in AmeriCorps and contributing their skills and talents to bettering this Nation.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 4635. Mr. KYL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2881, to amend title 49, United States Code, to authorize appropriations for the Federal Aviation Administration for fiscal years 2008 through 2011, to improve aviation safety and capacity, to provide stable funding for the national aviation system, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4636. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 2881, supra.

SA 4637. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to amendment SA 4636 proposed by Mr. REID to the bill H.R. 2881, supra.

SA 4638. Ms. CANTWELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 2881, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4639. Mr. LAUTENBERG submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4627 proposed by Mr. ROCKEFELLER to the bill H.R. 2881, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4640. Mr. LAUTENBERG submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2881, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4641. Mr. BINGAMAN (for himself, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CASEY, Mrs. CLINTON, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. ENZI, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. NELSON, of Nebraska, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. WICKER, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. SPECTER, and Mr. BROWNBACK) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2881, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4642. Mr. ROCKEFELLER proposed an amendment to amendment SA 4637 proposed by Mr. REID to the amendment SA 4636 proposed by Mr. REID to the bill H.R. 2881, supra.

SA 4643. Mrs. FEINSTEIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 2881, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4644. Mr. VOINOVICH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2881, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4645. Mr. ENSIGN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2881, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4646. Mr. BROWNBACK submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2881, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4647. Mr. BROWNBACK submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4590 submitted by Mrs. MCCASKILL (for herself, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. OBAMA, and Mrs. CLINTON) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 2881, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.