

crimes against persons [in Russia] on account of their religion or ethnicity”;

Whereas, in the handling of the Yukos Oil Company case and numerous other judicial actions, the Government of the Russian Federation has permitted the politicization of Russia's legal system;

Whereas these developments have seriously damaged international confidence in the institutions and laws of the Russian Federation and hindered the ability of the United States and other partners to work with the Russian Federation in addressing a broad range of pressing global, regional, and domestic challenges;

Whereas the people of the Russian Federation and the people of the United States have been disadvantaged by the resulting damage to relations between the countries;

Whereas President Dmitry Medvedev, in an interview with the Reuters News Service on June 25, 2008, stated that “freedom, democracy and the right to private property” should define Russia's behavior;

Whereas the United States believes that adherence on the part of the Government of the Russian Federation to the values articulated by President Medvedev would provide a foundation for improved cooperation with the Russian Federation;

Whereas adherence to the values articulated by President Medvedev would also help repair damage to the international reputation of the Russian Federation and advance the goals of security, prosperity, and representative governance that should be the common ambition of all members of the G8;

Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) in order to build a more constructive relationship with the Government of the Russian Federation and its people, the President of the United States and other leaders of the G8 nations should—

(A) pursue a broad agenda of cooperation with the leaders of the Russian Federation; and

(B) encourage Russia's transformation into a more liberal and democratic polity;

(2) the Government of the United States and the Government of the Russian Federation should work to ensure the continued success of Nunn-Lugar initiatives and non-proliferation and counterterrorism programs through—

(A) additional funding;

(B) access to sensitive facilities;

(C) effective safety and security measures to prevent proliferation of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons and weapons-related materials and technology; and

(D) cooperation between the United States and Russia to enhance these objectives on a worldwide basis;

(3) the Government of the United States and the Government of the Russian Federation, working within the International Atomic Energy Agency and United Nations Security Council, should renew demands for Iran to cease its nuclear enrichment activities and fully disclose any prior weapons-related work;

(4) the Government of the United States and the Government of the Russian Federation should negotiate a legally-binding successor agreement to the 1991 Strategic Arms Reductions Treaty and address all outstanding concerns regarding the 1991 Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe;

(5) the leaders of the Russian Federation should adopt foreign and domestic policies that are consistent with “freedom, democracy and the right to private property”, as articulated by President Dmitry Medvedev;

(6) the Government of the Russian Federation should take immediate steps to restore the freedom and independence of the coun-

try's media in accordance with its obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;

(7) the Government and officials of the Russian Federation should refrain from portraying the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) as a threat to the Russian Federation and fully utilize the consultative mechanisms that exist through the NATO-Russia Council to facilitate cooperation between the countries of NATO and the Russian Federation;

(8) the United States, in coordination with other members of the G8, should—

(A) encourage the Government of the Russian Federation to address the challenges facing its society, including widespread corruption, a deteriorating health care system, growing instability in the North Caucasus, and an increasingly serious demographic crisis; and

(B) stand ready to assist the people and Government of the Russian Federation in those efforts;

(9) just as the United States welcomed the increasing prosperity and political development of Germany, Japan, and the nations Eastern Europe in the aftermath of former conflicts, the United States should welcome the emergence of the Russian Federation as a strong, successful, democratic partner in addressing global challenges; and

(10) the leaders of the Russian Federation should respect the rights of sovereign, democratic governments in neighboring countries and their prerogative to seek membership in Euro-Atlantic institutions.

SENATE RESOLUTION 613—DESIGNATING THE WEEK BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 8, 2008, AS “NATIONAL DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS RECOGNITION WEEK”

Mr. NELSON of Nebraska (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. SMITH, Mr. KERRY, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. DODD, Mr. HATCH, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BUNNING, and Mr. BINGAMAN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 613

Whereas direct support workers, direct care workers, personal assistants, personal attendants, in-home support workers, and paraprofessionals (referred to in this preamble as “direct support professionals”) are the primary providers of publicly funded long term support and services for millions of individuals;

Whereas a direct support professional must build a close, trusted relationship with an individual with disabilities;

Whereas a direct support professional assists an individual with disabilities with the most intimate needs, on a daily basis;

Whereas direct support professionals provide a broad range of support, including—

(1) preparation of meals;

(2) helping with medications;

(3) bathing;

(4) dressing;

(5) mobility;

(6) getting to school, work, religious, and recreational activities; and

(7) general daily affairs;

Whereas a direct support professional provides essential support to help keep an individual with disabilities connected to the family and community of the individual;

Whereas direct support professionals enable individuals with disabilities to live meaningful, productive lives;

Whereas direct support professionals are the key to allowing an individual with dis-

abilities to live successfully in the community of the individual, and to avoid more costly institutional care;

Whereas the majority of direct support professionals are female, and many are the sole breadwinners of their families;

Whereas direct support professionals work and pay taxes, but many remain impoverished and are eligible for the same Federal and State public assistance programs on which the individuals with disabilities served by the direct support professionals must depend;

Whereas Federal and State policies, as well as the Supreme Court, in *Olmstead v. L.C.*, 527 U.S. 581 (1999), assert the right of an individual to live in the home and community of the individual;

Whereas, in 2008, the majority of direct support professionals are employed in home and community-based settings and this trend is projected to increase over the next decade;

Whereas there is a documented critical and growing shortage of direct support professionals in every community throughout the United States; and

Whereas many direct support professionals are forced to leave jobs due to inadequate wages and benefits, creating high turnover and vacancy rates that research demonstrates adversely affects the quality of support to individuals with disabilities: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week beginning September 8, 2008, as “National Direct Support Professionals Recognition Week”;

(2) recognizes the dedication and vital role of direct support professionals in enhancing the lives of individuals with disabilities of all ages;

(3) appreciates the contribution of direct support professionals in supporting the needs that reach beyond the capacities of millions of families in the United States;

(4) commends direct support professionals as integral in supporting the long-term support and services system of the United States; and

(5) finds that the successful implementation of the public policies of the United States depends on the dedication of direct support professionals.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 5073. Mr. BUNNING submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2731, to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2009 through 2013 to provide assistance to foreign countries to combat HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5074. Mrs. DOLE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2731, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5075. Mr. LUGAR (for Mr. BIDEN (for himself and Mr. LUGAR)) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. LUGAR to the bill S. 2731, supra.

SA 5076. Mr. THUNE (for himself, Mr. KYL, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. TESTER, and Mr. DOMENICI) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2731, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5077. Mr. DEMINT proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2731, supra.

SA 5078. Mr. DEMINT proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2731, supra.

SA 5079. Mr. DEMINT proposed an amendment to amendment SA 5078 proposed by Mr. DEMINT to the bill S. 2731, supra.