

Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements related to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

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

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 378) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

#### RECOGNIZING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MINORITY AIDS INITIATIVE

Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H. Con. Res. 426, which was received from the House.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 426) recognizing the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the Minority AIDS Initiative.

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

Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. I ask unanimous consent 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 any statements be printed in the RECORD.

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

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 426) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

#### REDUCING MATERNAL MORTALITY

Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 616 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 616) reducing maternal mortality both at home and abroad.

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

Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. I ask unanimous consent the Lincoln amendment to the resolution, which is at the desk, be agreed to, the resolution as amended 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 be printed in the RECORD.

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

The amendment (No. 5694) was agreed to, as follows:

On page 3, line 4, strike "greater" and insert "more effective".

On page 3, lines 6 and 7, strike "maternal health as a human right" and insert "that the right to access quality and affordable health care is essential to improving maternal health".

The resolution (S. Res. 616), as amended, was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

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

#### S. RES. 616

Whereas more than 536,000 women die during pregnancy and childbirth every year which is one every minute;

Whereas in 15 percent of all pregnancies, the complications are life-threatening;

Whereas girls under 15 are 5 times more likely to die in childbirth than women in their 20s;

Whereas nearly all these deaths are preventable;

Whereas survival rates greatly depend upon the distance and time a woman must travel to get skilled emergency medical care;

Whereas care by skilled birth attendants, nurses, midwives, or doctors during pregnancy and childbirth, including emergency services, and care for mothers and newborns is essential;

Whereas the poorer the household, the greater the risk of maternal death, and 99 percent of maternal deaths occur in developing countries;

Whereas newborns whose mothers die of any cause are 3 to 10 times more likely to die within 2 years than those whose mothers survive;

Whereas more than 1,000,000 children are left motherless and vulnerable every year;

Whereas young girls are often pulled from school and required to fill their lost mother's roles;

Whereas a mother's death lowers family income and productivity which affects the entire community;

Whereas in countries with similar levels of economic development, maternal mortality is highest where women's status is lowest;

Whereas the United States ranks 41st among 171 countries in the latest UN list ranking maternal mortality;

Whereas the overall United States maternal mortality ratio is now 11 deaths per 100,000 live births, one of the highest rates among industrialized nations;

Whereas United States maternal deaths have remained roughly stable since 1982 and have not declined significantly since then;

Whereas the Centers for Disease Control estimates that the true level of United States maternal deaths may be 1.3 to 3 times higher than the reported rate; and

Whereas ethnic and racial disparities in maternal mortality rates persist and in the United States maternal mortality among black women is almost four times the rate among non-Hispanic white women: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) makes a stronger commitment to reducing maternal mortality both at home and abroad through more effective financial investment and participation in global initiatives; and

(2) recognizes that the right to access quality and affordable health care is essential to improving maternal health.

#### PRESERVATION OF RELIGIOUS AND CULTURAL SITES

Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 705, which was submitted earlier today.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 705) expressing the sense of the Senate on the commitment of the United States to the preservation of religious and cultural sites.

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

Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 705) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

#### S. RES. 705

Whereas the Senate is committed to protecting and preserving the cultural heritage of all national, religious, and ethnic groups, including cemeteries and other sacred sites of those groups in the United States and abroad;

Whereas the Holocaust annihilated much of the Jewish population of Europe, and in many countries in Europe, no Jewish people were left to care for the communal properties that represent a historic culture in the area and constitute an integral part of the Jewish religion;

Whereas the Holocaust and 45 years of atheistic, Communist governments in Eastern Europe created a critical need that led to the establishment of the United States Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad under section 1303 of the International Security and Development Cooperation Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 469j);

Whereas the United States Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad is tasked with identifying and reporting on cemeteries, monuments, and historic buildings in Eastern and Central Europe that are associated with the heritage of United States citizens and obtaining assurances from the governments in those regions that those properties will be protected and preserved;

Whereas many of those properties continue to be endangered and governments and communities continue to face fundamental and compelling challenges in the preservation of those properties;

Whereas experts within Lithuania and from around the world believe that the cemetery located in the Snipiskes area of Vilnius, Lithuania, is an historic Jewish cemetery and is sacred ground;

Whereas, in 2005, municipal authorities in Vilnius, Lithuania, approved the construction of an apartment building at the outer edge of that Jewish cemetery;

Whereas that cemetery dates to the 15th century and is known by scholars in Lithuania and around the world as the first Jewish cemetery in Vilnius;

Whereas it is believed that, before the Government closed the cemetery in the early 1800s, more than 50,000 Jews were buried there;

Whereas, in December 2006, several months after experts and groups from around the world expressed grave concern about the desecration of the Snipiskes cemetery, the Prime Minister of Lithuania established a working group to define the cemetery's borders and to consider how to memorialize it;