

new ways of delivering old products and services efficiently. To build a clean energy economy, to stay competitive in a globalizing world, to drive the health and science research that will improve our quality of life, we need more people trained in these skills. All too often, though, we are lagging behind other nations in producing these scientists and engineers.

Our ability to keep our lead in technology, which has defined American economic strength for generations, is deteriorating. The need for more STEM education and also particularly to reach women and underrepresented minorities is well recognized. The Congress has acted in recent years to support legislation such as the America COMPETES Act that broadens our competitiveness efforts beyond simply STEM education.

But there is also a concern that we are not using our current STEM education resources as efficiently and effectively as we could. As noted in the House Science Committee report:

For the most part, agencies have developed their programs independently rather than sharing “best practices” and collaborating across agencies. Each program has also developed its own methods and criteria for evaluation, making a comparison of effectiveness across the programs impossible.

To get the most out of our efforts, this bill would require coordination of Federal STEM education activities. It would direct the Office of Science and Technology Policy to establish a committee under the National Science and Technology Council that is responsible for coordinating Federal science, technology, engineering, and math education programs and activities. These include Federal programs of the National Science Foundation, the Department of Energy, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Department of Education, and others. This newly formed committee will have three main responsibilities.

First, the committee will coordinate the Federal STEM education activities and programs.

Second, the committee will develop, implement, and update a 5-year STEM education achievement plan, including objectives and metrics so we can assess how well we are doing.

Third, the committee will maintain an inventory of federally sponsored STEM education programs and activities, including rates of participation by underrepresented minorities.

So that the Congress can make use of this information to advance our STEM education efforts, this bill will require an annual report that includes: One, a description of STEM education programs and activities; two, the level of funding for the programs and activities for each participating Federal agency; three, a description of the progress made in carrying out the implementation of the plan; and, four, a description of how participating Federal agen-

cies disseminate information about available STEM education resources to States and practitioners.

This coordination is among the ideas suggested by then-Senator Obama in a bill he offered in the 110th Congress, S. 3047.

In sum, this bill will do just what its title suggests: coordinate our STEM educational activities. We not only have a duty to this Nation to make sure Federal dollars are spent as efficiently and effectively as possible, but it is also critical to our economy that we succeed in fostering a workforce that can out-discover, out-think, out-innovate, and out-produce our world-wide competition.

This legislation will help us reach these goals. In a world increasingly dominated by technology, I believe our economy, our environment, and our future depend on improving STEM education.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1210

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “STEM Education Coordination Act of 2009”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITION.

In this Act, the term “STEM” means science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

SEC. 3. COORDINATION OF FEDERAL STEM EDUCATION.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—The Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy shall establish a committee under the National Science and Technology Council with the responsibility to coordinate Federal programs and activities in support of STEM education, including at the National Science Foundation, the Department of Energy, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Department of Education, and all other Federal agencies that have programs and activities in support of STEM education.

(b) **RESPONSIBILITIES.**—The committee established under subsection (a) shall—

(1) coordinate the STEM education activities and programs of the Federal agencies;

(2) develop, implement through the participating agencies, and update once every 5 years a 5-year STEM education strategic plan, which shall—

(A) specify and prioritize annual and long-term objectives;

(B) specify the common metrics that will be used to assess progress toward achieving the objectives;

(C) describe the approaches that will be taken by each participating agency to assess the effectiveness of its STEM education programs and activities; and

(D) with respect to subparagraph (A), describe the role of each agency in supporting programs and activities designed to achieve the objectives; and

(3) establish, periodically update, and maintain an inventory of federally sponsored STEM education programs and activities, including documentation of assessments of the effectiveness of such programs and activities

and rates of participation by women, underrepresented minorities, and persons in rural areas in such programs and activities.

(c) **RESPONSIBILITIES OF OSTP.**—The Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy shall encourage and monitor the efforts of the participating agencies to ensure that the strategic plan under subsection (b)(2) is developed and executed effectively and that the objectives of the strategic plan are met.

(d) **REPORT.**—The Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy shall transmit a report annually to Congress at the time of the President’s budget request describing the plan required under subsection (b)(2). The annual report shall include—

(1) a description of the STEM education programs and activities for the previous and current fiscal years, and the proposed programs and activities under the President’s budget request, of each participating Federal agency;

(2) the levels of funding for each participating Federal agency for the programs and activities described under paragraph (1) for the previous fiscal year and under the President’s budget request;

(3) except for the initial annual report, a description of the progress made in carrying out the implementation plan, including a description of the outcome of any program assessments completed in the previous year, and any changes made to that plan since the previous annual report; and

(4) a description of how the participating Federal agencies will disseminate information about federally supported resources for STEM education practitioners, including teacher professional development programs, to States and to STEM education practitioners, including to teachers and administrators in schools that meet the criteria described in subsection (c)(1) (A) and (B) of section 3175 of the Department of Energy Science Education Enhancement Act (42 U.S.C. 7381j(c)(1) (A) and (B)).

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 170—EX-PRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT CHILDREN SHOULD BENEFIT, AND IN NO CASE BE WORSE OFF, AS A RESULT, OF REFORM OF THE NATIONS HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. DODD, Mr. BROWN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. SANDERS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Finance:

S. RES. 170

Whereas Medicaid is a cornerstone of the Nation’s health care infrastructure, providing critical health coverage to Americans who have the greatest needs: children and adults whose financial means are very modest and people who are in poorer health compared to the population at-large, including individuals with significant disabilities and those with multiple chronic illnesses;

Whereas Medicaid provides health coverage to ¼ of the Nation’s children and more than ½ of all low-income children;

Whereas because minority children are more likely to be from low-income families, Medicaid has been shown to reduce racial and ethnic disparities in health care, as it provides coverage for 2 out of every 5 African-American and Hispanic children;

Whereas by limiting cost-sharing and premiums, Medicaid provides a comprehensive

benefit package and ensures that children have access to affordable coverage and the health care services they need to stay healthy and meet developmental milestones;

Whereas Medicaid is designed to meet the complex health care needs of low-income and special needs children by including a wide range of essential and comprehensive services that many private insurers do not cover;

Whereas Medicaid provides developmental assessments for infants and young children (including well-child visits, vision and hearing services, and access to a wide range of therapies to manage developmental disorders and chronic illnesses) and coverage for in-home support, long-term care for special needs children, and transportation services;

Whereas Medicaid provides a care coordination benefit that supports at-risk children by coordinating State health services, thereby furthering the ability of States to effectively coordinate medical and social services that are provided by multiple organizations and agencies;

Whereas administrative spending is lower in Medicaid than through private insurance;

Whereas Medicaid is critical for ensuring that children have access to safety-net providers in their local communities and for training health care professionals, including pediatricians; and

Whereas Medicaid provides low-income children with the full complement of services they need to meet their unique health and developmental needs: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) Congress should ensure that reform of our Nation's health care system shall benefit all children and that no child shall be worse off, particularly the most vulnerable low-income children and children with disabilities; and

(2) strengthening our Nation's Medicaid program should be a priority and that low-income children should not be moved into a health care exchange system that could disrupt and diminish their benefits, cost-sharing protections, availability of care standards and protections, and access to supports, services, and safety-net providers.

SENATE RESOLUTION 171—COMMEMORATING THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE SACRIFICED THEIR PERSONAL FREEDOMS TO BRING ABOUT DEMOCRATIC CHANGE IN THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA AND EXPRESSING SYMPATHY FOR THE FAMILIES OF THE PEOPLE WHO WERE KILLED, WOUNDED, OR IMPRISONED, ON THE OCCASION OF THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TIANANMEN SQUARE MASSACRE IN BEIJING, CHINA, FROM JUNE 3 THROUGH 4, 1989

Mr. INHOFE (for himself, Mr. BROWN, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. KYL, Mr. COBURN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. VITTER, Mr. WEBB, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, and Mr. CARDIN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 171

Whereas freedom of expression, assembly, association, and religion are fundamental rights that all people should be able to possess and enjoy;

Whereas, in April 1989, in a demonstration of democratic progress, thousands of stu-

dents took part in peaceful protests against the communist government of the People's Republic of China in the capital city of Beijing;

Whereas, throughout the month of May 1989, the students, in peaceful demonstrations, drew more people, young and old and from all walks of life, into central Beijing to demand better democracy, basic freedoms of speech and assembly, and an end to corruption;

Whereas, from June 3 through 4, 1989, the Government of China ordered members of the People's Liberation Army to enter Beijing and clear Tiananmen Square (located in central Beijing) by lethal force;

Whereas, by June 7, 1989, the Red Cross of China reported that the People's Liberation Army had killed more than 300 people in Beijing, although foreign journalists who witnessed the events estimate that thousands of people were killed and thousands more wounded;

Whereas more than 20,000 people in China were arrested and detained without trial, due to their suspected involvement in the protests at Tiananmen Square;

Whereas, according to the Department of State, the Government of China has worked to censor information about the massacre at Tiananmen Square by blocking Internet sites and other media outlets, along with other sensitive information that would be damaging to the Government of China;

Whereas the Government of China has continued to deny basic human rights, such as freedom of speech and religion;

Whereas, during the 2008 Olympic Games, the Government of China promised to provide the international media covering the Olympic Games with the same access given the media at all the other Olympic Games, but denied access to certain internet sites and media outlets in attempts to censor free speech;

Whereas the Department of State Human Rights Report for 2008 found that the Government of China had increased already severe cultural and religious suppression of ethnic minorities in Tibetan areas and the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region, detained and harassed dissidents and journalists, and maintained tight controls on freedom of speech and the Internet;

Whereas the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom in 2009 stated, "The Chinese government continues to engage in systematic and egregious violations of the freedom of religion or belief, with religious activities tightly controlled and some religious adherents detained, imprisoned, fined, beaten, and harassed."; and

Whereas the China Aid Association reported that in 2007, Christians were detained or arrested and Christian house church groups were persecuted by the Government of China: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends the people who demonstrated at Tiananmen Square and elsewhere in the People's Republic of China in 1989, many of whom sacrificed their lives and freedom to—

(A) bring about democratic change in China; and

(B) gain freedom of expression, assembly, association, and religion for the people of China;

(2) expresses its sympathy for the families of the people who were killed, wounded, or imprisoned due to their involvement in the peaceful protests in Tiananmen Square in Beijing, China from June 3 through 4, 1989;

(3) condemns the ongoing human rights abuses by the Government of China;

(4) calls on the Government of China to—

(A) release all prisoners that are—

(i) still in captivity as a result of their involvement in the events from June 3 through 4, 1989, at Tiananmen Square; and

(ii) imprisoned without cause;

(B) allow freedom of speech and access to information, especially information regarding the events at Tiananmen Square in 1989; and

(C) cease all harassment, intimidation, and unjustified imprisonment of—

(i) members of religious and minority groups; and

(ii) people who disagree with policies of the Government of China;

(5) supports efforts by free speech activists in China and elsewhere who are working to overcome censorship (including censorship of the Internet) and the chilling effect of censorship; and

(6) urges the President to continue to support peaceful advocates of free speech around the world.

SENATE RESOLUTION 172—DESIGNATING JUNE 2009 AS "NATIONAL APHASIA AWARENESS MONTH" AND SUPPORTING EFFORTS TO INCREASE AWARENESS OF APHASIA

Mr. JOHNSON submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 172

Whereas aphasia is a communication impairment caused by brain damage that typically results from a stroke;

Whereas, while aphasia is most often the result of stroke or brain injury, it can also occur with other neurological disorders, such as a brain tumor;

Whereas many people with aphasia also have weakness or paralysis in the right leg and right arm, usually due to damage to the left hemisphere of the brain, which controls language and movement on the right side of the body;

Whereas the effects of aphasia may include a loss of or reduction in the ability to speak, comprehend, read, and write, but the intelligence of a person with aphasia remains intact;

Whereas, according to the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (referred to in this resolution as the "NINDS"), stroke is the 3rd-leading cause of death in the United States, ranking behind heart disease and cancer;

Whereas stroke is a leading cause of serious, long-term disability in the United States;

Whereas the NINDS estimates that there are about 5,000,000 stroke survivors in the United States;

Whereas the NINDS estimates that people in the United States suffer about 750,000 strokes per year, with approximately 1/3 of the strokes resulting in aphasia;

Whereas, according to the NINDS, aphasia affects at least 1,000,000 people in the United States;

Whereas the NINDS estimates that more than 200,000 people in the United States acquire the disorder each year;

Whereas the National Aphasia Association is a unique organization that provides communication strategies, support, and education for people with aphasia and their caregivers throughout the United States; and

Whereas, as an advocacy organization for people with aphasia and their caregivers, the National Aphasia Association envisions a world that recognizes the "silent" disability