

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.

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

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 171) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, was agreed to, as follows:

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 students 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 viola-

tions of the freedom of religion or belief, with religious activities tightly controlled and some religious adherents detained, imprisoned, fined, beaten, and harassed.";

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.

NATIONAL APHASIA AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to proceed to S. Res. 172.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 172) designating June 2009 as "National Aphasia Awareness Month" and supporting efforts to increase awareness of aphasia.

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

Mr. REID. Madam 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, there be no intervening action or debate, and any statements relating to this matter be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 172) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

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 of aphasia and provides opportunity and fulfillment for people affected by aphasia: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates June 2009 as "National Aphasia Awareness Month";

(2) supports efforts to increase awareness of aphasia;

(3) recognizes that strokes, a primary cause of aphasia, are the 3rd-largest cause of death and disability in the United States;

(4) acknowledges that aphasia deserves more attention and study in order to find new solutions for serving individuals experiencing aphasia and their caregivers;

(5) supports efforts to make the voices of people with aphasia heard, because people with aphasia are often unable to communicate with others; and

(6) encourages all people in the United States to observe National Aphasia Awareness Month with appropriate events and activities.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—H.R. 31

Mr. REID. Madam President, H.R. 31 is at the desk and has been received from the House; is that correct?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The leader is correct.

Mr. REID. I ask for its first reading.

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