

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 251—EX-PRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF AFGHANISTAN, WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, SHOULD FULFILL ITS OBLIGATIONS TO ENSURE THAT WOMEN FULLY PARTICIPATE AS CANDIDATES AND VOTERS IN THE AUGUST 20, 2009, PRESIDENTIAL AND PROVINCIAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS IN AFGHANISTAN

Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. KERRY, Mrs. BOXER, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. LUGAR, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LAUTENBERG, and Mr. BEGICH) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 251

Whereas women in Afghanistan play a critical role in establishing accountable governance, fostering economic development, and securing peace in Afghanistan;

Whereas many women in Afghanistan face rising insecurity and consequent physical and verbal violence in seeking political office and exercising their constitutional right to vote;

Whereas the Afghan Independent Electoral Commission has made efforts to consult with domestic and international organizations advocating for full inclusion of all people in Afghanistan in the elections, and has called on the donor community to assist its efforts to open and staff all appropriate polling places throughout Afghanistan; and

Whereas women's rights activists and civil society representatives from throughout Afghanistan gathered on June 25, 2009, and decided to launch the Five Million Afghan Women Campaign, a campaign of 5,000,000 women of Afghanistan to support eligible women's political participation in order to ensure the rule of law and gender equality: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the brave women and women-led organizations of Afghanistan on the launch of the Five Million Afghan Women Campaign;

(2) urges the Government of Afghanistan to ensure that sufficient staffing is in place in women's polling stations, including security staff and equipment and appropriate polling place personnel;

(3) urges the Government of Afghanistan and the religious, community, and cultural leaders of Afghanistan to make every effort to encourage eligible women to participate in the August 20, 2009, elections;

(4) urges the Government of Afghanistan to fully include women in formal committees and bodies charged with election security and related processes;

(5) urges the Government of Afghanistan and the Independent Electoral Commission to continue to consult with the Afghan Ministry of Women's Affairs, the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission, and women-led nongovernmental organizations regarding women's participation in the elections, in order to guarantee a free and fair election process, including providing equal access for women candidates to media outlets as well as ensuring adequate security and transportation for women voters on election day;

(6) encourages the Secretary of State, including through the United States Agency

for International Development, to continue to mobilize funding and resources of the United States for programs throughout Afghanistan to raise the awareness of women in Afghanistan regarding governance, increase women's political participation in the August 20, 2009, and future elections, and support such women's ability to exercise their rights as citizens; and

(7) urges the new Government of Afghanistan elected on August 20, 2009, to employ and engage women in meaningful roles and positions in such new government.

SENATE RESOLUTION 252—AUTHORIZING THE TAKING OF A PHOTOGRAPH IN THE CHAMBER IN THE UNITED STATES SENATE

Mr. REID (for himself and Mr. MCCONNELL) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 252

Resolved, That paragraph 1 of rule IV of the Rules for the Regulation of the Senate Wing of the United States Capitol (prohibiting the taking of pictures in the Senate Chamber) be temporarily suspended for the sole and specific purpose of permitting the Senate Photographic Studio to photograph the United States Senate in actual session on Tuesday, September 22, 2009, at the hour of 2:15 p.m.

SEC. 2. The Sergeant at Arms of the Senate is authorized and directed to make the necessary arrangements therefore, which arrangements shall provide for a minimum of disruption to Senate proceedings.

NATIONAL POLYCYSTIC KIDNEY DISEASE AWARENESS WEEK

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 241.

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

The bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 241) designating the period beginning on September 13, 2009, and ending on September 19, 2009, as "National Polycystic Kidney Disease Awareness Week," and supporting the goals and ideals of a National Polycystic Kidney Disease Awareness Week to raise public awareness and understanding of polycystic kidney disease and the impact polycystic kidney disease has on patients and future generations of their families.

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

Mr. REID. Mr. 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, with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements relating to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 241) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 241

Whereas polycystic kidney disease, known as "PKD", is 1 of the most prevalent life-

threatening genetic diseases in the United States;

Whereas polycystic kidney disease is a severe, dominantly inherited disease that has a devastating impact, in both human and economic terms, affecting equally people of all ages, races, sexes, nationalities, geographic locations, and income levels;

Whereas there are 2 hereditary forms of polycystic kidney disease, with autosomal dominant polycystic kidney disease (ADPKD) affecting 1 in 500 people worldwide, including 600,000 patients with polycystic kidney disease in the United States, according to prevalence estimates by the National Institutes of Health;

Whereas in families in which 1 or both parents have ADPKD there is a 50-percent chance that the parents will pass the disease to their children;

Whereas autosomal recessive polycystic kidney disease (ARPKD), a rarer form of PKD, affects 1 in 20,000 live births and frequently leads to early death;

Whereas in families in which both parents carry ARPKD there is a 25-percent chance that the parents will pass the disease to their children;

Whereas, in addition to patients directly affected by polycystic kidney disease, countless additional friends, loved ones, family members, colleagues, and caregivers must shoulder the physical, emotional, and financial burdens of polycystic kidney disease;

Whereas polycystic kidney disease, for which there is no treatment or cure, is the leading cause of kidney failure resulting from a genetic disease, and 1 of the 4 leading causes of kidney failure in the United States;

Whereas the vast majority of patients with polycystic kidney disease have kidney failure at the age of 53, on average, causing a severe strain on dialysis and kidney transplantation resources and on the delivery of health care in the United States, as the largest segment of the population of the United States, the baby boomers, continues to age;

Whereas end-stage renal disease is one of the fastest growing components of the Medicare budget, and polycystic kidney disease contributes to the cost with an estimated \$2,000,000,000 budgeted annually for dialysis, kidney transplantation, and related therapies;

Whereas polycystic kidney disease is a systemic disease that causes damage to the kidneys and the cardiovascular, endocrine, hepatic, and gastrointestinal systems;

Whereas polycystic kidney disease instills in patients a fear of an unknown future with a life-threatening genetic disease, and apprehension over possible genetic discrimination;

Whereas the severity of the symptoms of polycystic kidney disease and the limited public awareness of the disease cause many patients to fail to recognize the presence of the disease, to forego regular visits to physicians, and not to receive good health or therapeutic management that would help avoid more severe complications when kidney failure occurs;

Whereas people suffering from chronic, life-threatening diseases, such as polycystic kidney disease, are more frequently predisposed to depression and the resulting consequences of depression because of anxiety over the possible pain, suffering, and premature death that people with polycystic kidney disease may face;

Whereas the Senate and taxpayers of the United States want treatments and cures for disease and hope to see results from investments in research conducted by the National Institutes of Health and from initiatives such as the National Institutes of Health Roadmap to the Future;

Whereas polycystic kidney disease is an example of how collaboration, technological