Whereas the Ecumenical Patriarch repeatedly returned to the issue of the Halki Seminary in various meetings during his U.S. visit, including at this oval office meeting with President Obama. Earlier this year, Senator Cardin and I joined over 160 members of the Senate in expressing our longstanding concern over the continued closure of this unique institution.

Founded in 1944, the Theological School of Halki, located outside modern-Day Istanbul, served as the principal seminary for the Ecumenical Patriarchate until its forcible closure by the Turkish authorities in 1971. The Ecumenical Patriarch repeatedly returned to the issue of the Halki Seminary in various meetings during his U.S. visit. In an address to a wider gathering of minority religious leaders that day, concluded by stating, "We should not allow our concern to cross the borders of the countries of the world, but should extend the concern of the Orthodox to the entire world."
I am particularly mindful of the fact that the continued closure of the Theological School of Halki stands in clear violation of Turkey’s obligations under the 1989 OSCE Vienna Concluding Document, which affirmed the right of religious communities to provide “training of religious personnel in appropriate institutions.”

At a time when Turkey is seeking to chart a new course, the resolution of this longstanding issue would not only be a demonstration of Ankara’s good will, but, as President Obama mentioned in his address to the Turkish Grand National Assembly in April, will send such an important signal inside Turkey and beyond. I remain hopeful and encourage Prime Minister Erdoğan to act decisively and without condition on this matter before his upcoming visit to Washington in early December.

To underscore the importance attached to the reopening of the Theological School of Halki and our solidarity with the Ecumenical Patriarch, I am pleased to introduce a resolution on this issue together with Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. REID, * * *

SENATE RESOLUTION 357—URGING THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES TO OBSERVE GLOBAL FAMILY DAY AND ONE DAY OF PEACE AND SHARING

Mr. INOUYE (for himself and Mr. REID) submitted the following resolution: which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. Res. 357

Whereas in 2009, the people of the world suffered many calamitous events, including devastation from tsunamis, terror attacks, wars, famines, genocides, hurricanes, earthquakes, political and religious conflicts, diseases, poverty, and rioting, all necessitating global cooperation, and unity previously unprecedented among diverse cultures, faiths, and economic classes;

Whereas grave global challenges in 2010 may require and innovative problem-solving among citizens and nations on an even greater scale;

Whereas on December 15, 2000, Congress adopted Senate Concurrent Resolution 138, expressing the sense of Congress that the President of the United States should issue a proclamation each year calling upon the people of the United States and interested organizations to observe an international day of peace and sharing at the beginning of each year;

Whereas in 2001, the United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution 56/2, which invited “Member States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and all the peoples of the world to celebrate One Day in Peace, 1 January 2002, and every year thereafter”;

Whereas many foreign heads of State have recognized the importance of establishing Global Family Day, a special day of international unity, peace, and sharing, on the first day of each year; and

Whereas family is the basic structure of humanity, thus, we must all look to the stability and love within our individual families to create stability in the global community: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate urgently requests—

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2786. Mr. REID (for himself, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. DODD, and Mr. HARKIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3590, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the first-time homebuyers credit in the case of members of the Armed Forces and certain other Federal employees, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS
SA 2786. Mr. REID (for himself, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. DODD, and Mr. HARKIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3590, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the first-time homebuyers credit in the case of members of the Armed Forces and certain other Federal employees, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SEC. 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) Short Title—This Act may be cited as the “Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.”

(b) Table of Contents—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

TITLE I—QUALITY, AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE FOR ALL AMERICANS

Subtitle A—Immediate Improvements in Health Care Coverage for All Americans

Sec. 101. Amendments to the Public Health Service Act.

PART A—INDIVIDUAL AND GROUP MARKET REFORMS

“SUBPART II—IMPROVING COVERAGE

“Sec. 2711. No lifetime or annual limits.