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, compassion, and unity previously unprecedented among diverse cultures, faiths, and economic classes;

Whereas grave global challenges in 2010 may require cooperation 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—

(1) the people of the United States to observe Global Family Day and One Day of Peace and Sharing with appropriate activities stressing the need—
   (A) to eradicate violence, hunger, poverty, and suffering; and
   (B) to establish greater trust and fellowship among peace-loving countries and families everywhere; and

(2) American businesses, labor organizations, and faith and civic leaders to join in promoting appropriate activities for Americans and to extend appropriate greetings from the families of the United States to families in the rest of the world.

Mr. INOUYE, Mr. President, today, I am submitting a Senate resolution to observe Global Family Day, One Day of Peace and Sharing, and am pleased to be joined in this endeavor by Senator REID.

We are a global society, interconnected by highly efficient modes of communication and transportation. With continued advancements in technology, nations will become even more interdependent upon each other. For this reason, I will continue to support and advocate for world peace. This is not a lofty pursuit. I have great confidence that if nations use everything at their disposal, they can promote peaceful, diplomatic options instead of war.

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. 2701. Fair health insurance premiums.

SEC. 2702. Guaranteed availability of coverage.

SEC. 2703. Guaranteed renewability of coverage.

SEC. 2704. Prohibition of preexisting condition exclusions or other discrimination based on health status.

SEC. 2705. Prohibiting discrimination against individual participants and beneficiaries based on health status.


SEC. 2707. Comprehensive health insurance coverage.

SEC. 2708. Prohibit on excessive waiting periods.

PART II—OTHER PROVISIONS

SEC. 1251. Preservation of right to maintain existing coverage.

SEC. 1252. Rating reforms must apply uniformly to all health insurance issuers and group health plans.

SEC. 1253. Effective dates.

Subtitle D—Available Coverage Choices for All Americans

PART I—HEALTH INSURANCE MARKET REFORMS

Sec. 1254. Amendment to the Public Health Service Act.

PART I—ESTABLISHMENT OF QUALIFIED HEALTH PLANS

Sec. 1301. Qualified health plan defined.

Sec. 1302. Essential health benefits requirements.

Sec. 1303. Special rules.

Sec. 1304. Related definitions.

PART II—CONSUMER CHOICES AND INSURANCE COMPETITION THROUGH HEALTH BENEFIT EXCHANGES

Sec. 1311. Affordable choices of health benefit plans.

Sec. 1312. Consumer choice.

Sec. 1313. Financial integrity.

PART III—STATE FLEXIBILITY RELATING TO SERVICE EXCHANGES

Sec. 1321. State flexibility in operation and enforcement of Exchanges and related requirements.

November 19, 2009 CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—SENATE S11607