

State of North Carolina, unemployment hovers at 9.7 percent, with several counties facing double-digit unemployment rates. Job creation is my number one priority and this legislation is an innovative way to get Americans back into the workforce.

The United States needs a strong technical workforce. The AMERICA Works Act would encourage national industries, such as biotechnology, construction, and machinery, to come together and agree on the skill sets they most value in prospective employees. Community colleges would participate, creating the appropriate curricula to meet those needs. Students who complete the programs would receive an industry-recognized credential. Workers who carry these industry-backed credentials would be able to market themselves in any area of the country. Businesses could count on the fact that workers with these credentials have the expertise and skills they are looking for.

The AMERICA Works Act would require certain Federal job training and career development education programs to give priority to programs that provide an industry-recognized and nationally portable credential. This credentialing system starts out with basic competencies that prepare individuals for the workplace. Once basic competencies are completed, individuals can work toward high performance technical competencies and then progress further to highly skilled technical and management competencies. The credentialing levels are stackable, allowing workers flexibility along their career tracks. Stackable credentials provide straightforward paths, with clear entry and exit points, for workers to advance their careers and attain high quality jobs.

In North Carolina, we have an advanced manufacturing skills program at Forsyth Technical Community College in Winston-Salem. Forsyth Tech is participating in the National Association of Manufacturers' Manufacturing Skills Certification System, which offers credit programs toward nationally recognized, stackable credentials. They have had hundreds of students enroll in their programs. Forsyth Tech has already collaborated with state and local businesses to begin the process of incorporating their credentials into job descriptions. They believe that introducing graduates with skill certifications into the local workforce will help improve the hiring process, and the nationally recognized credentials will improve employment opportunities.

When the President's Jobs Council met earlier this month in North Carolina, a leading topic of discussion, and something the President himself mentioned, is the need to improve job training for American industries so that our workers can be competitive in the global economy.

The AMERICA Works Act will help job seekers and employers keep America competitive in every industry, from textiles to aerospace, high-tech to

biotech, and connect programs like those offered at Forsyth Tech with employers in the community, region, and across the United States.

As I mentioned before, job creation is my number one priority. I want to do everything I can to create jobs and make sure our workers have the skills necessary to help our businesses grow and thrive. By incentivizing industry-recognized, nationally portable, stackable credentials, we can ensure that America has the best businesses, with the best-trained workers leading the world.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important bill to expand employment opportunities for hardworking Americans.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 212—CONGRATULATING THE PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA ON THE TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE COUNTRY'S INDEPENDENCE

Mr. HARKIN (for himself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, and Mr. PORTMAN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 212

Whereas, on December 23, 1990, the people of Slovenia voted overwhelmingly in favor of independence from the former Yugoslavia in a national referendum;

Whereas, on June 25, 1991, the Republic of Slovenia declared itself as an independent and sovereign nation;

Whereas, on December 23, 1991, the parliament of Slovenia adopted a constitution based on the rule of law, respect for human rights, and democratic ideals;

Whereas, during its 20 years of independence, Slovenia has been an important United States ally in Central Europe and a strong advocate of democracy, the rule of law, and the merits of an open, free market economy;

Whereas the Government of Slovenia has made important contributions to international efforts to promote peace, stability, and development in Southeast Europe, Afghanistan, and elsewhere;

Whereas the Government of Slovenia serves as a leader in efforts to remove destructive land mines in parts of Southeast Europe and in other parts of the world;

Whereas Slovenia has become an active member of international organizations, including the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Council of Europe, the World Trade Organization, the European Union, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development; and

Whereas Slovenia has further consolidated its international role through successful chairmanship of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe in 2005, and, as the first new member from Central and Eastern Europe, the presidency of the Council of the European Union in 2008: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate hereby—

(1) congratulates the people and the Government of the Republic of Slovenia as the country celebrates 20 years of independence on June 25, 2011;

(2) commends the people of Slovenia on the significant progress made in the last 20 years;

(3) recognizes the important role of the Slovenian community in the United States to promote partnership and cooperation between the two countries; and

(4) encourages the Government of the Republic of Slovenia to continue its important work in the transatlantic alliance, and the efforts to further peace, stability, and prosperity in Southeast Europe and elsewhere.

SENATE RESOLUTION 213—COMMENDING AND EXPRESSING THANKS TO PROFESSIONALS OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY

Mr. DEMINT (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. VITTER, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BURR, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. COATS, Mr. COBURN, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. ENZI, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HATCH, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JOHANNIS, Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin, Mr. KIRK, Mr. LEE, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. THUNE, Mr. WICKER, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. GRAHAM, and Mr. ALEXANDER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Select Committee on Intelligence:

S. RES. 213

Whereas since the attacks on September 11, 2001, the United States intelligence community has gathered critical information that has helped to prevent additional attacks on United States soil;

Whereas the Central Intelligence Agency (hereinafter referred to as the "CIA") plays a vital role in United States intelligence collection;

Whereas the importance of the CIA's work was exemplified by the successful operation against Usama bin Laden;

Whereas, as authorized by the President and in accordance with specific legal guidance provided by the Department of Justice, the CIA lawfully detained and interrogated certain high-value suspected terrorists;

Whereas information obtained from high-value detainees who had been detained and interrogated by the CIA was essential in determining the organizational structure, key operatives, modus operandi, and other relevant information on al-Qaeda operations;

Whereas information obtained from high-value detainees who had been detained and interrogated by the CIA was crucial to tracking down Usama bin Laden;

Whereas Michael Hayden, a former Director of the CIA, wrote, "Let the record show that when I was first briefed in 2007 about the brightening prospect of pursuing bin Laden through his courier network, a crucial component of the briefing was information provided by three CIA detainees, all of whom had been subjected to some form of enhanced interrogation. One of the most alerting pieces of evidence was that two of the detainees who had routinely been cooperative and truthful (after they had undergone enhanced techniques) were atypically denying apparent factual data—a maneuver taken as a good sign that the CIA was on to something important. So that there is no ambiguity, let me be doubly clear: It is nearly impossible for me to imagine any operation like the May 2 assault on bin Laden's compound in Abbottabad, Pakistan, that would