

Mortgage Corporation upon resolution of their obligations, to create a new Mortgage Finance Agency for the securitization of single family and multifamily mortgages, and for other purposes.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. KERRY (for himself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 984. A bill to establish a commission to develop a national strategy and recommendations for reducing fatalities resulting from child abuse and neglect; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, each year more than 6 million children in the United States are reported as victims of child abuse and neglect. Tragically, at least 1,700 of those children lose their lives—most under the age of four. Maltreatment deaths are preventable and it is our duty to fight for those who are too young to defend and speak for themselves.

Currently, the United States does not have a comprehensive strategy for addressing child abuse fatalities. We also lack a national standard for reporting these fatalities, leaving many of these deaths to be largely unreported. That is why today I am introducing the Protect Our Kids Act, which will establish the Commission to Eliminate Child Abuse and Neglect Fatalities.

This commission will be comprised of a variety of professionals with diverse experience and perspectives. They will develop a national strategy for reducing child abuse and neglect fatalities, and provide comprehensive recommendations for all levels of government. They will analyze the effectiveness of existing programs designed to prevent or identify maltreatment deaths and learn more about what works and what doesn't. Child abuse fatalities are not isolated to one part of our country or another.

Once the commission completes their work they will submit a report with their findings to Congress and the report will be publicly available. The loss of just one child to abuse is one child too many. I would like to thank my colleague, Senator COLLINS, for working with me on this bipartisan bill to protect our Nation's children. A number of organizations have been integral to the development of the legislation and have endorsed it, including the National Coalition to End Child Abuse Deaths whose members include the National Association of Social Workers, NASW, the National Center for the Review and Prevention of Child Deaths, NCRPCD, National Children's Alliance, NCA, Every Child Matters Education Fund, ECMEF, and the National District Attorney's Association, NDAA.

I look forward to our continued progress in developing a more effective approach to improving child welfare and ask all of my colleagues to support this important legislation.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise today to join Senator KERRY in introducing the Protect Our Kids Act, to create a commission with the goal of eliminating child abuse fatalities. The effort to address child abuse transcends ideological and partisan lines. This is not a Democratic or Republican issue. This is an American issue. One that we can't wish away, but that we must face head on and work to eradicate. Earlier this year, Senator KERRY and I introduced a resolution recognizing April as Child Abuse Prevention Month. The Protect Our Kids Act further represents our commitment to put an end to child abuse in the United States.

Child abuse fatalities are preventable; yet, approximately 1,770 children are reported as dying from child abuse each year, and many experts believe the actual number may be significantly higher. This legislation would establish a commission to develop a comprehensive national strategy for reducing child abuse fatalities. The commission will include a variety of professionals with expertise in areas such as child welfare advocacy, child development, pediatrics, medical examining, social work, law enforcement and education.

Through new research, hearings and the use and coordination of existing information, the commission will provide a report with their recommendations. In order to develop a comprehensive strategy, the commission must consider several questions including what is the extent to which incidents of child abuse and neglect fatalities are increasing in number, how to develop a system to track and record incidents, and what models exist for preventing child maltreatment deaths.

Increased understanding of maltreatment deaths can lead to improvement in agency systems and practices to protect children and prevent child abuse and neglect. Therefore, it is imperative that we take action to capitalize on the commission's findings. This legislation requires the commission's report to be submitted to relevant Federal agencies and Congressional committees. All agencies with recommendations that fall under their jurisdiction must then submit their reaction and plans to address such recommendations to Congress within 6 months.

Approximately 6 million kids are reported to be abused or neglected each year. We know this can be prevented. This legislation is an important step that Congress and our Nation should take in order to better protect our kids.

#### SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 347—RECOGNIZING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL CANCER ACT OF 1971 AND THE MORE THAN 12,000,000 SURVIVORS OF CANCER ALIVE TODAY BECAUSE OF THE COMMITMENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO CANCER RESEARCH AND ADVANCES IN CANCER PREVENTION, DETECTION, DIAGNOSIS, AND TREATMENT

Mr. BROWN of Ohio (for himself, Mr. MORAN, Mr. KERRY, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. INOUE, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. HARKIN, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. COONS, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. REED of Rhode Island, Mr. BENNET, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. KOHL, Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. HELLER, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. WICKER, Mr. BURR, and Mr. KIRK) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 347

Whereas 40 years ago, with the passage of the National Cancer Act of 1971 (Public Law 92-218; 85 Stat. 778), the leaders of the United States came together to set the country on a concerted course to conquer cancer through research;

Whereas the passage of the National Cancer Act of 1971 led to the establishment of the National Cancer Program, which significantly expanded the authorities and responsibilities of the National Cancer Institute, a component of the National Institutes of Health;

Whereas the term "cancer" refers to more than 200 diseases that collectively represent the leading cause of death for people in the United States under the age of 85, and the second leading cause of death for people in the United States overall;

Whereas cancer touches everyone, either through a direct, personal diagnosis or indirectly through the diagnosis of a family member or friend;

Whereas, in 2011, cancer remains one of the most pressing public health concerns in the United States, with more than 1,500,000 people in the United States expected to be diagnosed with cancer each year;

Whereas the National Institutes of Health estimated the overall cost of cancer to be greater than \$260,000,000,000 in 2010 alone;

Whereas approximately 1 out of every 3 women and 1 out of every 2 men will develop cancer in their lifetimes, and more than 570,000 people in the United States will die from cancer this year, which is more than 1 person every minute and nearly 1 out of every 4 deaths;

Whereas the commitment of the United States to cancer research and biomedical science has enabled more than 12,000,000 people in the United States to survive cancer, 15 percent of whom were diagnosed 20 or more years ago, and has resulted in extraordinary progress being made against cancer, includ-