

EC-8753. A communication from the Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; 2012 Commercial Accountability Measure and Closure for South Atlantic Blue Runner" (RIN0648-XC310) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 28, 2012; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-8754. A communication from the Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Atlantic Surfclam and Ocean Quahog Fisheries; 2013 Fishing Quotas for Atlantic Surfclams and Ocean Quahogs; and Suspension of Minimum Atlantic Surfclam Size Limit" (RIN0648-XC353) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 28, 2012; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-8755. A communication from the Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Summer Flounder Fishery; Quota Transfer" (RIN0648-XC340) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 28, 2012; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-8756. A communication from the Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Northeast Multispecies Fishery; White Hake Trimester Total Allowable Catch Area Closure for the Common Pool Fishery" (RIN0648-XC369) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 28, 2012; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-8757. A communication from the Chairman, National Transportation Safety Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Board's competitive sourcing efforts for fiscal year 2012; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-8758. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Use of Controlled Corporations to Avoid the Application of Section 304" (RIN1545-B113) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 28, 2012; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-8759. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Payout Requirements for Type III Supporting Organizations That Are Not Functionally Integrated" (RIN1545-BG31) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 28, 2012; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-8760. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Partner's Distributive Share" (RIN1545-BJ37) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 28, 2012; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-8761. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, certification of proposed issuance of an export license pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (Transmittal No. DDTC 12-167); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-8762. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, certification of proposed issuance of an export license pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (Transmittal No. DDTC 12-154); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-8763. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, certification of proposed issuance of an export license pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (Transmittal No. DDTC 12-168); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-8764. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, certification of proposed issuance of an export license pursuant to sections 36(c) and 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act (Transmittal No. DDTC 12-143); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-8765. A communication from the Program Manager, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Control of Communicable Diseases: Foreign; Scope of Definitions (42 CFR Part 71)" (RIN0920-AA12) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 28, 2012; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-8766. A communication from the Program Manager, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Control of Communicable Diseases: Foreign; Scope of Definitions (42 CFR Part 70)" (RIN0920-AA22) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 28, 2012; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-8767. A communication from the Administrator, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2012; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-8768. A communication from the Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report from the Attorney General to Congress relative to the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

EC-8769. A communication from the Chairman, Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, transmitting, the Board's Report to Congress on the Status of Significant Unresolved Issues with the Department of Energy's Design and Construction Projects (dated December 24, 2012); to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-8770. A communication from the Attorney, Legal Division, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Home Mortgage Disclosure (Regulation C): Adjustment to Asset-Size Exemption Threshold" (Docket No. CFPB-2012-0049) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 31, 2012; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-8771. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Suspension of Community Eligibility" ((44 CFR Part 64) (Docket No. FEMA-2012-0003)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 31, 2012; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-8772. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch,

Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Qualified Plug-in Electric Drive Motor Vehicle Credit; Update of Notice 2009-89" (Notice 2012-54) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 31, 2012; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-8773. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "National Coverage Determinations for Fiscal Year 2011"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-8774. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department of Health and Human Services' report to Congress on activities of the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-8775. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Australia Group; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-8776. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, certification of proposed issuance of an export license pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (Transmittal No. DDTC 12-035); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-8777. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, certification of proposed issuance of an export license pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (Transmittal No. DDTC 12-171); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-8778. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, certification of proposed issuance of an export license pursuant to sections 36(c) and 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act (Transmittal No. DDTC 12-064); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-8779. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for the Employment and Training Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Removal of Job Training Partnership Act Implementing Regulations" (RIN1205-AB68) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 31, 2012; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-8780. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, an annual report on National HIV Testing Goals; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-8781. A communication from the Chairman, Merit Systems Protection Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2012; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

#### SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Ms. LANDRIEU (for herself, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. WARNER, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. LAUTENBERG, and Mr. MENENDEZ):

S. Res. 628. A resolution expressing the deep disappointment of the Senate in the enactment by the Russian Government of a law

ending inter-country adoptions of Russian children by United States citizens and urging the Russia Government to reconsider the law and prioritize the processing of inter-country adoptions involving parentless Russian children who were already matched with United States families before the enactment of the law; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. REID (for himself and Mr. PRYOR):

S. Res. 629. A resolution to authorize the production of records by the Committee on Armed Services; considered and agreed to.

#### SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 628—EX-PRESSING THE DEEP DISAPPOINTMENT OF THE SENATE IN THE ENACTMENT BY THE RUSSIAN GOVERNMENT OF A LAW ENDING INTER-COUNTRY ADOPTIONS OF RUSSIAN CHILDREN BY UNITED STATES CITIZENS AND URGING THE RUSSIA GOVERNMENT TO RECONSIDER THE LAW AND PRIORITIZE THE PROCESSING OF INTER-COUNTRY ADOPTIONS INVOLVING PARENTLESS RUSSIAN CHILDREN WHO WERE ALREADY MATCHED WITH UNITED STATES FAMILIES BEFORE THE ENACTMENT OF THE LAW

Ms. LANDRIEU (for herself, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. WARNER, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. LAUTENBERG, and Mr. MENENDEZ) submitted the following resolution; which was submitted and read:

S. RES. 628

Whereas United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) estimates that there are 740,000 children in Russia living without parental care;

Whereas the Ministry of Science and Education of Russia estimates that 110,000 children live in state institutions in Russia;

Whereas the number of adoptions by Russian families is modest, with only 7,400 domestic adoptions in 2011 compared with 3,400 adoptions of Russian children by families abroad;

Whereas on December 28, 2012, Russian Federation President Vladimir Putin signed into law legislation entitled "On Measures Concerning the Implementation of Government Policy on Orphaned Children and those without Parental Care", which includes language that permanently bans adoptions of Russian children by United States citizens;

Whereas a spokesman for President Putin, Dmitry Peskov, announced that the law is to take effect on January 1, 2013, thereby abrogating the bilateral agreement between Russia and the United States that entered into force on November 1, 2012, and requires both countries to provide one year notice of intent to terminate the agreement;

Whereas 46, and possibly more, inter-country adoptions of Russian children by United States families have already received a final adoption decree from the Russia judicial system, and hundreds of other United States families are in the process of adopting Russian children;

Whereas United Nations Children's Fund released a statement urging the Russia Government to ensure that "the current plight

of the many Russian children in institutions receives priority attention" and that the Russia Government consider alternatives to institutionalization including "domestic adoption and inter-country adoption";

Whereas the United Nations, the Hague Conference on Private International Law, and other international organizations have recognized a child's right to a family as a basic human right worthy of protection;

Whereas the Christian Alliance for Orphans reports that United States families have opened their homes to more than 179,000 orphans from overseas in the last 20 years;

Whereas after China and Ethiopia, Russia is the third most popular country for United States citizens who adopt internationally;

Whereas adoption, both domestic and international, is an important child protection tool and an integral part of child welfare best practices around the world, along with prevention of abandonment and family reunification; and

Whereas more than 60,000 Russia-born children have found safe, permanent, and loving homes with United States families over the last two decades: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) affirms that all children deserve a permanent, protective family;

(2) values the long tradition of the United States and Russia Governments working together to find permanent homes for unparented children;

(3) disapproves of the Russia law ending inter-country adoptions of Russian children by United States citizens because it primarily harms vulnerable and voiceless children; and

(4) strongly urges the Russia Government to reconsider the law on humanitarian grounds, in consideration of the well-being of parentless Russian children awaiting a loving and permanent family, and prioritize the processing of inter-country adoptions of Russian children by United States citizens that were initiated before the enactment of the law.

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to join my colleague, Senator LANDRIEU from Louisiana, to talk about Russian adoptions and the decision by the Russian Duma and the President, President Putin, to sign a law that includes a provision that bans adoption of Russian children by American families. This ban is going into effect tomorrow—tomorrow. This is a ban which would go into effect tomorrow with four dozen American families in the process of bringing a child home from Russia.

My wife Abby and I adopted our son Charlie from Russia a number of years ago now. After visits to Russia and as we were leaving the courthouse the day the court procedures were accomplished, we were in the car with people who had helped us with that adoption who represented an organization here in the United States—in this case, the Gladney organization in Texas—and they got a call that four of their fellow organizations had just been decertified in Russia. They were decertified for some technical reason with their papers. All of the adoptions they had done were reviewed, and at least one error was found in one paper somewhere. Over the course of the next 12 months, as every single agency came up for review—and this was about 6 years ago now—every one of them had

a problem that wound up with their being disqualified.

At the end of that year, there wasn't a single American organization that could be helpful to an American family with a Russian adoption because that was the policy the government decided at that time. They were going to somehow penalize American families who wanted to adopt Russian kids in ways that made that virtually impossible.

At that time, there were families who had met a child, who had bonded with that child, who had taken pictures home, who had talked to doctors in Russia and the United States, and who had done everything a family needed to do, and who had even gotten ready to go to court. I think at that point, if you had gone to court, you probably took your child home with you, but that is not the case right now. But they all were caught in a situation where in some cases it was 2 or 3 more years before that adoption was allowed to be completed, if it was ever allowed to be completed.

Now the Russian Government has decided once again to use Russian kids in orphanages as political pawns to help create some international dispute with the United States. This is not behavior that is worthy of the credit that, frankly, we just gave the Russians whenever we entered into a trade agreement that said: We want to accept you further into the relationships we have.

By the way, I have talked to parents in the last few days who have adopted children from Russia. These are parents who, like every one of us in this room right now on the floor of the Senate, grew up at a time when the Soviet Union was seen as a great adversary. But suddenly the bonding that occurred between our two countries because of this opportunity for Russian kids to become American kids made a big difference in the way Americans looked at Russians and the way Russians looked at Americans. But this is a difference that somehow the Russian Government wants to do away with as they take offense because we—appropriately, I think—put in the Russian trade agreement penalties for people who were involved in the imprisonment and death of Russian attorney Sergei Magnitsky in 2009. We were pretty specific about the narrow group to which this applied. And they are very specific about the 110,000 kids in orphanages in Russia today who cannot be adopted by American families because they have decided to use these kids as a political tool. It is the wrong thing to do.

Russia and the United States have had a tradition now that goes back to the end of the Cold War of working together to find permanent homes for children without parents in our country. As recently as November 1 of last year, we signed a bilateral agreement to strengthen the procedural safeguards for this process so that families who got involved wouldn't get way