CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—SENATE
November 19, 1999

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment by Senator Boxer be agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 2785) was agreed to.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, as amended, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements related to the bill be printed in the Record.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 1451), as amended, was read the third time and passed.

Mr. REID addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. On behalf of Senator Boxer, I send a Senate resolution to the desk and ask for its immediate consideration.

Ms. COLLINS. On behalf of the Republican leader, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

S. Res. 237 will lie over under the rule.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, today I am submitting a resolution on the Convention to Eliminate All Forms of Discrimination Against Women.

For those unfamiliar with this issue, the Treaty, known by its acronym CEDAW, is the most comprehensive and detailed international treaty to date that addresses the rights of women.

The United States was an active participant in drafting this treaty. It was approved by the General Assembly in 1979. President Carter signed the treaty on behalf of the United States.

To date, 165 nations have ratified or acceded to the treaty. The United States joins the likes of Afghanistan, North Korea and Iran as the few nations who have decided not to become state parties to this treaty.

The Convention requires that nations take measures to eliminate discrimination against women. Discrimination is defined as “any distinction, exclusion or restriction made on the basis of sex which has the effect of impairing or nullifying the recognition, enjoyment, or exercise by women, irrespective of their marital status.”

The treaty addresses “human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil, or any other field.”

Let me be clear, this treaty covers the most basic rights for women. For example, Article 5 recognizes the common responsibility of men and women for raising children. Article 6 requires measures to suppress all forms of trafficking in women and exploitation of prostitution of women.

Article 7 and 8 would ensure that women have the right to vote, run for office, and represent their countries in international activities.

Article 10 calls for the elimination of discrimination in the field of education.

Article 11 gives women the right to work and free choice of employment.

Article 12 eliminates discrimination in the delivery of health care services.

This treaty covers other areas of discrimination as well, but as you can tell by the few Articles I have described, this treaty is extremely important to the rights of women throughout the world.

And, ratification of this treaty will strengthen our capability to urge other nations to promote these rights.

In 1994 the Senate Foreign Relations overwhelmingly supported this treaty approving the resolution of ratification by a vote of 13 to 5.

Unfortunately, time ran out in the 103rd Congress before the full Senate had the opportunity to consider the treaty.

Today, I am offering amendment stating that it is the Sense of the Senate that the Foreign Relations Committee should once again hold hearings on CEDAW.

It also states the Senate should take action on the treaty prior to March 8, 2000—International Women’s Day.

The United States needs to show that it is the world leader on promoting human rights and that includes the rights of women throughout the world.

I urge my colleagues to join us in co-sponsoring this resolution.

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION AND ENFORCEMENT ACT

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I now ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of calendar No. 356, H.R. 764.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 764) to reduce the incidence of child abuse and neglect, and for other purposes.

SEC. 101. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Child Abuse Prevention and Enforcement Act”.

SEC. 102. PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.

The Attorney General is authorized to provide grants to States to enable States to improve the reporting of unidentified and missing persons.

SEC. 202. ELIGIBILITY.

(a) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to receive a grant under this title, a State shall submit an application at such time and in such form as the Attorney General may reasonably require.

(b) CONTENTS.—Each such application shall include assurances that the State shall, to the greatest extent possible—

(1) report to the National Crime Information Center and when possible, to law enforcement authorities throughout the State regarding every deceased unidentified person, regardless of age, found in the State’s jurisdiction;

(2) enter a complete profile of such unidentified person in compliance with the guidelines established by the Department of Justice for the

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