May 24, 1999

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—SENATE

and the members of Iowa’s congressional delegation.

We, Brent Siegrist, Speaker of the House and Mary Kramer, President of the Senate; Elizabeth A. Isacsen, Chief Clerk of the House, and J. E. Marshall, Secretary of the Senate, hereby certify that the above and foregoing Resolution was adopted by the House of Representatives and the Senate of the State of Iowa, in regular session, and the Senate, hereby certify that the above and foregoing Resolution was adopted by the House of Congress and to each member of Congress.

POM-132. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Senate of the General Assembly of Commonwealth of Pennsylvania relative to moneys earmarked for abandoned mine land reclamation; to the Committee on Appropriations.

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 33

Whereas, The biggest water pollution problem facing this Commonwealth today is polluted water draining from abandoned coal mines; and

Whereas, Over half the streams that do not meet water quality standards in this Commonwealth are affected by mine drainage; and

Whereas, The Commonwealth has over 220,000 acres of abandoned mine lands, refuse banks and old mine shafts in 45 of Pennsylvania’s 67 counties, more than any other state in the nation; and

Whereas, The Department of Environmental Protection estimates it will cost more than $15 billion to reclaim and restore abandoned mine lands; and

Whereas, Pennsylvania is the fourth largest coal producing state in the nation, and coal operators contribute significantly to the fund by paying a special fee for each ton of coal they mine; and

Whereas, Pennsylvania is not seeking to rely solely on Federal moneys to address its abandoned mine reclamation needs and has undertaken a comprehensive program designed to maximize reclamation opportunities by increasing community involvement, making use of existing resources, not encouraging private and public participation in reclamation activities and reducing the cost of abandoned mine reclamation projects; and

Whereas, The Department of Environmental Protection and 39 county conservation districts through the Western and Eastern Pennsylvania Coalitions for Abandoned Mine Reclamation have worked as partners to improve the effectiveness of mine reclamation programs; and

Whereas, Pennsylvania has been working with the Interstate Mining Compact Commission, the National Association of Abandoned Mine Land Programs and other states to free more of these funds to clean up abandoned mine lands; and

Whereas, Making more funds available to states for abandoned mine reclamation should preserve the interest revenues now being generated for the United Mine Workers Combined Benefit Fund; and

Whereas, The Federal Office of Surface Mining, the United States Environmental Protection Agency and Congress have not agreed to make more funds available to states for abandoned mine reclamation; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Senate of Pennsylvania urge the President of the United States, and Congress make the $1 billion of Federal mon-
ey already earmarked for abandoned mine land reclamation available to states to clean up and make safe our abandoned mine lands; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the United States President, the United States of America, to the Senate, to the Secretary of the Army, to the Defense Department of State, to the Secretary of Labor, to the President of the United States, to the Secretary of the Treasury, to the Attorney General, to the Secretary of the Interior, to the Deputy Secretary of Agriculture, to the Environmental Protection Agency and to the Department of Energy; and

Resolved, That the President of the United States and the Secretary of the Interior be requested to file in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, the counsels for the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of the Interior, both of the Executive branch of the Government to do reclamation projects; and

Resolved, That the provisions for the organization of a constitutional government in Puerto Rico and the political status adopted as of 1952, in no way altered the political relationship with the United States of America; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Island of Puerto Rico continues to be a territory, subject to the plenary powers of the U.S. Congress. Despite this evident colonial status, we are United States citizens and we have the right to enjoy the protection and guarantees that are provided by our Constitution. Because of this, U.S. citizens residing in the island of Puerto Rico are covered and protected by the same basic rights as the citizens of any of the fifty (50) states of the American Nation. Upon examining the history of military activity in Vieques, we have to conclude that these have dramatically affected the lives of its people. The constant bombing and other military practices using live ammunition have affected the physical and emotional health of the residents of Vieques.

In the light of these considerations, the Legislature of Puerto Rico believes that it is imperative that the United States Navy cease live ammunition in its firing and bombing military practices. Once again, we reaffirm the need for the residents of Vieques to live in an environment of tranquility and to enjoy the happiness that all Americans aspire; be it

Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of Puerto Rico:

Section 1.—To request that the President, the Congress and the Navy of the United States of America, on behalf and in representation of the People of Puerto Rico, immediately respond to the plea of our people to cease all live ammunition in firing and bombing military practices in the island municipality of Vieques and its surrounding waters.

Section 2.—To request that the President, the Congress, and the Navy of the United States of America, once the firing and bombing military practices mentioned in Section 1 ceased, deactivate and remove all undetonated explosive artifacts used during its firing and bombing military practices which might reasonably constitute a risk to the inhabitants of Vieques.

Section 3.—This Concurrent Resolution shall be remitted to the Honorable William Jefferson Clinton, President of the United States of America, the Congress of the United States of America, the Vice President of the United States of America, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Secretary of the Department of Defense, and the Secretary of the Navy of the United States of America.

Section 4.—This Concurrent Resolution shall take effect immediately after its approval.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second time by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. GRAMS:

S. 1162. A bill to guarantee the right of individuals to receive full social security benefits under title II of the Social Security Act in full with an accurate annual cost-of-living adjustment; to the Senate.

S. 1103. A bill to reform Social Security by creating personalized retirement accounts,
and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

S. 1104. A bill to amend the Social Security Act to provide simplified and accurate information on the social security trust funds, and personal earnings and benefit estimates to eligible individuals; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BAUCCUS (for himself, Mr. LATHENBERG, Mrs. LINCOLN, and Mr. DASCHLE): S. 1105. A bill to assist local governments and States in assessing and remediating brownfield sites, increase fairness and reduce litigation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. TORRICELLI (for himself and Ms. SNOWE):

S. 1106. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act and Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to require that group and individual health insurance coverage and group health plans provide coverage for qualified individuals for bone mass measurements (bone density testing) to prevent fractures associated with osteoporosis; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

S. 1107. A bill to reform the conduct of Federal elections; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. COCHRAN (for himself, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. COVERDELL, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. CLELAND, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. ROHR, and Mr. HUTTENBERG):

S. 1108. A bill to amend the Federal Crop Insurance Act to improve crop insurance coverage and administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. MCCONNELL (for himself, Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire, Mr. KOHL, Mr. FEIST, Mr. GHORG, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. WARNER, Mr. CLELAND, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. AKAKA, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. ENZI, Mr. PUDVY, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. LUGAR, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. COCHRAN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. MACK, Mr. TORRICELLI, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. THOMAS, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. HELMS, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. SANTORUM, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. MONTZIAN, Mr. KERRY, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. REID, Mr. LEVIN, and Mr. LIEBERMAN):

S. 1109. A bill to conserve global bear populations by prohibiting the importation, exportation, and interstate trade of bear viscera and items, products, or substances containing, or labeled or advertised as containing, bear viscera, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. LOTT:

S. 1110. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish the National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Engineering; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BOND:

S. 1111. A bill to provide continuing authorization for a National Conference on Small Business, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Mrs. BOXER (for herself and Mr. LATHENBERG):

S. 1112. A bill to protect children and other vulnerable subpopulations from exposure to environmental pollutants, to protect children from exposure to pesticides in schools, and to provide parents with information concerning toxic chemicals that pose risks to children, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. DOMENICI (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. HATCH, Mrs. HITCHISON, Mr. DeWINE, Mr. CHAFEE, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. SANTORUM, and Mr. WARNER): S. Res. 105. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate relating to consideration of Slobodan Milosevic as a war criminal; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. SANFORD (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mr. SPECTER):

S. Res. 106. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the need to re-examine the use of English plus other languages; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire: S. Res. 107. A resolution to establish a Select Committee on Chinese Espionage; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Ms. LANDRIEU (for herself and Mr. SPECTER):

S. Con. Res. 33. A concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress regarding the need for vigorous prosecution of war crimes, genocide, and crimes against humanity in the former Republic of Yugoslavia; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. GRAMS:

S. 1102. A bill to guarantee the right of individuals to receive full social security benefits under title II of the Social Security Act in full with an accurate annual cost-of-living adjustment; to the Committee on Finance.

SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS GUARANTEE ACT OF 1999

S. 1103. A bill to reform Social Security by creating personalized retirement accounts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

PERSONAL SECURITY AND WEALTH IN RETIREMENT ACT OF 1999

S. 1104. A bill to amend the Social Security Act to provide simplified and accurate information on the Social Security trust funds, and personal earnings and benefit estimates to eligible individuals; to the Committee on Finance.

SOCIAL SECURITY INFORMATION ACT OF 1999

S. 1105. A bill to amend the Social Security Act to provide simplified and accurate information on the Social Security trust funds, and personal earnings and benefit estimates to eligible individuals; to the Committee on Finance.

SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS GUARANTEE ACT OF 1999

S. 1106. A bill to guarantee the right of individuals to receive full social security benefits under title II of the Social Security Act in full with an accurate annual cost-of-living adjustment; to the Committee on Finance.

SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS GUARANTEE ACT OF 1999

S. 1107. A bill to reform the conduct of Federal elections; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. COCHRAN (for himself, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. COVERDELL, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. CLELAND, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. ROHR, and Mr. HUTTENBERG):

S. 1108. A bill to amend the Federal Crop Insurance Act to improve crop insurance coverage and administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. MCCONNELL (for himself, Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire, Mr. KOHL, Mr. FEIST, Mr. GHORG, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. WARNER, Mr. CLELAND, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. AKAKA, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. ENZI, Mr. PUDVY, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. LUGAR, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. COCHRAN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. MACK, Mr. TORRICELLI, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. THOMAS, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. HELMS, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. SANTORUM, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. MONTZIAN, Mr. KERRY, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. REID, Mr. LEVIN, and Mr. LIEBERMAN):

S. 1109. A bill to conserve global bear populations by prohibiting the importation, exportation, and interstate trade of bear viscera and items, products, or substances containing, or labeled or advertised as containing, bear viscera, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. LOTT:

S. 1110. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish the National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Engineering; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BOND:

S. 1111. A bill to provide continuing authorization for a National Conference on Small Business, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Mrs. BOXER (for herself and Mr. LATHENBERG):

S. 1112. A bill to protect children and other vulnerable subpopulations from exposure to environmental pollutants, to protect children from exposure to pesticides in schools, and to provide parents with information concerning toxic chemicals that pose risks to children, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

We all expected that we could work in a bipartisan manner during this Congress to be able to complete the immense task of saving and strengthening Social Security for the American people.

Unfortunately, President Clinton has failed to take leadership on this issue and has failed to present an honest plan to this Congress to address Social Security’s rapid approaching crisis. There is widespread reluctance to move forward on reform due to political considerations. Yet, if we keep delaying essential reform until after the “next election”—it is always after the next election—we will never be able to complete our goal of ensuring retirement security for future generations of Americans.

Now, on the positive side, the debate has surely raised the public’s awareness of their own retirement security shortcomings. It has brought attention to the Social Security crisis and has led to a variety of solutions to fix the system.

I believe this is a healthy debate, one that we must continue to encourage. I am sure that when our elected officials must the political will to make some of those hard choices we face, the Nation will be ready to support those choices.

Regardless of when we actually consider Social Security reform, we must continue the job of educating Americans about the importance of savings and retirement planning. We must continue to debate the role of future Social Security benefits in our retirement security decisions.

That is why I am here. I rise today to introduce three pieces of legislation as first steps to save Social Security. To outline the bills, my first bill, very simply, would grant every current and future Social Security beneficiary a legal right to those Social Security benefits.

The second is a comprehensive plan to move Social Security from the current pay-as-you-go system to one that is a fully funded, personalized retirement system, to ensure a safe, sound, secure retirement program that maximizes benefits for the retiree.

The third bill would provide real information about the costs and the benefits under the current Social Security system.

Mr. President, each working American devotes his or her entire life to a job, or series of jobs, and pays hundreds of thousands of dollars in Social Security taxes into the retirement system. In fact, Social Security taxes are the largest tax that many families will ever pay, accounting for one-eighth of the total lifetime income that will go into Social Security.

Many people, including myself, believe that Social Security benefits are our “earned right.” We think that because we have paid Social Security taxes, we are legally entitled to receive Social Security benefits. But this “earned right” is nothing but an illusion—an illusion created by politicians