

positive resolution of their grief. It is important to families who have suffered such a loss to know that they are not alone. To commemorate the lives of these children with a special day would pay them an honor and would help to bring comfort to the hearts of their bereaved families.

**SENATE RESOLUTION—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE WITH RESPECT TO UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION**

Mr. SMITH of Oregon (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mr. BROWNBACK) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 119

Whereas in an Emergency Special Session, the United Nations General Assembly voted on February 9, 1999, to pass Resolution ES-10/6, "Illegal Israeli Actions In Occupied East Jerusalem And The Rest Of The Occupied Palestinian Territory," to convene for the first time in 50 years the parties of the Fourth Geneva Convention for the Protection of Civilians in Time of War;

Whereas such resolution unfairly places full blame for the deterioration of the Middle East Peace Process on Israel and dangerously politicizes the Geneva Convention, which was established to deal with critical humanitarian crises; and

Whereas such vote is intended to prejudge direct negotiations, put additional and undue pressure on Israel to influence the results of those negotiations, and single out Israel for unprecedented enforcement proceedings which have never been invoked against governments with records of massive violations of the Geneva Convention; Now therefore be it

*Resolved by the Senate, that the Senate—*

(1) commends the Department of State for the vote of the United States against United Nations General Assembly Resolution ES-10/6 affirming that the text of such resolution politicizes the Fourth Geneva Convention which was primarily humanitarian in nature;

(2) urges the Department of State to continue its efforts against convening the conference; and

(3) urges the Swiss government, as the depository of the Geneva Convention, not to convene a meeting of the Fourth Geneva Convention.

● Mr. SMITH of Oregon, Mr. President, I rise today to submit a resolution regarding a deplorable vote by the General Assembly of the United Nations in February 1999. At that time a resolution was passed recommending a convening of the Fourth Geneva Convention. This Convention protects civilians living in territory occupied by a hostile force.

In February, the Palestine Liberation Organization supported by the Arab Group and the nonaligned Movement successfully and wrongly argued that the Convention should meet to adopt measures that would stop Israel from building in what they termed the "Occupied Palestinian Territory including Jerusalem."

Only Israel and, I am proud to say, the United States voted against this United Nations Resolution, which carried by a vote of 115 to 2 with five abstentions. Unfortunately, with such a lopsided vote, we now face a situation in which the Swiss Government, as depository of the Geneva Convention, has been asked to convene this conference on July 15, 1999.

This resolution, sponsored by Senators SCHUMER, BROWNBACK and I, commends our Department of State for its strong opposition to the United Nations action and, in addition, asks the Swiss Government to refrain from holding this politicized convention. We intend to send a clear signal to the United Nations General Assembly about the inappropriateness of this resolution and urge our government to continue to work for the cancellation of the scheduled conference.●

**SENATE RESOLUTION—REQUESTING THAT THE PRESIDENT RAISE THE ISSUE OF AGRICULTURAL BIOTECHNOLOGY AT THE JUNE G-8 SUMMIT MEETING**

Mr. ASHCROFT (for himself, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HELMS, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. BOND, and Mr. FITZGERALD) submitted the following; which was considered and agreed to.

S. RES. 120

Whereas biotechnology is an increasingly important tool in helping to meet multiple agricultural challenges of the 21st century;

Whereas genetically modified crops are helping to control weeds, insects, and plant diseases to increase crop yields and farm productivity, and to enhance the quality, value, and suitability of crops for food, fiber, and other uses;

Whereas agricultural biotechnology promises environmental benefits by reducing, or perhaps eliminating, the need for chemical pesticides, by improving the efficient utilization of fertilizer, thereby protecting water quality, and by conserving topsoil by reducing the need for tillage;

Whereas in recent years farmers have rapidly adopted agricultural biotechnology, with worldwide acreage of genetically modified crops growing from 4,300,000 acres in 1996, to 69,500,000 acres in 1998, which is more than a 16-fold increase;

Whereas American farmers planted biotech crops on about 38 percent of the soybean acreage, 25 percent of the corn acreage, and 45 percent of the cotton acreage, and within a few years over half of the agricultural crops grown in this country may be genetically modified;

Whereas increased agricultural productivity attained through greater use of biotechnology, in both developed and developing countries, holds a great deal of potential for meeting the nutritional needs of the world's population, of which at least 800,000,000 currently suffer from hunger or malnutrition;

Whereas despite the widespread adoption and extensive global benefits of biotechnology, marked differences among countries in their regulatory approaches are limiting substantially the use of, and trade in, agricultural biotechnology products;

Whereas an open international trading system for products derived from plant and animal agricultural biotechnology would make a broad array of improved products more affordable, including agricultural and food products, pharmaceuticals, and consumer products such as apparel, paper, cosmetics, soaps, and detergents;

Whereas because of the importance of international trade to the strength of the farm economy and the entire food and agriculture sector, any unwarranted restrictions on trade in biotechnology products could seriously disrupt the farm economy and unjustifiably force farmers to choose between using agricultural biotechnology and exporting their production; and

Whereas the threat to agricultural production and trade from restrictions on products derived from modern biotechnology has become serious enough to warrant the attention of world leaders: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) as the world trading system moves toward a reduction of tariff and nontariff barriers, all countries should work to ensure that scientifically unfounded new barriers are not erected;

(2) the President should raise at the June 1999, G-8 Summit the important issues surrounding the use of, and trade in, agricultural biotechnology; and

(3) as world leaders prepare for a new round of negotiations on agriculture in the World Trade Organization, the G-8 Summit is an appropriate forum to seek a consensus with the major trading partners of the United States regarding—

(A) recognition of the global benefits of agricultural biotechnology, especially in meeting the nutritional needs of millions of people in developing countries;

(B) increasing consumer knowledge and understanding of agricultural biotechnology and its benefits; and

(C) the adoption of rational, scientifically-based systems for the regulation of biotechnology products and for eliminating unjustified barriers to the use of biotechnology products in international trade.

**SENATE RESOLUTION—AUTHORIZING TESTIMONY AND LEGAL REPRESENTATION**

Mr. LOTT (for himself and Mr. DASCHLE) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 121

Whereas, in the case of *C. William Kaiser v. Department of Veterans Affairs*, Docket No. BN-0351-99-0110-I-1, pending before the Merit Systems Protection Board, testimony has been requested from Richard Lougee, and employee of Senator Judd Gregg;

Whereas, pursuant to sections 703(a) and 704(a)(2) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, 2 U.S.C. §§288b(a) and 288c(a)(2), the Senate may direct its counsel to represent employees of the Senate with respect to any subpoena, order, or request for testimony relating to their official responsibilities;

Whereas, by the privileges of the Senate of the United States and Rule XI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, no evidence under the control or in the possession of the Senate may, by the judicial process, be taken from such control or possession but by permission of the Senate;

Whereas, when it appears that evidence under the control or in the possession of the

Senate may promote the administration of justice, the Senate will take such action as will promote the ends of justice consistently with the privileges of the Senate: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That Richard Lougee is authorized to testify in the case of *C. William Kaiser v. Department of Veterans Affairs*, except concerning matters for which a privilege should be asserted.

SEC. 2. The Senate Legal Counsel is authorized to represent Richard Lougee in connection with the testimony authorized in section one of this resolution.

**SENATE RESOLUTION—AUTHORIZING THE REPORTING OF COMMITTEE FUNDING RESOLUTIONS FOR THE PERIOD OCTOBER 1, 1999, THROUGH FEBRUARY 28, 2001**

Mr. McCONNELL (for himself and Mr. DODD) submitted the following resolutions; which was considered and agreed to:

**S. RES. 122**

*Resolved*, That notwithstanding paragraph 9 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate—

(1) not later than July 15, 1999, each committee shall report 1 resolution authorizing the committee to make expenditures out of the contingent fund of the Senate to defray its expenses, including the compensation of members of its staff, for the period October 1, 1999 through February 28, 2001; and

(2) the Committee on Rules and Administration may report 1 authorization resolution containing more than 1 committee authorization resolution for the period October 1, 1999 through February 28, 2001.

**AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED**

**ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS**

**DOMENICI AMENDMENT NO. 625**

Mr. DOMENICI proposed an amendment to the bill (S. 1186) making appropriations for energy and water development for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000; as follows:

On page 28, line 5, strike \$39,549,000 and insert: "\$28,000,000".

**MACK (AND GRAHAM) AMENDMENT NO. 626**

(Ordered to lie on the table)

Mr. MACK (for himself and Mr. GRAHAM) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill, S. 1186, supra; as follows:

On page 4, between lines 7 and 8, insert the following:

Brevard County, Florida, Shore Protection, \$1,000,000;

Everglades and South Florida Ecosystem Restoration, Florida, \$14,100,000;

St. John's County, Florida, Shore Protection, \$1,000,000.

**KENNEDY AMENDMENT NO. 627**

(Ordered to lie on the table.)

Mr. KENNEDY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill, S. 1186, supra; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the "Work Incentives Improvement Act of 1999".

(b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Findings and purposes.

**TITLE I—EXPANDED AVAILABILITY OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES**

Sec. 101. Expanding State options under the medicaid program for workers with disabilities.

Sec. 102. Continuation of medicare coverage for working individuals with disabilities.

Sec. 103. Grants to develop and establish State infrastructures to support working individuals with disabilities.

Sec. 104. Demonstration of coverage under the medicaid program of workers with potentially severe disabilities.

Sec. 105. Election by disabled beneficiaries to suspend medigap insurance when covered under a group health plan.

**TITLE II—TICKET TO WORK AND SELF-SUFFICIENCY AND RELATED PROVISIONS**

**Subtitle A—Ticket to Work and Self-Sufficiency**

Sec. 201. Establishment of the Ticket to Work and Self-Sufficiency Program.

**Subtitle B—Elimination of Work Disincentives**

Sec. 211. Work activity standard as a basis for review of an individual's disabled status.

Sec. 212. Expedited reinstatement of disability benefits.

**Subtitle C—Work Incentives Planning, Assistance, and Outreach**

Sec. 221. Work incentives outreach program.

Sec. 222. State grants for work incentives assistance to disabled beneficiaries.

**TITLE III—DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS AND STUDIES**

Sec. 301. Permanent extension of disability insurance program demonstration project authority.

Sec. 302. Demonstration projects providing for reductions in disability insurance benefits based on earnings.

Sec. 303. Studies and reports.

**TITLE IV—MISCELLANEOUS AND TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS**

Sec. 401. Technical amendments relating to drug addicts and alcoholics.

Sec. 402. Treatment of prisoners.

Sec. 403. Revocation by members of the clergy of exemption from Social Security coverage.

Sec. 404. Additional technical amendment relating to cooperative research or demonstration projects under titles II and XVI.

Sec. 405. Authorization for State to permit annual wage reports.

**TITLE V—REVENUE**

Sec. 501. Modification to foreign tax credit carryback and carryover periods.

Sec. 502. Limitation on use of non-accrual experience method of accounting.

Sec. 503. Extension of Internal Revenue Service user fees.

**SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.**

(a) **FINDINGS.**—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Health care is important to all Americans.

(2) Health care is particularly important to individuals with disabilities and special health care needs who often cannot afford the insurance available to them through the private market, are uninsurable by the plans available in the private sector, and are at great risk of incurring very high and economically devastating health care costs.

(3) Americans with significant disabilities often are unable to obtain health care insurance that provides coverage of the services and supports that enable them to live independently and enter or rejoin the workforce. Personal assistance services (such as attendant services, personal assistance with transportation to and from work, reader services, job coaches, and related assistance) remove many of the barriers between significant disability and work. Coverage for such services, as well as for prescription drugs, durable medical equipment, and basic health care are powerful and proven tools for individuals with significant disabilities to obtain and retain employment.

(4) For individuals with disabilities, the fear of losing health care and related services is one of the greatest barriers keeping the individuals from maximizing their employment, earning potential, and independence.

(5) Individuals with disabilities who are beneficiaries under title II or XVI of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 401 et seq., 1381 et seq.) risk losing medicare or medicaid coverage that is linked to their cash benefits, a risk that is an equal, or greater, work disincentive than the loss of cash benefits associated with working.

(6) Currently, less than 1/2 of 1 percent of social security disability insurance and supplemental security income beneficiaries cease to receive benefits as a result of employment.

(7) Beneficiaries have cited the lack of adequate employment training and placement services as an additional barrier to employment.

(8) If an additional 1/2 of 1 percent of the current social security disability insurance (DI) and supplemental security income (SSI) recipients were to cease receiving benefits as a result of employment, the savings to the Social Security Trust Funds in cash assistance would total \$3,500,000,000 over the worklife of the individuals.

(b) **PURPOSES.**—The purposes of this Act are as follows:

(1) To provide health care and employment preparation and placement services to individuals with disabilities that will enable those individuals to reduce their dependency on cash benefit programs.

(2) To encourage States to adopt the option of allowing individuals with disabilities to purchase medicaid coverage that is necessary to enable such individuals to maintain employment.

(3) To provide individuals with disabilities the option of maintaining medicare coverage while working.

(4) To establish a return to work ticket program that will allow individuals with disabilities to seek the services necessary to obtain and retain employment and reduce their dependency on cash benefit programs.