

to enact H.R. 271 of 1999, the Justice for Holocaust Survivors Act, which would permit U.S. citizens who are victims of the Holocaust, whether or not they were U.S. citizens during World War II, to sue the Federal Republic of Germany for compensation in U.S. courts of law.

2. A copy of this resolution, signed by the Speaker of the General Assembly and attested by the Clerk thereof, shall be transmitted to the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and every member of Congress elected from this State.

POM-606. A joint resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Virginia relative to voluntary school prayer; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 71

Whereas, the framers of the Constitution, recognizing free exercise of religion as an unalienable right, secured its protection with the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States; and

Whereas, statements of belief in a Supreme Power and the virtue of seeking strength and protection from that Power are prevalent throughout our national history; and

Whereas, today there are numerous signs of harmonious church/state coexistence, including organized prayer at every Congressional session, the use of the Bible while administering the oath of office, and the imprinting of "In God we trust" on the national currency; and

Whereas, prayer in public schools existed for nearly 200 years before the United States Supreme Court ruled in *Engel v. Vitale* that a government-composed nondenominational "Regents" prayer recited by students was unconstitutional as a violation of the establishment of the religion clause of the First Amendment; and

Whereas, this decision has severely constrained the exercise of religious freedom guaranteed by the First Amendment; and

Whereas, in the aftermath of the recent tragic events at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado and Westside Middle School in Jonesboro, Arkansas, many believe that providing for school prayer would help to prevent these incomprehensible acts of violence from recurring at other schools; and

Whereas, several resolutions have been introduced during the 106th Congress, proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to allow for individual or group prayer in public schools and other public institutions; and

Whereas, the proposed amendments would not prescribe the content of the prayer, endorse one religion over another, or require any person to participate in prayer; and

Whereas, voluntary prayer is a beneficial practice that provides the opportunity for free expression of religion and rebuilding a moral emphasis needed in a country troubled by outbreaks of unprecedented school violence; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of delegates, the Senate concurring, That the Congress of the United States be urged to propose an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to allow for voluntary school prayer; and, be it

Resolved further, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates transmit copies of this resolution to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President of the United States Senate, and the members of the Virginia Congressional Delegation in order that they may be apprised of the sense of the General Assembly of Virginia in this matter.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. McCAIN, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, without amendment:

S. 1912: A bill to facilitate the growth of electronic commerce and enable the electronic commerce market to continue its current growth rate and realize its full potential, to signal strong support of the electronic commerce market by promoting its use within Federal government agencies and small and medium-sized businesses, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 106-349).

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. WELLSTONE:

S. 2888. A bill to guarantee for all Americans quality, affordable, and comprehensive health insurance coverage; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. DURBIN:

S. 2889. A bill to amend the Federal Cigarette Labeling and Advertising Act and the Comprehensive Smokeless Tobacco Health Education Act of 1986 to require warning labels for tobacco products; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. SNOWE (for herself and Mr. L. CHAFEE):

S. 2890. A bill to provide States with funds to support State, regional, and local school construction; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. REID:

S. 2891. A bill to establish a national policy of basic consumer fair treatment for airline passengers; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself and Mr. MOYNIHAN):

S. 2892. A bill to designate the Federal building located at 158-15 Liberty Avenue in Jamaica, Queens, New York, as the "Floyd H. Flake Federal Building"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself and Mr. MOYNIHAN):

S. 2893. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 757 Warren Road in Ithaca, New York, as the "Matthew F. McHugh Post Office"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. LUGAR (for himself, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. BURNS, and Mr. SANTORUM):

S. 2894. A bill to provide tax and regulatory relief for farmers and to improve the competitiveness of American agricultural commodities and products in global markets; to the Committee on Finance.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. WELLSTONE:

S. 2888. A bill to guarantee for all Americans quality, affordable, and comprehensive health insurance coverage; to the Committee on Finance.

HEALTH SECURITY FOR ALL AMERICANS ACT

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, today I want to talk about an issue that is of the utmost importance: Health Security.

First I want to talk about the problem: Health insecurity. Then I want to talk about the solution: The Health Security for All Americans Act. And finally I want people around the country to hear what they can do to wake up Congress and make Health Security for All Americans a reality.

This year has been a hard one for me. Two months ago, we buried one of my dear friends, Mike Epstein. Mike's sons came to be with him for the last few weeks of his struggle with cancer. Devoted sons, they spoke glowingly about their father at a memorial service for him in the Capitol. As any of you who has sat with a dying parent knows, emotions overflow, coping is difficult, and the grief is profound. The last thing a son or daughter, a parent or spouse, needs is to have the additional burden of wondering where will the next dollar for ever mounting health care bills come from; to worry about going into debt; to worry about going bankrupt because of a loved ones health care needs. Mike's sons did not have to worry about that because Mike had health care coverage as good as Congress gets.

The wife of my health policy advisor, John Gilman, battled cancer for two and a half years before succumbing one month ago. She had required innumerable sessions of radiation therapy, plus chemotherapy and surgery. John had his hands full with work plus taking care of his wife, both physically and emotionally. It is draining, but can you imagine how much worse it would be if John and his wife, June, had no health insurance. John didn't have to worry about how to pay for the next medical bill because John and his wife had health care coverage as good as Congress gets.

People do get ill. As hard as we try and as much as we pray, we can't always cure them. But we certainly can make sure they all have access to high quality, affordable care with dignity. There is no reason why all Americans can't have health insurance as good as everyone of us who serves in the United States Senate.

The idea of procuring health security for all Americans is not a new one. Franklin Delano Roosevelt recognized the need for universal health care in the 1930s when we were in the depths of the depression; Harry Truman fought for it in the 1940s when the troops came home from World War II; John Kennedy envisioned it in the midst of the cold war; Richard Nixon had it high on his agenda before events overtook his Presidency.

What these 20th century Presidents all understood is that there is a basic human drive for good health, and the good health of the American people is what drives this country and its economy. By 1992 it was far past due for us to recognize that all Americans should have a basic right to quality affordable