September 21, 2001

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—SENATE

issuance or denial of visas or immigration benefits, and so that its confidentiality will be maintained to protect the privacy rights of those who are the subject of the information.

These steps are needed now. We must also examine other ideas to improve safety at the Nation’s borders and strengthen our overall ability as much as possible to prevent future terrorist attacks.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this important legislation.

By Ms. SNOWE (for herself and Mr. STEVENS):

S. 1455. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to regulate the training of aliens to operate jet-propelled aircraft, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Ms. SNOWE. Madam President, I am sure I am not alone in finding that one of the more disturbing revelations of the investigation into the September 11 terrorist attack on the World Trade Center and Pentagon is that over half of the hijackers received flight instruction at American facilities. Investigators have named ten separate flying schools across the United States, from California to Oklahoma to Florida, where the hijacking suspects may have engaged in flight training in one form or another. In addition, it is believed that one of these schools was able to gain legal entry into the United States through the assistance of a flight school that provided immigration documentation.

I know that this ironic turn of events, the schools dedicated to the safety of the airline industry were unwittingly utilized to facilitate the worst airline disaster in history, has school administrators and instructors asking themselves, “What if . . .” as they look in the mirror every morning.

We need to take action now to remove the doubts of the instructors as well as restore confidence in student pilots engaged in valid training. That is why I am introducing legislation to require thorough background checks on foreign nationals seeking advanced flight or jet aircraft training in American flight schools.

At present the Federal Aviation Administration mediates course content at these schools and does it well, the U.S. has the best training program in the world and pilot certification from the FAA is considered the industry “gold standard.” That is why a large number of foreign students are attracted to American schools. And we want to continue to encourage foreign participation at our schools, it assures aviation safety world wide.

However, the FAA does not regulate who can participate in pilot training, be it glider plane basics or 737 advanced training. More specifically, the requirement for foreign students is limited to demonstrated English proficiency and proper immigration documentation.

Given the events of September 11, it is imperative that the screening process for pilot trainees be improved. As such, the legislation I am introducing today mandates the completion of security checks before foreign nationals may commence advanced jet training. Specifically, by requiring that the Attorney General carry out background investigations on individuals seeking such training, the legislation ensures a comprehensive review against records held by such agencies as the FBI, INS, and DEA will be carried out prior to starting training on any simulator or jet powered aircraft. Also, given the recent tragedies in New York, Washington DC, and Pennsylvania, all foreign nationals currently in training would be required to stop until a satisfactory background check is completed.

I want to urge my colleagues to join me in taking this small but critical step to prevent a repeat of unintentionally training those who would terrorize our cities and skies and ask for their support in increasing security requirements for flight training.

STATEMENTS ON SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 162—PROVIDING FOR MEMBERS ON THE PART OF THE SENATE OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON PRINTING AND THE JOINT COMMITTEE OF CONGRESS ON THE LIBRARY

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

S. Res. 162

Resolved, That the following named Members be, and they are hereby, elected members of the following joint committees of Congress:

JOINT COMMITTEE ON PRINTING: Mr. Dayton, Mrs. Feinstein, Mr. Inouye, Mr. Cochran, and Mr. Santorum.

JOINT COMMITTEE OF CONGRESS ON THE LIBRARY: Mr. Dodd, Mr. Schumer, Mr. Dayton, Mr. Stevens, and Mr. Cochran.


Ms. LANDRIEU (for herself, Mrs. Murray, Ms. Collins, Ms. Snowe, Mrs. Carnahan, Mrs. Hutchison, Ms. Cantwell, Mrs. Feinstein, Ms. Stabenow, Ms. Mikulski, Mrs. Lincoln, Mrs. Lt. Col. Boxer, Mr. Bayh, Mr. Boxer, and Mrs. Nelson) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

Whereas 1 out of every 55 women will develop ovarian cancer at some point during her life;

Whereas over 70 percent of women with ovarian cancer will not be diagnosed until the cancer has spread beyond the ovaries;

Whereas prompt diagnosis of ovarian cancer is crucial to effective treatment, with the chances of curing the disease before it has spread beyond the ovaries ranging from 43 to 50 percent, as compared to between 20 and 25 percent after the cancer has spread; and

Whereas several easily identifiable factors, particularly a family history of ovarian cancer, can help determine how susceptible a woman is to developing the disease;

Whereas effective early testing is available to women who have a high risk of developing ovarian cancer;

Whereas heightened public awareness can make treatment of ovarian cancer more effective for women who are at-risk; and

Whereas the Senate, as an institution, and Members of Congress, as individuals, are in unique positions to help raise awareness about the need for early diagnosis and treatment for ovarian cancer: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of September 23, through September 29, 2001, as “National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Week”; and

(2) requests that the President issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 69—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR TUBEROUS SCLEROSIS AWARENESS

Mr. WARNER (for himself and Mr. HAGEL) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. Con. Res. 69

Whereas at least two children born each day have a condition affected by genetic disorder:

Whereas nearly one million people worldwide are known to have tuberous sclerosis;

Whereas tuberous sclerosis affects all races and both sexes equally;

Whereas tuberous sclerosis is caused by either an inherited autosomal disorder or by a spontaneous genetic mutation;

Whereas when tuberous sclerosis is genetically transmitted as an autosomal dominant disorder, a child with a parent with the gene will have a 50-percent chance of inheriting the disease;

Whereas two-thirds of the cases of tuberous sclerosis are believed to be a result of spontaneous mutation, although the cause of such mutations is a mystery;

Whereas diagnosis takes an average of 90 days with consultation of at least three specialists;

Whereas tuberous sclerosis frequently goes undiagnosed because of the obscurity of the disease and the riddle form the symptoms may take; and

Whereas the Congress as an institution, and Members of Congress as individuals, are in unique positions to help raise public awareness about the need for increased funding for research, detection, and treatment of tuberous sclerosis and to support the fight against tuberous sclerosis: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of March 26—April 1, 2001, as “Tuberous Sclerosis Awareness Week;” and

(2) requests that the President issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe Tuberous Sclerosis Awareness Week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.