

When Washington declared that “the Government of the United States, which gives to bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance, requires only that they who live under its protection should demean themselves as good citizens,” he made Rhode Island’s history of religious liberty a model for the nation. “To bigotry no sanction.” It is for good reason that these words continue to resonate today, as we confront the challenges of an ever more closely linked, yet endlessly diverse community of nations. We all know too well the destruction that bigotry causes, and this plague is still with us. The fight for tolerance is as necessary now as in the days of President Washington or Roger Williams.

This fight for tolerance is the reason the original letter sent by George Washington remains on permanent display at the B’nai B’rith Klutznick National Jewish Museum in Washington, D.C. This fight for tolerance is also the reason Americans of all religious faiths gather at the Klutznick Museum each February and at Touro Synagogue each August to hear readings of the letter. It is my hope these commemorations inspire us to follow the examples set by Roger Williams and President Washington and continue to fight for religious and personal liberty for all.

SENATE RESOLUTION 25—DESIGNATING THE WEEK BEGINNING MARCH 18, 2001 AS “NATIONAL SAFE PLACE WEEK”

Mr. CRAIG (for himself and Mr. CLELAND) submitting the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

S. RES. 25

Whereas today’s youth are vital to the preservation of our country and will be the future bearers of the bright torch of democracy;

Whereas youth need a safe haven from various negative influences such as child abuse, substance abuse and crime, and they need to have resources readily available to assist them when faced with circumstances that compromise their safety;

Whereas the United States needs increased numbers of community volunteers acting as positive influences on the Nation’s youth;

Whereas the Safe Place program is committed to protecting our Nation’s most valuable asset, our youth, by offering short term “safe places” at neighborhood locations where trained volunteers are available to counsel and advise youth seeking assistance and guidance;

Whereas Safe Place combines the efforts of the private sector and non-profit organizations uniting to reach youth in the early stages of crisis;

Whereas Safe Place provides a direct means to assist programs in meeting performance standards relative to outreach/community relations, as set forth in the Federal Runaway and Homeless Youth Act guidelines;

Whereas the Safe Place placard displayed at businesses within communities stands as a beacon of safety and refuge to at-risk youth;

Whereas over 500 communities in 32 states and more than 9,000 locations have established Safe Place programs;

Whereas over 47,000 young people have gone to Safe Place locations to get help when faced with crisis situations;

Whereas through the efforts of Safe Place coordinators across the country each year more than one-half million students learn that Safe Place is a resource if abusive or neglectful situations exist;

Whereas increased awareness of the program’s existence will encourage communities to establish Safe Places for the Nation’s youth throughout the country: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) proclaims the week of March 18 through March 24, 2001 as “National Safe Place Week” and

(2) requests that the President issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States and interested groups to promote awareness of and volunteer involvement in the Safe Place programs, and to observe the week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 26—STATING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING FUNDING FOR THE LOW-INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Mr. KERRY (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mrs. BOXER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Appropriations.

S. RES. 26

Whereas home energy assistance for working, low-income, and middle-income families with children, the elderly on fixed incomes, individuals with disabilities, and others who need such assistance is a critical part of the social safety net in cold weather areas during the winter, and a source of necessary cooling assistance during the summer;

Whereas the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (referred to in this resolution as “LIHEAP”) provides a highly targeted, cost-effective way to help millions of low-income residents of the United States pay their home energy bills;

Whereas more than ⅔ of the households that are eligible for assistance through LIHEAP have annual incomes of less than \$8,000, and approximately ½ of those households have annual incomes of less than \$6,000;

Whereas regular and emergency funding for LIHEAP for fiscal year 2001 has been exhausted in some States and nearly exhausted in several other States;

Whereas as a result, more than 30,000,000 households around the Nation may be left without energy assistance in areas that may face several more weeks of cold winter weather; and

Whereas without additional funding, members of those households may be forced to make an unacceptable choice between heating their homes or purchasing food, medicine, or other basic necessities: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that the President and Congress should immediately prepare and enact a supplemental appropriations bill to provide \$1,000,000,000 in regular funding for LIHEAP, \$152,000,000 for weatherization assistance grants under part

A of title IV of the Energy Conservation and Production Act (42 U.S.C. 6861 et seq.), and \$37,000,000 for State energy conservation plan grants under part D of title III of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6321 et seq.).

SENATE RESOLUTION 27—TO EXPRESS THE SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING THE 1944 DEPORTATION OF THE CHECHEN PEOPLE TO CENTRAL ASIA, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. HELMS submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

S. RES. 27

Whereas for more than 200 years, the Chechen people have resisted the efforts of the Russian government to drive them from their land and to deny them their own culture;

Whereas beginning on February 23, 1944, nearly 500,000 Chechen civilians from the northern Caucasus were arrested en masse and forced onto trains for deportation to central Asia;

Whereas tens of thousands of Chechens, mainly women, children, and the elderly, died en route to central Asia;

Whereas mass killings and the use of poisons against the Chechen people accompanied the deportation;

Whereas the Chechen deportees were not given food, housing, or medical attention upon their arrival in central Asia;

Whereas the Soviet Union actively attempted to suppress all expressions of Chechen culture, including language, architecture, literature, music, and familial relations during the exile of the Chechen people;

Whereas it is generally accepted that more than one-third of the Chechen population died in transit during the deportation or while living in exile in central Asia;

Whereas the deportation order was not repealed until 1957;

Whereas the Chechens who returned to Chechnya found their homes and land taken over by new residents who violently opposed the Chechen return; and

Whereas neither the Soviet Union, nor its successor, the Russian Federation, has ever accepted full responsibility for the brutalities inflicted upon the Chechen people: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) the United States should commemorate the 57th anniversary of the brutal deportation of the Chechen people from their native land;

(2) the current war in Chechnya should be viewed within the historical context of repeated abuses suffered by the Chechen people at the hands of the Russian state;

(3) the United States Government should make every effort to alleviate the suffering of the Chechen people; and

(4) it is in the interests of the United States, the Russian Federation, Chechnya, and the international community to find an immediate, peaceful, and political solution to the war in Chechnya.

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, next week will mark the tragic anniversary of Stalin’s mass deportation of Chechen civilians from the northern Caucasus to the barren steps of Central Asia. In the early morning hours of