

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will return to legislative session.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 397 AND S. 403

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I understand there are two bills at the desk. I ask for their first reading en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 397) to prohibit civil liability actions from being brought or continued against manufacturers, distributors, dealers, or importers of firearms or ammunition for damages, injunctive or other relief resulting from the misuse of their products by others.

A bill (S. 403) to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit taking minors across State lines in circumvention of laws requiring the involvement of parents in abortion decisions.

Mr. FRIST. I now ask for their second reading and, in order to place the bills on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to my own request, all en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The bills will be read for the second time on the next legislative day.

DESIGNATING FEBRUARY 25, 2005, AS NATIONAL MPS AWARENESS DAY

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 57, which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will state the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 57) designating February 25, 2005, as National MPS Awareness Day.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce a resolution recognizing February 25 as "National MPS Day." This resolution enjoys strong bipartisan support in the Senate. I am also pleased that a similar resolution is being introduced this week in the House of Representatives.

MPS, or Mucopolysaccharidosis, is a devastating disease that affects thousands of families in this country. Most often diagnosed in young children, MPS patients lack certain enzymes to break down complex carbohydrates in their bodies. These complex carbohydrates then are stored throughout the patient's body, causing many of the body's systems to malfunction and, sadly, makes it difficult for these children to live long enough to reach adolescence.

It is a parent's role to make sacrifices for their child; yet, for the par-

ents of a child diagnosed with MPS, the sacrifices are exceptional. I have had the opportunity to meet with a number of parents of MPS children. These parents exhibit amazing hope, love, grace and humor that can often mask the many trials they undergo in caring for their children. My staff and I are constantly impressed at their ability to advance their cause while also selflessly caring for their children.

The current president of the National MPS Society, Sissi Langford, is a South Carolinian. She and her husband have two children with MPS, Joe and Maggie. Sissi has been a passionate advocate for her children and all those who suffer from MPS. She has worked with my office for the past two years and has proved herself time and again to be knowledgeable, compassionate and committed to helping those who have been diagnosed with MPS. She worked with others in the National MPS Society to help include language in the latest reauthorization of the Individual with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) to help address the needs of children who have been diagnosed with degenerative diseases. She has met with the National Institutes of Health and other top health policy makers to ensure that diseases in the same class as MPS are given adequate and necessary research attention. I commend Sissi and others like her, for their tireless work on behalf of MPS.

It is my hope that this resolution will help advance the recognition of MPS, and therefore the attention given in the research realm. I am also hopeful that the Senate will pass this resolution marking February 25 National MPS Day.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 57) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 57

Whereas Mucopolysaccharidosis ("MPS") and Mucopolidosis ("ML") disorders are genetically determined lysosomal storage disorders that result in the body's inability to produce certain enzymes needed to breakdown complex carbohydrates;

Whereas these complex carbohydrates are then stored in virtually every cell in the body and progressively cause damage to these cells, adversely affecting an individual's body, including an individual's heart, respiratory system, bones, internal organs, and central nervous system;

Whereas the cellular damage caused by MPS often results in mental retardation, short stature, corneal damage, joint stiffness, loss of mobility, speech and hearing impairment, heart disease, hyperactivity, chronic respiratory problems, and most importantly, a drastically shortened life span;

Whereas the nature of the disorder is usually not apparent at birth;

Whereas without treatment, life expectancy of an individual afflicted with MPS is usually very early in life;

Whereas recent research developments have resulted in limited treatments for some MPS disorders;

Whereas promising advancements are underway in pursuit of treatments for additional MPS disorders;

Whereas despite newly developed remedies, the blood brain barrier continues to be a significant impediment to effectively treating the brain, thereby preventing the treatment of many of the symptoms of MPS;

Whereas treatments for MPS will be greatly enhanced with continued public funding;

Whereas the quality of life for individuals afflicted with MPS and the treatments available to them will be enhanced through the development of early detection techniques and early intervention;

Whereas treatments and research advancements for MPS are limited by a lack of awareness about MPS disorders;

Whereas the lack of awareness about MPS disorders extends to those within the medical community;

Whereas the damage that is caused by MPS makes it a model for many other degenerative genetic disorders;

Whereas the development of effective therapies and a potential cure for MPS disorders can be accomplished by increased awareness, research, data collection, and information distribution;

Whereas the Senate is an institution that can raise public awareness about MPS; and

Whereas the Senate is also an institution that can assist in encouraging and facilitating increased public and private sector research for early diagnosis and treatments of MPS disorders: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates February 25, 2005, as "National MPS Awareness Day"; and

(2) supports the goals and ideals of "National MPS Awareness Day".

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JOHN HUME

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 54 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will state the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 54) paying tribute to John Hume.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution and preamble be agreed to en bloc, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the measure be printed in the RECORD, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 54) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows: