

Whereas over 2,100,000 children are being homeschooled nationwide;

Whereas the Supreme Court has ruled that parents have a fundamental and constitutional right to direct the upbringing and education of their children, in the cases of *Pierce v. Society of Sisters*, 268 U.S. 510 (1925), *Meyer v. Nebraska*, 262 U.S. 390 (1923), and *Wisconsin v. Yoder*, 406 U.S. 205 (1972);

Whereas on February 28, 2008, the Court of Appeal for the Second Appellate District of California, in Los Angeles, California, issued an opinion in the case of *In re Rachel L.*, 73 Cal. Rptr. 3d 77 (Cal. Ct. App. 2008), that homeschool parents who did not hold a teaching credential could not legally homeschool their children;

Whereas the initial decision by the Court of Appeal in that case would have had an adverse impact on approximately 166,000 children in California who are receiving a quality education at home; and

Whereas on March 25, 2008, the Court of Appeal granted a motion for rehearing in the *In re Rachel L.* case, with respect to the decision that required parents to hold a teaching credential in order to legally homeschool their children; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends the Court of Appeal for the Second Appellate District of California, in Los Angeles, California, for allowing a rehearing in the case of *In re Rachel L.*, 73 Cal. Rptr. 3d 77 (Cal. Ct. App. 2008); and

(2) calls upon the court to uphold the Supreme Court's opinion that parents have a fundamental and constitutional right to direct the upbringing and education of their children.

SENATE RESOLUTION 573—RECOGNIZING CUBA SOLIDARITY DAY AND THE STRUGGLE OF THE CUBAN PEOPLE AS THEY CONTINUE TO FIGHT FOR FREEDOM

Mr. MARTINEZ (for himself, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. ENSIGN, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. COLEMAN, and Mr. LIEBERMAN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 573

Whereas the Cuban regime continues to deny the basic human rights of its citizens;

Whereas the Cuban people are denied freedom of the press, freedom of speech, and freedom to peaceful assembly;

Whereas the Cuban regime refuses to hold free and fair elections in order to elect a democratic government that represents the will of the people;

Whereas Freedom House recently rated Cuba as 1 of the 8 most oppressive regimes in the world;

Whereas the Cuban regime is currently holding more than 220 political prisoners according to Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, and Reporters Without Borders;

Whereas these prisoners are illegally held in prison contrary to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which Cuba has signed and recognizes;

Whereas 55 of the 75 political activists imprisoned in the March 2003 crackdown (known as "Black Spring") including independent journalists and union members, remain in prison;

Whereas the wives of these prisoners, known as the Ladies in White, continue to be

assaulted for simply seeking information regarding the March 2003 arrests, most recently on April 21, 2008, when the Ladies in White were violently dragged from a peaceful sit-in by Cuban officials;

Whereas prisoners face inhuman and unsafe prison conditions, including the denial of medical treatment; and

Whereas on May 21, 2008 communities around the world will celebrate Cuba Solidarity Day, a day for the world to join together in the fight against oppression in Cuba: Now therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) celebrates Cuba Solidarity Day;

(2) recognizes the injustices faced by the people of Cuba under the current regime; and

(3) stands in solidarity with the Cuban people as they continue to work towards democratic change in their homeland.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 83—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL BETTER HEARING AND SPEECH MONTH

Mr. REID (for Mrs. CLINTON (for herself and Mrs. MURRAY)) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. CON. RES. 83

Whereas the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders reports that approximately 42,000,000 people in the United States suffer from a speech, voice, language, or hearing impairment;

Whereas approximately 32,500,000, or 15 percent, of adults in the United States report some degree of hearing loss;

Whereas 1 out of every 3 people in the United States over 60 years of age has a hearing problem;

Whereas 1 in 6, or 15 percent, of people in the baby boom generation, between the ages of 41 and 59, has a hearing problem;

Whereas 1 in 14, or 7 percent, of people in the United States between the ages of 29 and 40 already has hearing loss;

Whereas at least 1,400,000 children in the United States have hearing problems;

Whereas traumatic brain injury is an increasing problem among members of the Armed Forces returning from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan;

Whereas patients with traumatic brain injury may have problems with spoken language, called dysarthria, if the part of the brain that controls speech muscles is damaged, resulting in speech that is often slowed, slurred, and garbled;

Whereas members of the Armed Forces sent to battle zones are more than 50 times more likely to suffer noise-induced hearing loss than members of the Armed Forces who do not deploy;

Whereas, although more than 32,500,000 adults in the United States could benefit from the use of hearing aids, only 1 in 5 people who could benefit from a hearing aid actually wears one;

Whereas, of children between the ages of 6 and 19 years old, approximately 5,200,000, or 12.5 percent, are estimated to have noise-induced hearing loss in one or both ears, often as a result of increased environmental noise;

Whereas hearing loss is the most common congenital disorder in newborns;

Whereas a delay in diagnosing a hearing loss when a child is born can affect the

child's social, emotional, and academic development;

Whereas, during the 2003 school year, more than 1,500,000 children had speech, language, or hearing impairments and received services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.);

Whereas children with language impairments are 4 to 5 times more likely than their peers to experience reading problems;

Whereas 10 percent of children entering the first grade have moderate to severe speech disorders, including stuttering;

Whereas more than 3,000,000 people in the United States of all ages stutter;

Whereas approximately 1,000,000 people in the United States have aphasia, a language disorder inhibiting spoken communication that results from damage caused by a stroke or other traumatic injury to the language centers of the brain; and

Whereas, since 1927, May has been celebrated as National Better Hearing and Speech Month in order to raise awareness regarding speech, voice, language, and hearing impairments and to provide an opportunity for Federal, State, and local governments, members of the private and nonprofit sectors, speech and hearing professionals, and the people of the United States to focus on preventing, mitigating, and curing such impairments: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Better Hearing and Speech Month;

(2) urges increased coordination of community-based, comprehensive care for members of the Armed Forces, veterans, athletes, and accident victims who have experienced hearing and speech deficiencies as a result of traumatic brain injury;

(3) supports the efforts of speech and hearing professionals to improve the speech and hearing development of children;

(4) encourages the people of the United States to have their hearing checked regularly and to avoid environmental noise that can lead to hearing loss; and

(5) commends the 46 States that have implemented routine hearing screenings for every newborn before the newborn leaves the hospital.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 4805. Mr. CORKER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2642, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4806. Mr. CORKER (for himself, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. NELSON of Florida, and Mr. DODD) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2642, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4807. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2642, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4808. Mr. CONRAD submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2642, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4809. Mr. FEINGOLD (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mrs. BOXER, Mr.

HARKIN, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. REID) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2642, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4810. Mrs. DOLE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 2642, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4811. Mr. SPECTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2642, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4812. Ms. LANDRIEU submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 2642, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4813. Mr. CASEY (for himself, Ms. SNOWE, and Mr. VOINOVICH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2642, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4814. Mr. BROWBACK (for himself, Mr. ENSIGN, and Mr. ROBERTS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 2642, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 4805. Mr. CORKER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2642, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SENSE OF SENATE ON PROVISION OF TACTICAL AND UTILITY HELICOPTERS TO SUPPORT THE UNITED NATIONS-AFRICAN UNION PEACEKEEPING MISSION IN DARFUR

SEC. ____ . It is the sense of the Senate that all efforts should be made to expedite any lease, transfer, or acquisition of tactical and utility helicopters to support the United Nations-African Union peacekeeping mission in Darfur, Sudan, as provided in section 1411 of this Act.

SA 4806. Mr. CORKER (for himself, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. NELSON of Florida, and Mr. DODD) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2642, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . It is the sense of the Senate that, of the funds made available by this Act to carry out title II of the Agricultural Trade Development and Assistance Act of 1954 (7 U.S.C. 1721 et seq.), for the 180-day period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, \$60,000,000 should be made available to respond to the emergency food assistance needs of Haiti.

SA 4807. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2642, making ap-

propriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

TITLE ____—DOMESTIC FUELS SECURITY SECTION ____ 01. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Gas Petroleum Refiner Improvement and Community Empowerment Act” or “Gas PRICE Act”.

SEC. ____ 02. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) **ADMINISTRATOR.**—The term “Administrator” means the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

(2) **COAL-TO-LIQUID.**—The term “coal-to-liquid” means—

(A) with respect to a process or technology, the use of a feedstock, the majority of which is derived from the coal resources of the United States, using the class of reactions known as Fischer-Tropsch, to produce synthetic fuel suitable for transportation; and

(B) with respect to a facility, the portion of a facility related to producing the inputs for the Fischer-Tropsch process, or the finished fuel from the Fischer-Tropsch process, using a feedstock that is primarily domestic coal at the Fischer-Tropsch facility.

(3) **DOMESTIC FUELS FACILITY.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The term “domestic fuels facility” means—

(i) a coal liquefaction or coal-to-liquid facility at which coal is processed into synthetic crude oil or any other transportation fuel;

(ii) a facility that produces a renewable fuel (as defined in section 211(o)(1) of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7545(o)(1))); and

(iii) a facility at which crude oil is refined into transportation fuel or other petroleum products.

(B) **INCLUSION.**—The term “domestic fuels facility” includes a domestic fuels facility expansion.

(4) **DOMESTIC FUELS FACILITY EXPANSION.**—The term “domestic fuels facility expansion” means a physical change in a domestic fuels facility that results in an increase in the capacity of the domestic fuels facility.

(5) **DOMESTIC FUELS FACILITY PERMITTING AGREEMENT.**—The term “domestic fuels facility permitting agreement” means an agreement entered into between the Administrator and a State or Indian tribe under subsection (b).

(6) **DOMESTIC FUELS PRODUCER.**—The term “domestic fuels producer” means an individual or entity that—

(A) owns or operates a domestic fuels facility; or

(B) seeks to become an owner or operator of a domestic fuels facility.

(7) **INDIAN LAND.**—The term “Indian land” has the meaning given the term “Indian lands” in section 3 of the Native American Business Development, Trade Promotion, and Tourism Act of 2000 (25 U.S.C. 4302).

(8) **INDIAN TRIBE.**—The term “Indian tribe” has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450b).

(9) **PERMIT.**—The term “permit” means any permit, license, approval, variance, or other form of authorization that a refiner is required to obtain—

(A) under any Federal law; or

(B) from a State or Indian tribal government agency delegated with authority by the

Federal Government, or authorized under Federal law to issue permits.

(10) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Energy.

(11) **STATE.**—The term “State” means—

(A) a State;

(B) the District of Columbia;

(C) the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico; and

(D) any other territory or possession of the United States.

Subtitle A—Collaborative Permitting Process for Domestic Fuels Facilities

SEC. ____ 11. COLLABORATIVE PERMITTING PROCESS FOR DOMESTIC FUELS FACILITIES.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—At the request of the Governor of a State or the governing body of an Indian tribe, the Administrator shall enter into a domestic fuels facility permitting agreement with the State or Indian tribe under which the process for obtaining all permits necessary for the construction and operation of a domestic fuels facility shall be improved using a systematic interdisciplinary multimedia approach as provided in this section.

(b) **AUTHORITY OF ADMINISTRATOR.**—Under a domestic fuels facility permitting agreement—

(1) the Administrator shall have authority, as applicable and necessary, to—

(A) accept from a refiner a consolidated application for all permits that the domestic fuels producer is required to obtain to construct and operate a domestic fuels facility;

(B) establish a schedule under which each Federal, State, or Indian tribal government agency that is required to make any determination to authorize the issuance of a permit shall—

(i) concurrently consider, to the maximum extent practicable, each determination to be made; and

(ii) complete each step in the permitting process; and

(C) issue a consolidated permit that combines all permits that the domestic fuels producer is required to obtain; and

(2) the Administrator shall provide to State and Indian tribal government agencies—

(A) financial assistance in such amounts as the agencies reasonably require to hire such additional personnel as are necessary to enable the government agencies to comply with the applicable schedule established under paragraph (1)(B); and

(B) technical, legal, and other assistance in complying with the domestic fuels facility permitting agreement.

(c) **AGREEMENT BY THE STATE.**—Under a domestic fuels facility permitting agreement, a State or governing body of an Indian tribe shall agree that—

(1) the Administrator shall have each of the authorities described in subsection (b); and

(2) each State or Indian tribal government agency shall—

(A) make such structural and operational changes in the agencies as are necessary to enable the agencies to carry out consolidated project-wide permit reviews concurrently and in coordination with the Environmental Protection Agency and other Federal agencies; and

(B) comply, to the maximum extent practicable, with the applicable schedule established under subsection (b)(1)(B).

(d) **INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACH.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Administrator and a State or governing body of an Indian tribe shall incorporate an interdisciplinary approach, to the maximum extent practicable,