

SEC. 7. DEPARTMENT OF STATE'S COUNTRY REPORTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICES.

The Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 is amended—

(1) in section 116 (22 U.S.C. 2151n), by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(g) The report required by subsection (d) shall include for each country in which child marriage is prevalent at rates at or above 40 percent in at least one subnational region, a description of the status of the practice of child marriage in such country. In this subsection, the term ‘child marriage’ means the marriage of a girl or boy, not yet the minimum age for marriage stipulated in law or under the age of 18 if no such law exists, in the country in which such girl or boy is a resident.”; and

(2) in section 502B (22 U.S.C. 2304), by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(i) The report required by subsection (b) shall include for each country in which child marriage is prevalent at rates at or above 40 percent in at least one subnational region, a description of the status of the practice of child marriage in such country. In this subsection, the term ‘child marriage’ means the marriage of a girl or boy, not yet the minimum age for marriage stipulated in law or under the age of 18 if no such law exists, in the country in which such girl or boy is a resident.”.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today, with the passage of the International Protecting Girls by Preventing Child Marriage Act, the Senate takes a step toward ending child marriage.

Child marriage is often carried out through force or coercion. It deprives young girls, and sometimes boys, of their dignity and human rights. And it poses grave health risks. In some countries, it is not uncommon for girls as young as 7 or 8 years old to be married.

Child marriage also undermines U.S. foreign assistance to developing countries. We invest in education and skills-building for girls, improving maternal and child health, ending the transmission of HIV/AIDS, preventing gender-based violence, and reducing poverty. But where the girls targeted for assistance are married, these development strategies only go so far.

UNICEF estimates that 60 million girls in developing countries now ages 20 to 24 were married under the age of 18. The Population Council estimates that the number will increase by 100 million over the next decade if trends continue.

The International Protecting Girls by Preventing Child Marriage Act seeks to reverse those trends. Thanks to Senator OLYMPIA SNOWE and 41 other cosponsors from both sides of the aisle, the leadership of Senators JOHN KERRY and RICHARD LUGAR on the Foreign Relations Committee, and Representatives BETTY MCCOLLUM and ANDER CRENSHAW in the House for supporting the legislation to make ending child marriage a priority in foreign affairs.

I would also like to thank The Elders, a group of world leaders including Nelson Mandela, Desmond Tutu, and President Jimmy Carter, who work together to address major causes of human suffering around the globe.

Their help and persistence on the legislation have been invaluable.

The human rights community has rightly identified the practice of child marriage as a major concern that treats young girls as property and traps them in a life of servitude. It denies girls educational and economic opportunities, sustaining a cycle of poverty in some of the world's poorest countries.

Many child brides live their lives in crushing hopelessness. Some are driven to attempt suicide to escape their misery.

A recent New York Times article entitled, “For Afghan Wives, a Desperate, Fiery Way Out,” shared the story of Farzana, engaged at 8 and married by 12. By the age of 17, she had endured years of verbal and physical abuse from her husband and his family.

She thought of ways to get out. She thought of running away but worried it would offend her family's sense of honor.

Finally, seeing no other way out and desperate, Farzana doused herself in cooking fuel and lit herself on fire.

Before this hell, Farzana had dreamed of becoming a teacher. Now, after 57 days in the hospital and multiple skin grafts, she has recovered from burns that covered more than half of her body.

Today she says, “Five years I spent in his house with those people. My marriage was for other people. They should never have given me in a child marriage.” Unfortunately, in many parts of the world, stories like these are common. Except, unlike Farzana, many succeed in killing themselves. Young girls in the developing world should not be made to face the choice between life as a child bride without hope or dying at their own hands to escape their torment.

In addition to denying tens of millions of women and girls their dignity, child marriage also endangers their health. Marriage at an early age puts girls at greater risk of dying as a result of childbirth. Pregnancy and childbirth complications are the leading cause of death for women 15 to 19 years old in developing countries. Their children also face higher mortality rates.

In September 2009, a highly publicized example of this occurred in Yemen. A 12-year-old girl died of severe bleeding after three agonizing days in labor. Her child died as well. She was married to a 24-year old man. Child brides are also at an increased risk of contracting a sexually transmitted disease, including HIV and AIDS.

The bill we passed today would require our government to develop an integrated, strategic approach to combating child marriage with the goal of eliminating this scourge worldwide. It authorizes assistance to prevent child marriage in developing countries and to promote the educational, health,

economic, social and legal empowerment of girls and women. It would require priority for regions in developing countries with a high prevalence of child marriage.

The bill also would require the Federal Government to do a better job of tracking child marriage prevalence overseas.

In the Senate today, we take a big step toward helping children we will never meet in places we will never visit. There are some issues we must look at through the shared experience of humanity. Ensuring that children throughout the world do not have their childhoods robbed of them is one such issue.

The United States has always tried to be a leader in international human rights. By passing this bill, the Senate shows its determination to keep the United States at the forefront of human rights protection around the world.

I urge my colleagues in the House to work with Representatives MCCOLLUM and CRENSHAW and House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman HOWARD BERMAN and Ranking Member LEANA ROS-LEHTINEN and Speaker PELOSI to do the same.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I ask unanimous consent that the Durbin amendment be agreed to; the committee-reported substitute, as amended, be agreed to; the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed with no intervening action or debate; and that any statements be printed in the RECORD.

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

The amendment (No. 4725) was agreed to.

(The text of the amendment is printed in today's RECORD under “Text of Amendments.”)

The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended, was agreed to.

The bill (S. 987), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

THE CALENDAR

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed en bloc to the following Federal naming bills, Calendar Nos. 658 through 661: H.R. 4387, H.R. 5651, H.R. 5706, and H.R. 5773.

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

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bills be read a third time and passed en bloc, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc with no intervening action or debate, and any statements be printed in the RECORD.

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

WINSTON E. ARNOW FEDERAL
BUILDING

The bill (H.R. 4387) to designate the Federal Building located at 100 North Palafox Street in Pensacola, Florida, as the "Winston E. Arnow Federal Building," was ordered to a third reading, read the third time, and passed.

ANDREW W. BOGUE FEDERAL
BUILDING AND UNITED STATES
COURTHOUSE

The bill (H.R. 5651) to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 515 9th Street in Rapid City, South Dakota, as the "Andrew W. Bogue Federal Building and United States Courthouse," was ordered to a third reading, read the third time, and passed.

FRANK EVANS GOVERNMENT
PRINTING OFFICE BUILDING

The bill (H.R. 5706) to designate the building occupied by the Government Printing Office located at 31451 East United Avenue in Pueblo, Colorado, as the "Frank Evans Government Printing Office Building," was ordered to a third reading, read the third time, and passed.

ROBERT M. BALL FEDERAL
BUILDING

The bill (H.R. 5773) to designate the Federal building located at 6401 Security Boulevard in Baltimore, Maryland, commonly known as the Social Security Administration Operations Building, as the "Robert M. Ball Federal Building," was ordered to a third reading, read the third time, and passed.

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 686.

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

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant editor of the Daily Digest read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 686) designating December 11, 2010, as "Wreaths Across America Day."

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

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, in honor of the hard work and generosity of all those involved in the Wreaths Across America project, U.S. Senators OLYMPIA J. SNOWE and I have submitted a resolution in the Senate that would designate Saturday, December 11, as "Wreaths Across America Day."

On Saturday, December 11, a convoy of Mainers will arrive at Arlington Na-

tional Cemetery to honor our Nation's fallen heroes. At each of the thousands of gravesites at our country's most hallowed resting place, citizens from Maine will lay Maine-made balsam wreaths at each gravesite that identifies one of our Nation's fallen veterans. Joining them will be the Patriot Guard Riders, an organization made up of men and women who have volunteered a portion of their lives to consecrating the sacrifice of the service men and women who gave their all for our country. Together, they will continue their tradition of escorting and driving tractor-trailers filled with donated wreaths on the journey from Harrington, ME, to Arlington National Cemetery. This is the 19th consecutive year that Morrill Worcester, owner of Worcester Wreath Company in Harrington, has made this generous donation. And once again, more than 100,000 wreaths will be placed in more than 400 locations, including Arlington National Cemetery and at veterans cemeteries in America and abroad.

The holiday season is one that many Americans enjoy by spending time in the comfort and company of their family and close friends. Many families who have lost loved ones serving their country will not share the same comfort and joy during this holiday season. The men and women behind the Wreaths Across America project work hard to honor these families and their lost love ones. Our resolution is a modest way for the U.S. Senate to honor these men and women, as well as the veterans and families who sacrifice so much in order to make it possible for us to celebrate this holiday season in freedom.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. 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. 686) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 686

Whereas 19 years ago, the Wreaths Across America project began an annual tradition, during the month of December, of donating, transporting, and placing Maine balsam fir holiday wreaths on the graves of the fallen heroes buried at Arlington National Cemetery;

Whereas since that tradition began, through the hard work and generosity of the individuals involved in the Wreaths Across America project, hundreds of thousands of wreaths have been sent to national cemeteries and veterans memorials in every State and to locations overseas;

Whereas in 2009, wreaths were sent to over 400 locations across the United States, 100 more locations than the previous year, and 24 sites overseas;

Whereas in December 2010, the Patriot Guard Riders, a motorcycle and motor vehi-

cle group that is dedicated to patriotic events and includes more than 200,000 members nationwide, will continue their tradition of escorting a tractor-trailer filled with donated wreaths from Harrington, Maine, to Arlington National Cemetery;

Whereas thousands of individuals volunteer each December to escort and lay the wreaths;

Whereas December 12, 2009, was previously designated by the Senate as "Wreaths Across America Day"; and

Whereas the Wreaths Across America project will continue its proud legacy on December 11, 2010, bringing 15,000 wreaths to Arlington National Cemetery on that day: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates December 11, 2010, as "Wreaths Across America Day";

(2) honors the Wreaths Across America project, the Patriot Guard Riders, and all of the volunteers and donors involved in this worthy tradition; and

(3) recognizes the sacrifices our veterans, members of the Armed Forces, and their families have made, and continue to make, for our great Nation.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY,
DECEMBER 2, 2010

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, December 2; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each, with the majority controlling the first 30 minutes and the Republicans controlling the next 30 minutes. Finally, I ask that the Senate recess from 12:30 until 3:30 p.m. for the Democratic caucus meeting.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M.
TOMORROW

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it adjourn under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:32 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, December 2, 2010, at 9:30 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

THE JUDICIARY

BERNICE BOUIE DONALD, OF TENNESSEE, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE SIXTH CIRCUIT, VICE RONALD LEE GILMAN, RETIRED.

ARENDA L. WRIGHT ALLEN, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA, VICE JEROME B. FRIEDMAN, RETIRED.

MICHAEL FRANCIS URBANSKI, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA, VICE NORMAN K. MOON, RETIRED.

CLAIRE C. CECCHI, OF NEW JERSEY, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY, VICE JOSEPH A. GREENAWAY, ELEVATED.