

Whereas every year in the United States, hundreds of thousands of people become suicide survivors (people that have lost a loved one to suicide), and there are approximately 8,000,000 suicide survivors in the United States today;

Whereas society still needlessly stigmatizes both the people that take their own lives and suicide survivors;

Whereas there is a need for greater outreach to suicide survivors because, all too often, they are left alone to grieve;

Whereas suicide survivors are often helped to rebuild their lives through a network of support with fellow survivors;

Whereas suicide survivors play an essential role in educating communities about the risks of suicide and the need to develop suicide prevention strategies; and

Whereas suicide survivors contribute to suicide prevention research by providing essential information about the environmental and genetic backgrounds of the deceased: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1)(A) designates November 18, 2000, as "National Survivors of Suicide Day"; and

(B) requests that the President issue a proclamation calling on Federal, State, and local administrators and the people of the United States to observe the day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities;

(2) encourages the involvement of suicide survivors in healing activities and prevention programs;

(3) acknowledges that suicide survivors face distinct obstacles in their grieving;

(4) recognizes that suicide survivors can be a source of support and strength to each other;

(5) recognizes that suicide survivors have played a leading role in organizations dedicated to reducing suicide through research, education, and treatment programs; and

(6) acknowledges the efforts of suicide survivors in their prevention, education, and advocacy activities to eliminate stigma and to reduce the incidence of suicide.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to submit a Senate resolution which would designate November 18, 2000 as "National Survivors of Suicide Day." The term "survivor" refers to anyone who has lost a loved one to suicide. As such, having lost my father to suicide in 1972, I am viewed as a survivor in the suicide prevention community. Nationally, more than 30,000 people take their own lives each year. Suicide is the eighth leading cause of death in the United States and the third major cause of death among people aged 15-19.

The suicide rate among young people has more than tripled in the last four decades. Today in our country, countless suicide survivors go on with their lives, many of them grieving in a very private way. This is because there still remains a stigma towards those who take their own life as well as those who are left behind to cope with the suicide of a loved one. I can't begin to tell you how many survivors have written me expressing the shame and guilt they feel about their loved one's suicide, many of whom are still unable to deal honestly with the tragic conditions which ultimately led to someone they love taking their own life.

I am pleased that this resolution passed the Senate by unanimous consent last year. Since then, there has been a fervor of activity and collaboration in both the federal and private sectors around suicide prevention.

Most recently, the Senate Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations Subcommittee dedicated a hearing to suicide awareness and prevention. Among those who testified were Surgeon General Dr. David Satcher, National Institute of Mental Health Director Dr. Steve E. Hyman, psychologist and author Dr. Kay Redfield Jamison, and novelist Danielle Steele.

While we have taken some important first steps, we still have a long way to go in the area of suicide prevention and awareness. It is my intent to recognize the countless survivors who all are at various stages of healing in addressing the loss of their loved one to suicide. I ask you to support me in turning their grief into hope, a hope that with acceptance and understanding, can lead our nation in effectively addressing this very preventable public health challenge.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a letter of support be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the letter was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

AMERICAN FOUNDATION
FOR SUICIDE PREVENTION,
New York, NY, July 20, 2000.

Senator HARRY REID,
Hart Senate Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR REID: The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention supports the proposed Senate Resolution designating Saturday, November 18, 2000 as National Survivors of Suicide Day. We believe this resolution will build on the momentum started last year by Senate Resolution 99, which recognized for the first time the unique problems faced by survivors and their important contributions to suicide prevention.

Specifically, the proposed Survivors of Suicide Day Resolution will be instrumental in fostering the involvement of people who have lost a loved one to suicide in prevention activities. I will also encourage them to come forward, break the silence and join with other survivors as a way to promote their healing.

As you know, our Foundation is actively organizing survivor conferences across the country to be linked by satellite on November 18. Working together with other private organizations and public agencies, we will use this resolution to expand the number of local survivor conferences participating in National Survivors of Suicide Day.

We appreciate all you are doing to encourage and empower survivors, and are grateful for your willingness to introduce this important resolution. On behalf of millions of survivors who want to prevent others from experiencing a similar loss, as well as people throughout our country concerned about the risk of suicide, thank you.

Sincerely,

ROBERT GEBBIA,
Executive Director.

SENATE RESOLUTION 340—DESIGNATING DECEMBER 10, 2000, AS "NATIONAL CHILDREN'S MEMORIAL DAY"

Mr. REID (for himself, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. BAYH, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. BRYAN, Mr. CLELAND, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. DODD, Mr. DORGAN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. HELMS, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mr. INHOFE,

Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KERREY, Mr. KOHL, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. ROBB, Mr. SARBANES, and Mr. VOINOVICH) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 340

Whereas approximately 80,000 infants, children, teenagers, and young adults of families living throughout the United States die each year from myriad causes;

Whereas the death of an infant, child, teenager, or young adult of a family is considered to be 1 of the greatest tragedies that a parent or family will ever endure during a lifetime; and

Whereas a supportive environment and empathy and understanding are considered critical factors in the healing process of a family that is coping with and recovering from the loss of a loved one: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved,

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION OF NATIONAL CHILDREN'S MEMORIAL DAY.

The Senate—

(1) designates December 10, 2000, as "National Children's Memorial Day"; and

(2) requests that the President issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies and activities in remembrance of the many infants, children, teenagers, and young adults of families in the United States who have died.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to submit a Senate resolution which would designate December 10, 2000 as "National Children's Memorial Day." I am pleased that Senators EDWARDS, ABRAHAM, AKAKA, BAUCUS, BAYH, BENNETT, BRYAN, CLELAND, COCHRAN, CRAIG, DODD, DORGAN, FEINSTEIN, HELMS, HOLLINGS, INHOFE, JOHNSON, KERREY, KOHL, LANDRIEU, LAUTENBERG, LINCOLN, MURRAY, ROBB, SARBANES, and VOINOVICH are joining me as original cosponsors. The resolution would set aside this day to remember all the children who die in the United States each year. While I realize the families of these children deal with the grief of their loss every day, I would like to commemorate the lives of these children with a special day as well.

If passed, this will be the third consecutive year we will have designated the second Sunday in December as "National Children's Memorial Day." I have had many constituents share their heart-wrenching stories with me about the death of their son or daughter. I have heard heroic stories of kids battling cancer or diabetes, and tragic stories of car accidents and drownings. Each of these families has had their own experience, but they must all continue with their lives and deal with the incredible pain of losing a child.

The death of a child at any age is a shattering experience for a family. By establishing a day to remember children that have passed away, bereaved families from all over the country will be encouraged and supported in the positive resolution of their grief. It is important to families who have suffered such a loss to know that they are

not alone. To commemorate the lives of these children with a special day would pay them an honor and would help to bring comfort to the hearts of their bereaved families.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that the oversight hearing regarding Natural Gas Supply previously scheduled before the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources for Tuesday, July 25 at 9:30 a.m. has been postponed until Wednesday, July 26 at 9:30 a.m. in Room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, DC.

For further information, please call Dan Kish at (202) 224-8276 or Jo Meuse at (202) 224-4756.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, I would like to announce that the Committee on Indian Affairs will meet on Wednesday, July 26, 2000 at 1:30 p.m. in room 485 of the Russell Senate Building to mark up pending legislation to be followed by an oversight hearing on the Activities of the National Indian Gaming Commission; to be followed by a legislative hearing on S. 2526, to reauthorize the Indian Health Care Improvement Act.

Those wishing additional information may contact Committee staff at (202) 224-2251.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Friday, July 21, 2000, to conduct a hearing on the following nominations: Mr. Robert S. LaRossa to be Undersecretary for International Trade at the Department of Commerce; and Ms. Marjory E. Searing to be Assistant Secretary and Director General of the U.S. and Foreign Commercial Service (US&FCS) of the Department of Commerce.

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

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Friday, July 21, 2000, for purposes of conducting a Full Committee business meeting which is scheduled to begin at 9 a.m. The purpose of this business meeting is to consider H.R. 701, the Conservation and Reinvestment Act.

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

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to meet in executive session on Friday, July 21, 2000.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FOREST AND PUBLIC LANDS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Forests and Public Lands of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Friday, July 21, 2000, at 9:30 a.m. to conduct an oversight hearing. The subcommittee will receive testimony on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement implementing the October 1999 announcement by President Clinton to review approximately 40 million acres of national forest lands for increased protection.

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

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THRIFT SAVINGS PLAN ACCOUNTS

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 682, H.R. 208.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 208) to amend title 5, United States Code, to allow for the contribution of certain rollover distributions to accounts in the Thrift Savings Plan, to eliminate certain waiting-period requirements for participating in the Thrift Savings Plan, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill which had been reported from the Committee on Governmental Affairs, with amendments; as follows:

(Omit the part in black brackets and insert the part printed in *italic*.)

H.R. 208

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. ELIGIBLE ROLLOVER DISTRIBUTIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 8432 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(j)(1) For the purpose of this subsection—

“(A) the term ‘eligible rollover distribution’ has the meaning given such term by section 402(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986; and

“(B) the term ‘qualified trust’ has the meaning given such term by section 402(c)(8) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

“(2) An employee or Member may contribute to the Thrift Savings Fund an eligible rollover distribution [from a qualified trust.] *that a qualified trust could accept under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.* A contribution made under this subsection shall be made in the form described in section 401(a)(31) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986. In the case of an eligible rollover distribution, the maximum amount transferred

to the Thrift Savings Fund shall not exceed the amount which would otherwise have been included in the employee's or Member's gross income for Federal income tax purposes.

“(3) The Executive Director shall prescribe regulations to carry out this subsection.”.

“(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall take effect on October 1, 2000, or such earlier date as the Executive Director (as defined by section 8401 of title 5, United States Code) may by regulation prescribe, but not before September 1, 2000.”

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—*The amendment made by this section shall take effect at the earliest practicable date after September 30, 2000, as determined by the Executive Director in regulations.*

SEC. 2. IMMEDIATE PARTICIPATION IN THE THRIFT SAVINGS PLAN.

(a) ELIMINATION OF CERTAIN WAITING PERIODS FOR PURPOSES OF EMPLOYEE CONTRIBUTIONS.—Paragraph (4) of section 8432(b) of title 5, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“(4) The Executive Director shall prescribe such regulations as may be necessary to carry out the following:

“(A) Notwithstanding subparagraph (A) of paragraph (2), an employee or Member described in such subparagraph shall be afforded a reasonable opportunity to first make an election under this subsection beginning on the date of commencing service or, if that is not administratively feasible, beginning on the earliest date thereafter that such an election becomes administratively feasible, as determined by the Executive Director.

“(B) An employee or Member described in subparagraph (B) of paragraph (2) shall be afforded a reasonable opportunity to first make an election under this subsection (based on the appointment or election described in such subparagraph) beginning on the date of commencing service pursuant to such appointment or election or, if that is not administratively feasible, beginning on the earliest date thereafter that such an election becomes administratively feasible, as determined by the Executive Director.

“(C) Notwithstanding the preceding provisions of this paragraph, contributions under paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (c) shall not be payable with respect to any pay period before the earliest pay period for which such contributions would otherwise be allowable under this subsection if this paragraph had not been enacted.

“(D) Sections 8351(a)(2), 8440a(a)(2), 8440b(a)(2), 8440c(a)(2), and 8440d(a)(2) shall be applied in a manner consistent with the purposes of subparagraphs (A) and (B), to the extent those subparagraphs can be applied with respect thereto.

“(E) Nothing in this paragraph shall affect paragraph (3).”.

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—(1) Section 8432(a) of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in the first sentence by striking “(b)(1)” and inserting “(b)”;

(B) by amending the second sentence to read as follows: “Contributions under this subsection pursuant to such an election shall, with respect to each pay period for which such election remains in effect, be made in accordance with a program of regular contributions provided in regulations prescribed by the Executive Director.”.

(2) Section 8432(b)(1)(B) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting “(or any election allowable by virtue of paragraph (4))” after “subparagraph (A)”.

(3) Section 8432(b)(3) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking “Notwithstanding paragraph (2)(A), an” and inserting “An”.