

Bingaman, Richard Durbin, Mark L. Pryor, Carl Levin, Edward M. Kennedy, Patrick J. Leahy, Bernard Sanders, Debbie Stabenow, Byron L. Dorgan.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the cloture vote not occur prior to the aforementioned cloture votes, and that the mandatory quorum be waived.

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

Mr. REID. I now withdraw the motion, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion is withdrawn.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

CAMERON GULBRANSEN KIDS AND CARS SAFETY ACT OF 2007

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, on behalf of Senator CLINTON, Senator SUNUNU, and myself, I ask unanimous consent that the Commerce Committee be discharged and the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 1216, the Kids and Cars Safety Act, otherwise known as the Cameron Gulbransen Kids and Cars Safety Act.

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

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1216) to direct the Secretary of Transportation to issue regulations to reduce the incidence of child injury and death occurring inside and outside of light motor vehicles, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. SUNUNU. Reserving the right to object, and I certainly will not, given that the Senator from Florida has offered the consent on my behalf, I thank him for stepping forward and offering his request.

This is legislation that I coauthored with Senator CLINTON. On the House side, there were Representatives JAN SCHAKOWSKY and PETER KING who introduced companion legislation. It addresses the issue of known traffic accidents. There were 230 children killed last year in nontraffic auto accidents. We worked very cooperatively with Senator NELSON and others on the Commerce Committee to put together a package that could be implemented quickly and effectively to help reduce this unnecessary loss of life.

I thank Senator NELSON for his work on the committee and certainly offer my praise for the work done on the other side. I am pleased to see that this legislation is going to be passed and sent to the President and become law. Again, I thank the Senator from Florida.

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

Mr. NELSON of Florida. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

The bill (H.R. 1216) was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida. Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I just want to say this has been a long time coming. There was a hiccup back in December. We tried to get it cleared then. This is the backover bill, the horror of any parents that their child is behind the car, and they cannot see the child or a neighbor is backing from their garage down their driveway, and they cannot see the child.

So what this bill will require is a device that can be either a sensor or a viewer. It will require that in future vehicles. It will also require that when automatic windows go up, if they hit an object, such as a child's neck and head, automatically that window goes down.

This is much-needed legislation. We are very appreciative that the Senate has cleared this action, and we can get it over to the House and try to get it passed.

I yield the floor.

ALLIANCE BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 444 and that the Senate then proceed to its consideration.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 444) expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the strong alliance that has been forged between the United States and the Republic of Korea and congratulating Myung-Bak Lee on his election to the presidency of the Republic of Korea.

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the amendment which is at the desk be agreed to, the preamble, as amended, be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table 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 resolution (S. Res. 444) was agreed to.

The amendment (No. 4084) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To modify the description of the economic relationship between the United States and the Republic of Korea)

On page 2, strike "the Republic of Korea is the United States seventh largest training partner and the United States is the third largest trading partner of the Republic of Korea, with nearly \$80,000,000,000 in goods and services passing between the 2 countries each year" and insert "the economic relationship between the United States and the

Republic of Korea is deep and growing and has been mutually beneficial to both countries".

The preamble, as amended, was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, as amended, reads as follows:

S. RES. 444

Whereas the United States and the Republic of Korea enjoy a comprehensive alliance partnership founded in shared strategic interests and cemented by a commitment to democratic values;

Whereas the alliance between the United States and the Republic of Korea has been forged in blood and honed by struggles against common adversaries;

Whereas on December 19, 2007, the Senate passed S. Res. 279, marking the 125th anniversary of the 1882 Treaty of Peace, Amity, Commerce and Navigation between the Kingdom of Chosun (Korea) and the United States, and recognizing that "the strength and endurance of the alliance between the United States and the Republic of Korea should be acknowledged and celebrated";

Whereas during the 60 years since the founding of the Republic of Korea on August 15, 1948, the Republic of Korea, with unwavering commitment and support from the United States, has accomplished a remarkable economic and political transformation, rising from poverty to become the 11th largest economy in the world and a thriving multi-party democracy;

Whereas the economic relationship between the United States and the Republic of Korea is deep and growing and has been mutually beneficial to both countries;

Whereas there are deep cultural and personal ties between the people of the United States and the people of the Republic of Korea, as exemplified by the large flow of visitors and exchanges each year between the 2 countries and the nearly 2,000,000 Korean Americans who currently reside in the United States;

Whereas the United States and the Republic of Korea are working together to address the threat posed by North Korea's nuclear weapons program and to build a lasting peace on the Korean Peninsula;

Whereas this alliance is promoting international peace and security, economic prosperity, human rights and the rule of law, not only on the Korean Peninsula, but also throughout the world; and

Whereas Myung-Bak Lee, who won election to become the next President of the Republic of Korea, has affirmed his deep commitment to further strengthening the alliance between the United States and the Republic of Korea, by expanding areas of cooperation and realizing the full potential of our mutually beneficial partnership: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate congratulates Myung-Bak Lee on his election to the presidency of the Republic of Korea and wishes him and the Korean people well on his inauguration on February 25, 2008.

EXPRESSING STRONG SUPPORT OF SENATE FOR NATO TO ENTER INTO A MEMBERSHIP ACTION PLAN WITH GEORGIA AND UKRAINE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 574, S. Res. 439.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 439) expressing the strong support of the Senate for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to enter into a Membership Action Plan with Georgia and Ukraine.

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

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

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

The resolution (S. Res. 439) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 439

Whereas the sustained commitment of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) to mutual defense has made possible the democratic transformation of Central and Eastern Europe and Eurasia;

Whereas NATO members can and should play a critical role in addressing the security challenges of the post-Cold War era in creating the stable environment needed for emerging democracies in Europe and Eurasia;

Whereas lasting stability and security in Europe and Eurasia require the military, economic, and political integration of emerging democracies into existing European structures;

Whereas, in an era of threats from terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, NATO is increasingly contributing to security in the face of global security challenges for the protection and interests of its member states;

Whereas the Government of Georgia and the Government of Ukraine have each expressed a desire to join the Euro-Atlantic community, and Georgia and Ukraine are working closely with NATO and its members to meet criteria for eventual NATO membership;

Whereas, at the NATO-Ukraine Commission Foreign Ministerial meeting in Vilnius in April 2005, NATO and Ukraine launched an Intensified Dialogue on membership between the Alliance and Ukraine;

Whereas, following a meeting of NATO Foreign Ministers in New York on September 21, 2006, NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer announced the launching of an Intensified Dialogue on membership between NATO and Georgia;

Whereas the Riga Summit Declaration, issued by the heads of state and government participating in the meeting of the North Atlantic Council in November 2006, reaffirms that NATO's door remains open to new members and that NATO will continue to review the process for new membership, stating "We reaffirm that the Alliance will continue with Georgia and Ukraine its Intensified Dialogues which cover the full range of political, military, financial, and security issues relating to those countries' aspirations to membership, without prejudice to any eventual Alliance decision. We reaffirm the importance of the NATO-Ukraine Distinctive Partnership, which has its 10th anniversary next year and welcome the progress that has been made in the framework of our Intensified Dialogue. We appreciate Ukraine's substantial contributions to our common security, including through participation in NATO-led operations and efforts to promote regional cooperation. We encourage Ukraine to continue to contribute to regional secu-

ity. We are determined to continue to assist, through practical cooperation, in the implementation of far-reaching reform efforts, notably in the fields of national security, defense, reform of the defense-industrial sector and fighting corruption. We welcome the commencement of an Intensified Dialogue with Georgia as well as Georgia's contribution to international peacekeeping and security operations. We will continue to engage actively with Georgia in support of its reform process. We encourage Georgia to continue progress on political, economic and military reforms, including strengthening judicial reform, as well as the peaceful resolution of outstanding conflicts on its territory. We reaffirm that it is of great importance that all parties in the region should engage constructively to promote regional peace and stability."

Whereas, in January 2008, Ukraine forwarded to NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer a letter, signed by President Victor Yushchenko, Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, and Verkhovna Rada Speaker Arseniy Yatsenyuk, requesting that NATO integrate Ukraine into the Membership Action Plan;

Whereas, in January 2008, Georgia held a referendum on NATO and 76.22 percent of the votes supported membership;

Whereas participation in a Membership Action Plan does not guarantee future membership in the NATO Alliance; and

Whereas NATO membership requires significant national and international commitments and sacrifices and is not possible without the support of the populations of the NATO member States: Now, therefore, be it Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the Senate—

(A) reaffirms its previous expressions of support for continued enlargement of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) to include qualified candidates; and

(B) supports the commitment to further enlargement of NATO to include democratic governments that are able and willing to meet the responsibilities of membership;

(2) the expansion of NATO contributes to NATO's continued effectiveness and relevance;

(3) Georgia and Ukraine are strong allies that have made important progress in the areas of defense, democratic, and human rights reform;

(4) a stronger, deeper relationship among the Government of Georgia, the Government of Ukraine, and NATO will be mutually beneficial to those countries and to NATO member States; and

(5) the United States should take the lead in supporting the awarding of a Membership Action Plan to Georgia and Ukraine as soon as possible.

RECOGNIZING CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF CHINESE NEW YEAR OR SPRING FESTIVAL

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to consideration of S. Res. 457.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 457) recognizing the cultural and historical significance of the Chinese New Year or Spring Festival.

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I come to the floor today with the distinct honor

of supporting a resolution recognizing the cultural and historical significance of the Chinese New Year, held annually on the first day of the first lunar month of the Chinese calendar.

For the approximately 3.5 million Chinese-Americans currently living in the United States, the Chinese New Year represents one of the most important times for families and friends to get together and celebrate their rich cultural history. In my home county, Clark County, NV, thousands of Chinese-Americans, and Asian-Americans of various nationalities and ethnicities, recently celebrated the inception of the Year of the Rat.

In fact, February 7, 2008, of our calendar, the date on which the Year of the Rat began, marked the beginning of year 4705 of the Chinese calendar. I am so proud to recognize and offer my best wishes to all those Nevadans and Americans who have followed in the footsteps of so many past generations to observe this 2-week long festival, which culminates in the Lantern Festival to be held on the fifteenth day of the first lunar month.

Throughout this 15-day celebration, many members of Nevada's Chinese-American community will take this opportunity to spend time with their families and engage in traditional activities, such as the dragon and lion dances. To all of my friends back in Clark County, and throughout Nevada as a whole who observe this holiday, I wish you a joyous and prosperous New Year.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements related to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 457) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 457

Whereas the Chinese New Year is celebrated on the second new moon following the winter solstice;

Whereas February 7, 2008, marks the first day of the Chinese New Year for 2008, also known as the Year of the Rat or the Year of Wu Zi;

Whereas the Chinese New Year festivities begin on the first day of the first lunar month and end 15 days later with the celebration of the Lantern Festival;

Whereas there are approximately 3,500,000 Chinese-Americans in the United States, many of whom will be commemorating this important occasion;

Whereas this day will be marked by celebrations throughout our country as Chinese-Americans gather to watch the dragon and lion dances; and

Whereas the United States Postal Service will debut a new stamp series for the 12 animals in the Chinese calendar on February 9, 2008, with the series continuing through 2019: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the cultural and historical significance of the Chinese New Year or Spring Festival;