

SEC. 14. GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE STUDY AND REPORT.

(a) STUDY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study, and make findings and recommendations relating to compliance with, and use of funds made available for, section 1118 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6318), including matters specified in paragraph (2).

(2) INCLUSIONS.—The study shall include a review and analysis of—

(A) the use of funds reserved by local educational agencies for family engagement under such section 1118;

(B) the innovative, effective, replicable, or model family engagement in education policies, practices, and uses of funds of State educational agencies and local educational agencies determined by the Secretary of Education to be in alignment with section 1118;

(C) any barriers to State educational agencies and local educational agencies in implementing section 1118;

(D) any barriers to Indian tribes and organizations, Native Hawaiian organizations, and Alaska Native organizations in developing, implementing, and assessing family engagement in education policies and practices; and

(E) the use of data collection and reporting and outcome and assessment systems of State educational agencies and local educational agencies to determine the extent to which family engagement in education is implemented as described in section 1118.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall prepare and submit to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Education and Labor of the House of Representatives a report containing the findings and recommendations resulting from the study conducted under this section.

SEC. 15. FEDERAL COORDINATION OF FAMILY ENGAGEMENT IN EDUCATION PROGRAMMING.

(a) STAFFING.—Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act, there shall be established in the Department of Education dedicated staff, including a Director, for family and community engagement.

(b) DUTIES.—The duties of the Director shall include the following:

(1) Articulating a national vision of family engagement in education.

(2) Coordinating and integrating activities related to family engagement strategies, services, and programs within the Department and across Federal agencies.

(3) Providing guidance to Department offices and units on the administration of family engagement in education programs, community school programs, and other related initiatives, such as Promise Neighborhoods.

(4) Ensuring consistency in family engagement in education policies and programs within the Department.

(5) Ensuring consistency in family engagement in education policies and programs with family engagement policies and practices of the programs and activities of other Federal agencies.

(6) Administering the Statewide Family Engagement Centers under subpart 16 of part D of title V of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 and the Full Service Community Schools program.

(7) Developing, in consultation with the public through an invitation for public comment in the Federal Register, a plan for innovation, research, and evaluation of family engagement in education, including impact, implementation, and replication studies.

(8) Conducting, by arrangement with the Department's Institute of Education Sciences, by contract, or by competition, innovation, research and evaluation on family engagement in education consistent with the requirement of section 5567(c) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.

(9) Disseminating effective and innovative practices on family engagement to State educational agencies, Statewide Family Engagement Centers and Local Family Engagement Centers, parent training and information centers and community parent resource centers assisted under sections 671 and 672 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, administrators of title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.), and others.

(10) Coordinating innovation, research, training, and technical assistance activities among Statewide Family Engagement Centers, Local Family Engagement Centers, and regional educational laboratories.

(11) Identifying opportunities for family engagement in education collaboration and resource sharing among State educational agencies, local educational agencies, and organizations that support family-school partnerships.

(12) Preparing a biennial report to Congress on family engagement in education, including a summary of activities, performance, and outcomes under sections 1006, 1008, 1112, and 1118, and subpart 16 of part D of title V of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.

(13) Publishing State educational agency family engagement in education plans and reports prepared as required by section 1111 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 on the website of the Department.

(14) Carrying out such other duties as may be designated by the Secretary.

(c) FEDERAL DEPARTMENT AND AGENCY COOPERATION.—Each department or agency of the Federal Government providing programs related to family and community engagement in education shall—

(1) cooperate with the efforts of the Director described in subsection (a);

(2) provide such assistance, statistics, studies, reports, information, and advice as the Director may request, to the extent permitted by law;

(3) adjust department or agency staff job descriptions to support collaboration and implementation of the vision and strategy; and

(4) assign department or agency liaisons to the office to oversee and implement inter-agency coordination.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 175—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE WITH RESPECT TO ONGOING VIOLATIONS OF THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND SOVEREIGNTY OF GEORGIA AND THE IMPORTANCE OF A PEACEFUL AND JUST RESOLUTION TO THE CONFLICT WITHIN GEORGIA'S INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED BORDERS

Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Mr. GRAHAM) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES 175

Whereas, since 1993, the territorial integrity of Georgia has been reaffirmed by the international community and 36 United Nations Security Council resolutions;

Whereas the United States-Georgia Strategic Charter, signed on January 9, 2009, underscores that “support for each other's sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and inviolability of borders constitutes the foundation of our bilateral relations”;

Whereas, in October 2010, at the meeting of the United States-Georgia Charter on Strategic Partnership, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton stated, “The United States will not waiver in its support for Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity.”;

Whereas the White House released a fact sheet on July 24, 2010, calling for “Russia to end its occupation of the Georgian territories of Abkhazia and South Ossetia” and for “a return of international observers to the two occupied regions of Georgia”;

Whereas Vice President Joseph Biden stated in Tbilisi in July 2009 that the United States “will not recognize Abkhazia and South Ossetia as independent states”;

Whereas, according to the Government of Georgia's “State Strategy on Occupied Territories,” the Government of Georgia has committed itself to a policy of peaceful engagement, the protection of economic and human rights, freedom of movement, and the preservation of cultural heritage, language, and identity for the people of Abkhazia and South Ossetia;

Whereas the August 2008 conflict between the Governments of Russia and Georgia resulted in civilian and military casualties, the violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia, and large numbers of internally-displaced persons;

Whereas large numbers of persons remain displaced as a result of the August 2008 conflict as well as the earlier conflicts of the 1990s;

Whereas the August 12, 2008, ceasefire agreement, agreed to by the Governments of Russia and Georgia provides that all troops of the Russian Federation shall be withdrawn to pre-conflict positions;

Whereas the August 12, 2008, ceasefire agreement provides that free access shall be granted to organizations providing humanitarian assistance in regions affected by violence in August 2008;

Whereas the recognition by the Government of Russia of Abkhazia and South Ossetia on August 26, 2008, was in violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia;

Whereas Human Rights Watch concluded in its World Report 2011 that “Russia continued to occupy Georgia's breakaway regions of South Ossetia and Abkhazia and strengthened its military presence in the region by establishing a military base and placing an advanced surface-to-air missile system in Abkhazia”;

Whereas the parties have taken some constructive steps in recent months, including the resumption of direct flights between Russia and Georgia, Russian troop withdrawal from the Georgian village of Perevi, and regular participation in the Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism;

Whereas these positive steps neither adequately address the humanitarian situation on the ground nor constitute full compliance with the terms of the August 2008 ceasefire agreement;

Whereas, on November 23, 2010, before the European Parliament, Georgian President Saakashvili declared that “Georgia will never use force to restore its territorial integrity and sovereignty”;

Whereas Secretary of State Clinton stated in Tbilisi on July 5, 2010, “We continue to call for Russia to abide by the August 2008 cease-fire commitment . . . including ending the occupation and withdrawing Russian troops from South Ossetia and Abkhazia to their pre-conflict positions.”;

Whereas the Russian Federation blocked the extension of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Mission to Georgia and the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia, forcing the missions to withdraw from South Ossetia and Abkhazia;

Whereas troops of the Russian Federation stationed in Abkhazia and South Ossetia continue to be present without the consent of the Government of Georgia or a mandate from the United Nations or other multilateral organizations;

Whereas, at the April 15, 2011, meeting in Berlin between the foreign ministers of Georgia and NATO, Secretary of State Clinton stated, "U.S. support for Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity remains steadfast. . . . We share Georgian concerns regarding recent Russian activities that can negatively affect regional stability.";

Whereas, on April 25–26, 2011, Foreign Minister of Russia Sergei Lavrov made a high-profile visit to Abkhazia and South Ossetia, which was immediately criticized by the Department of State as "inconsistent with the principle of territorial integrity and Georgia's internationally recognized borders";

Whereas the Senate supports United States efforts to develop a productive relationship with the Russian Federation in areas of mutual interest, including non-proliferation and arms control, cooperation concerning the failure of the Government of Iran to meet its international obligations with regard to its nuclear programs, counter-terrorism, Afghanistan, anti-piracy, and economics and trade; and

Whereas the Senate agrees that these efforts must not compromise longstanding United States policy or United States support for its allies and partners worldwide: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) affirms that it is the policy of the United States to support the sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity of Georgia and the inviolability of its borders, and to recognize Abkhazia and South Ossetia as regions of Georgia occupied by the Russian Federation;

(2) calls upon the Government of Russia to take steps to fulfill all the terms and conditions of the 2008 ceasefire agreements between Georgia and Russia, including returning military forces to pre-war positions and ensuring access to international humanitarian aid to all those affected by the conflict;

(3) urges the Government of Russia and the authorities in control in the regions of South Ossetia and Abkhazia to allow for the full and dignified return of internally-displaced persons and international missions to the territories of Abkhazia and South Ossetia;

(4) supports peaceful, constructive engagement and confidence-building measures between the Government of Georgia and the authorities in control in South Ossetia and Abkhazia and encourages additional people-to-people contacts; and

(5) affirms that finding a peaceful resolution to the conflict is a key priority for the United States in the Caucasus region and that lasting regional stability can only be achieved through peaceful means and long-term diplomatic and political dialogue between all parties.

SENATE RESOLUTION 176—EX-PRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE SHOULD ISSUE A SEMIPOSTAL STAMP TO SUPPORT MEDICAL RESEARCH RELATING TO ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE

Ms. MIKULSKI submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:

S. RES. 176

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that the United States Postal Service should, in accordance with section 416 of title 39, United States Code—

(1) issue a semipostal stamp to support medical research relating to Alzheimer's disease; and

(2) transfer to the National Institutes of Health for that purpose any amounts becoming available from the sale of such stamp.

Ms. MIKULSKI. I rise today to submit a resolution urging the United States Postal Service to issue a semipostal stamp to help raise money for Alzheimer's research. A semipostal stamp will fund new research while also raising public awareness about this devastating disease.

Finding new ways to treat Alzheimer's should be a national priority. The disease not only harms patients and their families, it strains our health care system as well. Every 70 seconds, someone in America develops Alzheimer's. An estimated 5.4 million Americans have Alzheimer's disease, including one in eight people over 65. The direct and indirect costs of Alzheimer's and other dementias to Medicare, Medicaid and businesses amount to more than \$183 billion each year. By 2050, this disease is likely to affect more than 11 to 16 million people 65 and older—unless we can find a medical breakthrough.

As Alzheimer's Disease is so prevalent, almost every American knows someone with this condition. My father was diagnosed with Alzheimer's. This was after many physicians said it was just "old age" stress or depression. Like all family members with a loved one with Alzheimer's, I felt powerless over my father's situation as he got worse.

There are 14.9 million unpaid caregivers taking care of loved ones with Alzheimer's. They are depending on us to help find the cure for this terrible disease. No treatment is available to slow or stop the deterioration of brain cells in Alzheimer's disease. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has approved five drugs that temporarily slow the worsening of symptoms for about six to 12 months. They are effective for only about half of the individuals who take them.

However, researchers around the world are studying numerous treatment strategies that may have the potential to change the course of the disease. Approximately 75 to 100 experimental therapies aimed at slowing or stopping the progression of Alzheimer's

are in clinical testing in human volunteers. We need to keep the fight for a cure strong and funded.

A semipostal stamp is one way each of us can help in the fight against Alzheimer's. Proceeds from the stamp's sales would help fund Alzheimer's research at the National Institutes of Health. By paying more than the normal postage rate for this stamp, the public can contribute directly to the search for a new treatment or even a cure. I also want to thank Senator CARDIN for his cosponsorship of the Alzheimer's research semipostal stamp and Representative MARKEY for working on this important legislation in the House. I ask my colleagues today to join me in the fight against Alzheimer's and support this resolution.

SENATE RESOLUTION 177—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF MAY 15 THROUGH MAY 21, 2011, AS "NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK"

Mrs. BOXER (for herself and Mr. INHOFE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 177

Whereas public works infrastructure, facilities, and services are of vital importance to the health, safety, and well-being of the people of the United States;

Whereas the public works infrastructure, facilities, and services could not be provided without the dedicated efforts of public works professionals, including engineers and administrators, who represent State and local governments throughout the United States;

Whereas public works professionals design, build, operate, and maintain the transportation systems, water infrastructure, sewage and refuse disposal systems, public buildings, and other structures and facilities that are vital to the people and communities of the United States; and

Whereas understanding the role that public infrastructure plays in protecting the environment, improving public health and safety, contributing to economic vitality, and enhancing the quality of life of every community of the United States is in the interest of the people of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of May 15 through May 21, 2011, as "National Public Works Week";

(2) recognizes and celebrates the important contributions that public works professionals make every day to improve—

(A) the public infrastructure of the United States; and

(B) the communities that public works professionals serve; and

(3) urges individuals and communities throughout the United States to join with representatives of the Federal Government and the American Public Works Association in activities and ceremonies that are designed—

(A) to pay tribute to the public works professionals of the United States; and

(B) to recognize the substantial contributions that public works professionals make to the United States.