

State of North Carolina, unemployment hovers at 9.7 percent, with several counties facing double-digit unemployment rates. Job creation is my number one priority and this legislation is an innovative way to get Americans back into the workforce.

The United States needs a strong technical workforce. The AMERICA Works Act would encourage national industries, such as biotechnology, construction, and machinery, to come together and agree on the skill sets they most value in prospective employees. Community colleges would participate, creating the appropriate curricula to meet those needs. Students who complete the programs would receive an industry-recognized credential. Workers who carry these industry-backed credentials would be able to market themselves in any area of the country. Businesses could count on the fact that workers with these credentials have the expertise and skills they are looking for.

The AMERICA Works Act would require certain Federal job training and career development education programs to give priority to programs that provide an industry-recognized and nationally portable credential. This credentialing system starts out with basic competencies that prepare individuals for the workplace. Once basic competencies are completed, individuals can work toward high performance technical competencies and then progress further to highly skilled technical and management competencies. The credentialing levels are stackable, allowing workers flexibility along their career tracks. Stackable credentials provide straightforward paths, with clear entry and exit points, for workers to advance their careers and attain high quality jobs.

In North Carolina, we have an advanced manufacturing skills program at Forsyth Technical Community College in Winston-Salem. Forsyth Tech is participating in the National Association of Manufacturers' Manufacturing Skills Certification System, which offers credit programs toward nationally recognized, stackable credentials. They have had hundreds of students enroll in their programs. Forsyth Tech has already collaborated with state and local businesses to begin the process of incorporating their credentials into job descriptions. They believe that introducing graduates with skill certifications into the local workforce will help improve the hiring process, and the nationally recognized credentials will improve employment opportunities.

When the President's Jobs Council met earlier this month in North Carolina, a leading topic of discussion, and something the President himself mentioned, is the need to improve job training for American industries so that our workers can be competitive in the global economy.

The AMERICA Works Act will help job seekers and employers keep America competitive in every industry, from textiles to aerospace, high-tech to

biotech, and connect programs like those offered at Forsyth Tech with employers in the community, region, and across the United States.

As I mentioned before, job creation is my number one priority. I want to do everything I can to create jobs and make sure our workers have the skills necessary to help our businesses grow and thrive. By incentivizing industry-recognized, nationally portable, stackable credentials, we can ensure that America has the best businesses, with the best-trained workers leading the world.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important bill to expand employment opportunities for hardworking Americans.

#### SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 212—CONGRATULATING THE PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA ON THE TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE COUNTRY'S INDEPENDENCE

Mr. HARKIN (for himself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, and Mr. PORTMAN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

##### S. RES. 212

Whereas, on December 23, 1990, the people of Slovenia voted overwhelmingly in favor of independence from the former Yugoslavia in a national referendum;

Whereas, on June 25, 1991, the Republic of Slovenia declared itself as an independent and sovereign nation;

Whereas, on December 23, 1991, the parliament of Slovenia adopted a constitution based on the rule of law, respect for human rights, and democratic ideals;

Whereas, during its 20 years of independence, Slovenia has been an important United States ally in Central Europe and a strong advocate of democracy, the rule of law, and the merits of an open, free market economy;

Whereas the Government of Slovenia has made important contributions to international efforts to promote peace, stability, and development in Southeast Europe, Afghanistan, and elsewhere;

Whereas the Government of Slovenia serves as a leader in efforts to remove destructive land mines in parts of Southeast Europe and in other parts of the world;

Whereas Slovenia has become an active member of international organizations, including the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Council of Europe, the World Trade Organization, the European Union, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development; and

Whereas Slovenia has further consolidated its international role through successful chairmanship of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe in 2005, and, as the first new member from Central and Eastern Europe, the presidency of the Council of the European Union in 2008: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate hereby—

(1) congratulates the people and the Government of the Republic of Slovenia as the country celebrates 20 years of independence on June 25, 2011;

(2) commends the people of Slovenia on the significant progress made in the last 20 years;

(3) recognizes the important role of the Slovenian community in the United States to promote partnership and cooperation between the two countries; and

(4) encourages the Government of the Republic of Slovenia to continue its important work in the transatlantic alliance, and the efforts to further peace, stability, and prosperity in Southeast Europe and elsewhere.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 213—COMMENDING AND EXPRESSING THANKS TO PROFESSIONALS OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY

Mr. DEMINT (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. VITTER, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BURR, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. COATS, Mr. COBURN, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. ENZI, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HATCH, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JOHANNIS, Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin, Mr. KIRK, Mr. LEE, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. THUNE, Mr. WICKER, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. GRAHAM, and Mr. ALEXANDER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Select Committee on Intelligence:

##### S. RES. 213

Whereas since the attacks on September 11, 2001, the United States intelligence community has gathered critical information that has helped to prevent additional attacks on United States soil;

Whereas the Central Intelligence Agency (hereinafter referred to as the "CIA") plays a vital role in United States intelligence collection;

Whereas the importance of the CIA's work was exemplified by the successful operation against Usama bin Laden;

Whereas, as authorized by the President and in accordance with specific legal guidance provided by the Department of Justice, the CIA lawfully detained and interrogated certain high-value suspected terrorists;

Whereas information obtained from high-value detainees who had been detained and interrogated by the CIA was essential in determining the organizational structure, key operatives, modus operandi, and other relevant information on al-Qaeda operations;

Whereas information obtained from high-value detainees who had been detained and interrogated by the CIA was crucial to tracking down Usama bin Laden;

Whereas Michael Hayden, a former Director of the CIA, wrote, "Let the record show that when I was first briefed in 2007 about the brightening prospect of pursuing bin Laden through his courier network, a crucial component of the briefing was information provided by three CIA detainees, all of whom had been subjected to some form of enhanced interrogation. One of the most alerting pieces of evidence was that two of the detainees who had routinely been cooperative and truthful (after they had undergone enhanced techniques) were atypically denying apparent factual data—a maneuver taken as a good sign that the CIA was on to something important. So that there is no ambiguity, let me be doubly clear: It is nearly impossible for me to imagine any operation like the May 2 assault on bin Laden's compound in Abbottabad, Pakistan, that would

not have made substantial use of the trove of information derived from CIA detainees, including those on whom enhanced techniques had been used.”;

Whereas a May 30, 2005, Department of Justice memo stated, “In particular, the CIA believes that it would have been unable to obtain critical information from numerous detainees, including KSM [Khalid Sheikh Mohammed] and Abu Zubaydah, without these enhanced techniques. . . . Indeed, before the CIA used enhanced techniques in its interrogation of KSM, KSM resisted giving any answers to questions about future attacks, simply noting, ‘Soon, you will know.’”;

Whereas according to such May 30, 2005, memo, Abu Zubaydah explained the effect of enhanced techniques as, “Brothers who are captured and interrogated are permitted by Allah to provide information when they believe they have reached the limit of their ability to withhold it in the face of psychological and physical hardships.”;

Whereas such May 30, 2005, memo further indicates that after using enhanced interrogation techniques, high-value detainees became cooperative stating, “since the use of enhanced techniques, ‘KSM and Abu Zubaydah have been pivotal sources because of their ability and willingness to provide their analysis and speculation about the capabilities, methodologies, and mindsets of terrorists.’”;

Whereas mastermind of the attacks of September 11, 2001, Khalid Sheikh Mohammed disclosed to CIA interrogators information about a “second wave” plot using an East Asian al-Qaeda group known as Jemmah Islamiyah to hijack and crash an airliner into the Library Tower in Los Angeles;

Whereas Khalid Sheikh Mohammed gave CIA interrogators information that led to the capture of Riduan bin Isomuddin, known as Hambali, the leader of the Indonesian terrorist organization Jemaah Islamiyah;

Whereas al-Qaeda senior operational planner Abu Zubaydah and Khalid Sheikh Mohammed supplied important intelligence about Abu Musab al-Zarqawi and his terrorist network, aiding United States operations against al-Qaeda in Iraq;

Whereas in a May 2011 interview, Leon Panetta, the Director of the CIA, in response to a direct question about enhanced interrogation and the successful bin Laden operation, stated that, “Obviously there was some valuable information that was derived through those kind of interrogations.”;

Whereas, although the President issued an Executive Order in January 2009 that effectively ended the CIA’s interrogation and detention program, the Administration has yet to establish clear policies for the detention and interrogation of suspected high-value detainees, particularly those captured overseas by foreign governments;

Whereas in 2009, the Attorney General launched a preliminary review into whether Federal laws were violated in connection with the interrogation of specific detainees, even though career prosecutors had previously considered and rejected filing criminal charges in those cases; and

Whereas the preliminary review initiated by the Attorney General will determine whether CIA employees involved in the detention and interrogation of terrorists should be prosecuted for alleged violations of Federal law; Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) commends the professionals of the United States intelligence community for their dedication;

(2) expresses thanks to the employees of the Central Intelligence Agency for their selfless service;

(3) recognizes that continued investigation of employees of the Central Intelligence

Agency for their involvement in a detention and interrogation program that helped to save lives by averting terrorist attacks on the United States is unwarranted and will likely have a chilling effect on the critical work of their colleagues and other United States national security professionals;

(4) urges the President and the Attorney General to immediately close the Department of Justice’s ongoing investigation, and decline future prosecution, of Central Intelligence Agency employees for actions related to the interrogation of detainees at overseas locations, including the use of enhanced interrogation techniques on detained terrorists at such locations; and

(5) urges the President to develop and implement policies allowing for the long-term detention and interrogation by the intelligence community of high-value detainees, including detainees who are captured overseas or are in the custody of foreign countries.

#### AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 494. Mr. LEAHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 434 submitted by Mr. GRASSLEY and intended to be proposed to the bill S. 782, to amend the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 to reauthorize that Act, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 495. Mr. UDALL of New Mexico submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 679, to reduce the number of executive positions subject to Senate confirmation; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 496. Mr. UDALL of New Mexico submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 679, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 497. Mr. UDALL of New Mexico submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 679, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 498. Mr. CASEY (for Mr. CONRAD) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 202, designating June 27, 2011, as “National Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Awareness Day”.

#### TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 494. Mr. LEAHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 434 submitted by Mr. GRASSLEY and intended to be proposed to the bill S. 782, to amend the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 to reauthorize that Act, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of the matter proposed to be inserted, add the following:

##### SEC. 23. PERMANENT REAUTHORIZATION OF EB-5 REGIONAL CENTER PROGRAM.

Section 610 of the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1993 (8 U.S.C. 1153 note) is amended—

(1) by striking “pilot” each place such term appears; and

(2) in subsection (b), by striking “until September 30, 2012”.

SA 495. Mr. UDALL of New Mexico submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 679, to reduce the number of executive positions subject to Senate confirmation;

which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of the bill, insert the following:  
SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. **DEBATE AND CONSIDERATION OF LEGISLATIVE MATTERS AND NOMINATIONS.**

(a) **DEBATE ON MOTIONS TO PROCEED.**—Rule VIII of the Standing Rules of the Senate is amended by striking paragraph 2 and inserting the following:

“2. Debate on a motion to proceed to the consideration of any matter, and any debatable motion or appeal in connection therewith, shall be limited to not more than 2 hours, to be equally divided between, and controlled by, the majority leader and the minority leader or their designees except for a motion to go into executive session to consider a specified item of executive business and a motion to proceed to consider any privileged matter, which shall not be debatable.”.

(b) **RIGHT TO OFFER AMENDMENTS.**—Paragraph 2 of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate is amended by inserting at the end the following:

“After debate has concluded under this paragraph but prior to final disposition of the pending matter, the Majority Leader and the Minority Leader may each offer not to exceed 3 amendments identified as leadership amendments if they have been timely filed under this paragraph and are germane to the matter being amended. Debate on a leadership amendment shall be limited to 1 hour equally divided. A leadership amendment may not be divided.”.

(c) **POSTCLOTURE DEBATE ON NOMINATIONS.**—The second undesignated paragraph of paragraph 2 of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate is amended by inserting at the end the following: “If the matter on which cloture is invoked is a nomination, the period of time for debate shall be 2 hours.”.

SA 496. Mr. UDALL of New Mexico submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 679, to reduce the number of executive positions subject to Senate confirmation; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of the bill, insert the following:  
SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. **ESTABLISHING MAJORITY VOTE THRESHOLD FOR PROCEEDING TO NOMINATIONS.**

The second undesignated paragraph of paragraph 2 of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate is amended to read as follows:

“Is it the sense of the Senate that the debate shall be brought to a close?” And if that question shall be decided in the affirmative by three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn — except on a nomination to an Executive Branch position requiring the advise and consent of the Senate, in which case the necessary affirmative vote shall be a majority of the Senators duly chosen and sworn — then said measure, motion, or other matter pending before the Senate, or the unfinished business, shall be the unfinished business to the exclusion of all other business until disposed of.”.

SA 497. Mr. UDALL of New Mexico submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 679, to reduce the number of executive positions subject to Senate confirmation; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of the bill, insert the following: