

legislation will allow Critical Access Hospitals, CAHs, to continue to access the Federal Housing Administration's, FHA, 242 program.

There are approximately 1,327 CAHs throughout the United States. These hospitals are vital to our health care system because they provide individuals who live in rural areas care they might not otherwise have. Many of these hospitals were built over 40 years ago and are in need of significant renovations. Without the exemption, many rural hospitals would not qualify for the low-cost loan insurance based on patients' average length of stay or because the hospital operates a nursing home, and as a result, many rural hospitals would face higher financing costs on construction and renovation loans.

Many CAHs provide a significant level of non-acute or long-term services, and therefore do not qualify for the FHA 242 program based on length of stay. Additionally, some CAHs operate nursing homes, further lengthening the average stay and causing the hospital to be ineligible for the 242 program. In 2006, Congress recognized the uniqueness and importance of these hospitals and passed the Rural Health Care Capital Access Act. This Act provided an exemption from the acute care provision in the FHA 242 program for Critical Access Facilities. The exemption expires on July 31.

After July 31, CAHs applying for financing will be unable to receive financing if the exemption is not extended. Since the initial exemption was passed in 2006, 10 rural hospitals in 10 states have received mortgage insurance through the program as a result of the exemption in Edgerton, Wis., Columbus, Mont., Springfield, Ga., Monticello, Ill., L'Anse, Mich., Cambridge, Neb., Hot Springs, S.D., Grand Coulee, Wash., Moab, Utah and Holyoke, Colo. The program has provided financing for these hospitals on loans ranging from \$14 to \$31 million and totaling more than \$241 million.

The legislation I am introducing today would provide a five-year extension of the exemption in the Rural Health Care Capital Access Act, allowing the many rural hospitals that provide significant levels of non-acute or long-term care to continue applying for financing under a FHA 242 program. Without the exemption, these rural hospitals would not qualify for an FHA loan based on patients' average length of stay, resulting in fewer options for construction and renovation loans.

I would like to thank the original copponsors of this bill: Senators CONRAD, TIM JOHNSON, THUNE, JOHANNES, and TESTER for their leadership and support for Critical Access Hospitals. I look forward to working with my colleagues on this important issue to move the Rural Health Care Capital Access Reauthorization Act towards passage.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 240—CONDEMNING THE HORRIFIC ATTACKS ON GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS IN OSLO, NORWAY, AND A YOUTH CAMP ON UTOYA ISLAND, NORWAY, ON JULY 22, 2011, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. KERRY, Mr. LUGAR, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. KOHL, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. KYL, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. BURR, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. COATS, Mr. COBURN, Mr. COCHRAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORKER, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DEMINT, Mr. ENZI, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mrs. HAGAN, Mr. HATCH, Mr. HELLER, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. INOUE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JOHANNES, Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. KIRK, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEE, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. MANCHIN, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. MORAN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. REED of Rhode Island, Mr. REID of Nevada, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SESSIONS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SHELBY, Ms. SNOWE, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. TESTER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. VITTER, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WEBB, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. WICKER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 240

Whereas, on July 22, 2011, at least eight people were brutally killed when government buildings were bombed in Oslo, Norway;

Whereas, also on July 22, 2011, at least 68 people, a majority of them children and young adults, were brutally killed when a youth camp was attacked on Utøya Island, Norway;

Whereas, also on July 22, 2011, as many as 96 people were injured by these dual attacks;

Whereas these twin attacks brought horrific violence, pain, and suffering upon innocent Norwegians and their families and friends;

Whereas the Government and people of Norway have condemned the terrorist attacks and called the events an "atrocious," a "nightmare," and a "national tragedy";

Whereas Norway is recognized around the world as a country that is both peaceful and peace-seeking;

Whereas Oslo, Norway, is home to the Norwegian Nobel Committee, which annually selects winners of the Nobel Peace Prize;

Whereas Norway was a founding member of the United Nations in 1945, a Norwegian was the first Secretary-General of the United Na-

tions, and Norway was a founding member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in 1949;

Whereas Norway has for years offered safe haven to refugees and the politically persecuted from around the world;

Whereas over 4,500,000 Americans of Norwegian ancestry now reside in the United States, with the state of Minnesota being home to the largest number of people of Norwegian heritage outside of Norway itself;

Whereas the Prime Minister of Norway, Jens Stoltenberg, has said, "We must never let our values, our way of life, be destroyed by blind violence," and pledged that Norway "will respond with more democracy, more openness, and more humanity, but never naivete";

Whereas the Foreign Minister of Norway, Jonas Gahr Støre, remarked, "The nature of the Norwegian democracy will not change. Norway will continue to stand for engagement in the world where we commit our resources and our convictions.";

Whereas President Barack Obama remarked that "[i]t's a reminder that the entire international community has a stake in preventing this kind of terror from occurring," and later said, "You should know that the thoughts and prayers of all Americans are with the people of Norway and that we will stand beside [Norway] every step of the way.";

Whereas, on Monday, July 25, 2011, there was a moment of silence throughout Norway and other Nordic countries, followed by a memorial attended by more than 150,000 people outside the city hall in Oslo for a "Rose March," in which participants carried white or red roses; and

Whereas Crown Prince Haakon of Norway told those gathered at the memorial, "Tonight the streets are filled with love."; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns in the strongest terms the senseless terrorist attacks that occurred in Norway on July 22, 2011, causing many deaths and injuries;

(2) further condemns all terrorist actions, including those motivated by hatred and religious or cultural intolerance;

(3) expresses deep sympathy, solidarity, and condolences to the victims of the atrocious acts, their families, and the people and Government of Norway;

(4) emphasizes the bonds of friendship and shared heritage between the United States and Norway;

(5) expresses unwavering support to the Government and people of Norway as they recover from these horrific attacks;

(6) affirms its resolve to combat all forms of senseless violence and terrorism, both domestically and abroad; and

(7) calls on all people to join together to denounce acts of hatred and fear and promote peace and tolerance in their communities and around the world.

SENATE RESOLUTION 241—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF NOVEMBER 16, 2011, AS NATIONAL INFORMATION AND REFERRAL SERVICES DAY

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself and Mrs. MURRAY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 241

Whereas information and referral services link the consumer who has a need or problem with the most appropriate service to address that need or solve that problem;

Whereas quality information and referral services are the keystone point of entry to the entire human services structure delivery system;

Whereas information and referral services have been recognized in Federal legislation for more than 35 years since the 1973 reauthorization of the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.), and the subsequent establishment of the national Eldercare Locator and the development of Aging and Disability Resource Centers;

Whereas, as of the date of agreement to this resolution, the United States is served by information and referral through 2-1-1 programs, aging information and referral services, Aging and Disability Resource Centers, child care resource and referral services, military family centers, and other specialty information and referral services;

Whereas individuals who understand the variety of services available are better equipped to make decisions;

Whereas, in 1997, the national 2-1-1 initiative began with the United Way of Metropolitan Atlanta creating the first 24-hour telephone information and referral service using the easy-to-remember 2-1-1 dialing code for access;

Whereas, in 2000, the Federal Communications Commission reserved the 2-1-1 dialing code for community information and referral services, intended as an easy-to-remember and universally recognizable number that would serve as a vital connection between individuals and families in need, and appropriate community-based organizations and government agencies, on a regular basis and in times of disaster;

Whereas the Alliance of Information and Referral Systems has been providing professional standards and credentialing programs for those operating information and referral services;

Whereas expanding access to information about, and referrals to, services provides individuals with lower-cost and safer options for managing their needs, and is likely to reduce confusion, frustration, and inaccessibility to services; and

Whereas requests for assistance through information and referral services and 2-1-1 have increased across the United States due to the economic crisis: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses support for the designation of November 16, 2011, as National Information and Referral Services Day—

(A) to raise public awareness about the existence and importance of information and referral services available to all people in the United States; and

(B) to more effectively target those services to reach individuals most in need;

(2) encourages activities in communities across the United States involving schools, nonprofit organizations, businesses, and other entities to ensure information and referral services are part of everyday life in addition to emergency preparedness programs; and

(3) reaffirms the importance of clear and consistent professional standards to govern every aspect of quality information and referral services.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 26—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF THE DESIGNATION OF THE YEAR OF 2011 AS THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR FOR PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT

Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Mr. WICKER) submitted the following con-

current resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. CON. RES. 26

Whereas the year of 2011 is recognized as the “International Year for People of African Descent”;

Whereas the African Diaspora is expansive, spanning the globe from Latin America and the Caribbean to Asia, with persons of African descent living on every continent, including Europe;

Whereas in recognition of the African Diaspora, on December 18, 2009, the United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution 64/169, designating the year of 2011 as the “International Year for People of African Descent”;

Whereas the historical bonds and shared experiences that tie the African continent with the world must be recalled;

Whereas the global contributions of people of African descent must be recognized as a means of preserving that heritage;

Whereas a central goal of recognizing the year of 2011 as the International Year for People of African descent is to strengthen national actions and regional and international cooperation for the benefit of people of African descent in relation to—

(1) the full enjoyment of economic, cultural, social, civil, and political rights for people of African descent;

(2) the participation and integration of people of African descent in all political, economic, social, and cultural aspects of society; and

(3) the promotion of greater knowledge of, and respect for, the diverse heritage and culture of people of African descent; and

Whereas the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, done at Helsinki August 1, 1975, states that “participating States will respect human rights and fundamental freedoms . . . for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion”: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of the designation of the year of 2011 as the International Year for People of African Descent;

(2) encourages the recognition and celebration of the collective history and achievements made by people of African descent;

(3) reaffirms the importance of inclusion and the full and equal participation of people of African descent around the world in all aspects of political, economic, social, and cultural life;

(4) recognizes bilateral and multilateral efforts to promote democracy, human rights, and rule of law, including those efforts that target the eradication of poverty, hunger, and inequality; and

(5) reaffirms the commitment of Congress to address racism, discrimination, and intolerance in the United States and around the globe.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 586. Mr. KIRK submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1323, to express the sense of the Senate on shared sacrifice in resolving the budget deficit; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 587. Mr. BROWN of Ohio (for himself, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. SANDERS, and Ms. COLLINS) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1188, to require the purchase of domestically made flags of the United States of America for use by the Federal Government.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 586. Mr. KIRK submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1323, to express the sense of the Senate on shared sacrifice in resolving the budget deficit; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

TITLE II—MAXIMIZING SPECTRUM EFFICIENCY AND VALUE

SECTION 201. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Maximizing Spectrum Efficiency and Value Act of 2011”.

SEC. 202. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Demand for spectrum is sharply rising due to the growing advanced network of communications devices that rely on spectrum to transmit and receive information.

(2) It is necessary for the United States to maintain its investments in innovation of spectrum and broadband infrastructure to ensure the United States is a global leader in the wireless age.

(3) Spectrum is a finite resource, and in order to spur innovation, the United States must provide for better and more efficient spectrum management.

(4) Many spectrum holders do not efficiently use their frequency assignments, and a re-structuring of the usable spectrum is a viable solution to make up for this lost opportunity.

(5) Making available additional spectrum to meet the demands of broadband technologies and services will prevent dropped connections, blocked service, decreased connection speed, and even higher prices for certain advanced applications.

(6) The availability of increased spectrum will allow advanced technologies such as 4G mobile services, high-speed wireless, high definition television, and more to continue operating without network problems and interferences.

(7) The United States public debt totals more than \$14,300,000,000,000.

(8) Congress should look for ways to increase the government’s revenues without additional taxpayer burdens.

(9) Auctioning spectrum is the most economically sound method for accurate valuation and assignment of spectrum to develop the next generation of wireless technologies, expand broadband service to under served areas of our county, develop an interoperable public safety network and reduce our deficit.

(10) Recent spectrum auctions in Germany and India raised a combined \$20,000,000,000.

(11) Frequencies within the spectrum have substantial market value and could raise near \$30,000,000,000 in a public auction.

(12) Barriers such as regulatory and administrative delays are not conducive to the free market approach and can hurt innovation.

(13) Government spectrum, while extremely important, is vast and should be included in any spectrum reform initiative.

SEC. 203. AUTHORITY FOR INCENTIVE AUCTIONS.

Section 309(j) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 309(j)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (3), by striking subparagraph (F) and inserting the following:

“(F) for any auction of eligible frequencies described in section 119(f)(1) of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration Organization Act, the recovery of 110 percent of estimated relocation costs as provided to the Commission under section 119(e)(1)(D)(iii) of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration Organization Act.”; and

(2) in paragraph (8)—