

S. 1919. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide penalties for transporting minors in foreign commerce for the purposes of female genital mutilation; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Girls' Protection Act of 2011. This legislation addresses a topic that is difficult to talk about. It deals with the issue of female genital mutilation, FGM, a harmful cultural ritual with origins in Africa, Asia and the Middle East, that involves the removal of part or all of female genitalia.

FGM has no medical justification and is not based in religious beliefs. In fact, FGM, which is usually carried out on young girls sometime between infancy and fifteen years of age, can cause lifelong physical and psychological damage. The procedure is typically performed without an anesthetic and can cause bleeding, shock, infections and even death because of hemorrhage and unhygienic conditions. Lifelong health consequences include chronic infection, complications during pregnancy and labor, as well as severe pain during urination, menstruation, and sexual intercourse. This cruel procedure has been internationally recognized as a violation of the human rights of girls and women.

I first learned about FGM in 1994 when I read an article reporting the arrest of two men in Egypt who arranged for the filming of this appalling ritual procedure being performed on a ten year-old girl. Although this ritual is predominately practiced in various parts of Africa, Asia, and the Middle East, some ethnic communities in the United States continue to subject young girls to FGM. This compelled me to introduce legislation, which was enacted in 1996, that criminalizes the practice of FGM on girls under the age of 18 in the United States. The legislation I am introducing today seeks to strengthen this law by closing what is known as a "vacation loophole" by banning the act of transporting girls overseas to be subject to FGM.

While it is difficult to know precisely how many girls in the United States are at risk of being subject to FGM, estimates from various sources suggest that approximately 200,000 women living in the United States have been, or are at risk, of being subject to FGM. Enactment of The Girls Protection Act would help to better protect these girls by serving as a deterrent for those parents who are considering sending their young girls to their home countries to undergo FGM.

I am introducing The Girls' Protection Act today in honor of International Human Rights Defenders Day as well as the recognition of the Sixteen Days of Activism Against Gender Violence which occurs between November 25 and December 10 of each year. It is important to honor those individuals who are working, often under difficult circumstances and hostile social environments, for the advancement of

women's health, dignity and human rights. The passage of this legislation would go a long way to support these efforts and to help end this degrading and inhumane practice.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 1919

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Girls Protection Act of 2011".

SEC. 2. TRANSPORT FOR FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION.

Section 116 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(d) Whoever knowingly transports from the United States and its territories a person in foreign commerce for the purpose of conduct with regard to that person that would be a violation of subsection (a) if the conduct occurred within the United States, or attempts to do so, shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than 5 years, or both."

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 337—DESIGNATING DECEMBER 10, 2011, AS "WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA DAY"

Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Ms. SNOWE) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 337

Whereas 20 years ago, the Wreaths Across America project began an annual tradition, during the month of December, of donating, transporting, and placing Maine balsam fir holiday wreaths on the graves of the fallen heroes buried at Arlington National Cemetery;

Whereas since that tradition began, through the hard work and generosity of the individuals involved in the Wreaths Across America project, more than 250,000 wreaths have been sent to more than 700 locations, including national cemeteries and veterans memorials in every State and to locations overseas;

Whereas in 2010, wreaths were sent to more than 520 locations across the United States and overseas, 100 more locations than the previous year;

Whereas in December 2011, the Patriot Guard Riders, a motorcycle and motor vehicle group that is dedicated to patriotic events and includes more than 250,000 members nationwide, will continue their tradition of escorting a tractor-trailer filled with donated wreaths from Harrington, Maine, to Arlington National Cemetery;

Whereas thousands of individuals volunteer each December to escort and lay the wreaths;

Whereas December 11, 2010, was previously designated by the Senate as "Wreaths Across America Day"; and

Whereas the Wreaths Across America project will continue its proud legacy on December 10, 2011, bringing 75,000 wreaths to Arlington National Cemetery on that day: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates December 10, 2011, as "Wreaths Across America Day";

(2) honors the Wreaths Across America project, the Patriot Guard Riders, and all of the volunteers and donors involved in this worthy tradition; and

(3) recognizes the sacrifices our veterans, members of the Armed Forces, and their families have made, and continue to make, for our great Nation.

SENATE RESOLUTION 338—TO AUTHORIZE THE PRODUCTION OF RECORDS BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. REID of Nevada (for himself and Mr. McCONNELL) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 338

Whereas, the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation conducted an investigation into unauthorized charges on telephone bills;

Whereas, the Committee has received a request from a state law enforcement official for access to records of the Committee's investigation;

Whereas, by the privileges of the Senate of the United States and Rule XI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, no evidence under the control or in the possession of the Senate can, by administrative or judicial process, be taken from such control or possession but by permission of the Senate;

Whereas, when it appears that evidence under the control or in the possession of the Senate is needed for the promotion of justice, the Senate will take such action as will promote the ends of justice consistent with the privileges of the Senate: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Chairman and Ranking Minority Member of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, acting jointly, are authorized to provide to law enforcement officials, regulatory agencies, and other entities or individuals duly authorized by federal, state, or local governments, records of the Committee's investigation into unauthorized charges on telephone bills.

SENATE RESOLUTION 339—TO AUTHORIZE THE PRODUCTION OF RECORDS BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. REID of Nevada (for himself and Mr. McCONNELL) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 339

Whereas, the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation conducted an investigation in 2009 into aggressive sales tactics on the Internet and their impact on American consumers;

Whereas, the Committee has received a request from a state law enforcement official for access to records of the Committee's investigation;

Whereas, by the privileges of the Senate of the United States and Rule XI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, no evidence under the control or in the possession of the Senate can, by administrative or judicial process, be taken from such control or possession but by permission of the Senate;

Whereas, when it appears that evidence under the control or in the possession of the

Senate is needed for the promotion of justice, the Senate will take such action as will promote the ends of justice consistent with the privileges of the Senate: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Chairman and Ranking Minority Member of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, acting jointly, are authorized to provide to law enforcement officials, regulatory agencies, and other entities or individuals duly authorized by federal, state, or local governments, records of the Committee's investigation into aggressive sales tactics on the Internet and their impact on American consumers.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1418. Mr. CORNYN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1867, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2012 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1419. Mr. MCCAIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1867, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1420. Mr. MCCAIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1867, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1421. Mr. KYL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1867, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1422. Mr. LAUTENBERG (for himself and Mr. KIRK) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1867, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1423. Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. KIRK, Mr. HARKIN, and Mr. GRASSLEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1867, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1424. Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 1867, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1425. Mr. WEBB submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1867, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1426. Mr. DEMINT submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1867, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1427. Mr. TOOMEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1867, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1428. Mr. TOOMEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1867, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1429. Mr. TOOMEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1867, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1430. Mrs. MCCASKILL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 1867, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1431. Mrs. MCCASKILL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 1867, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1432. Mrs. MCCASKILL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her

to the bill S. 1867, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1433. Mr. FRANKEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1867, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1434. Mr. FRANKEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1867, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1435. Mr. LEAHY (for himself and Mr. KYL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1867, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1436. Mr. CORNYN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1867, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1437. Mr. CARPER (for himself, Mr. COBURN, and Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1867, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1438. Mr. TESTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1867, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1439. Mr. TESTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1867, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1440. Mr. CARPER (for himself, Mr. COBURN, and Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1867, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1441. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1867, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1442. Ms. SNOWE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 1867, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1443. Ms. COLLINS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 1867, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1444. Mr. KYL (for himself and Mr. LUGAR) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1867, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1445. Mr. WICKER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1867, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1446. Mr. HATCH (for himself and Mr. CHAMBLISS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1867, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1447. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1867, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1448. Mr. CHAMBLISS (for himself, Mr. HATCH, Mr. LEE, and Mr. INHOFE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1867, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1449. Mrs. MURRAY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 1867, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1450. Mr. COONS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1867, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1451. Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1867, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

him to the bill S. 1867, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2012 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle H of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1088. SENSE OF SENATE ON EQUINE-ASSISTED THERAPY FOR WOUNDED WARRIORS AND VETERANS.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Senate makes the following findings:

(1) The bonds that exist between humans and animals can be a beneficial foundation for recovery from wounds, illness, and injury.

(2) Equine-assisted therapy may contribute beneficially to the rehabilitation of wounded warriors and veterans through physical stimulation and strengthening, improved cognitive focus, mental awareness, fitness, and self-esteem.

(3) In 2005, the 1st Cavalry Division at Fort Hood, Texas, conducted a pilot program on equine-assisted therapy for wounded warriors at the Brooke Army Medical Center, San Antonio, Texas.

(4) The Caisson Platoon Equine-Assisted Therapy Program at Fort Myer, Virginia, which is inspired and sustained by former members of the Armed Forces and volunteers, has been providing equine-assisted therapy for wounded warriors undergoing rehabilitation and treatment at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center and veterans since 2006, with the support of horses and members of the Armed Forces serving in the 1st Battalion, 3rd United States Infantry Regiment, known as the "Old Guard".

(5) The Department of Veterans Affairs has recognized the importance and benefits of equine-assisted therapy since 2007, and currently more than 30 Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers across the country participate in programs providing such therapy.

(6) In Texas alone there are currently six collaborative programs of equine-assisted therapy involving the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs: Rock Program in Georgetown, Texas, Horseshoes of Hope in Bonham, Texas, Panther Creek Inspiration Ranch in Spring, Texas, SIRE Therapeutic Riding Centers in Houston, Texas, Spirithorse Therapeutic Riding Center in Corinth, Texas, and Stajduhar Stables in Colleyville, Texas.

(b) SENSE OF SENATE.—It is the sense of the Senate—

(1) to express gratitude for the work of all the members of the Armed Forces, veterans, and volunteers who devote time and effort under equine-assisted therapy programs to assist wounded warriors and veterans in recovering from injuries incurred in service to their country;

(2) to urge the Secretary of Defense to develop a plan for increasing access to equine-assisted therapy for wounded warriors and veterans outside the National Capital Region for whom such therapy could be beneficial in order to assist such wounded warriors and veterans in physical, mental, emotional and cognitive healing, including through collaboration between and among organizations of the Department of Defense for health, quality of life, and wounded warrior support, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and non-governmental organizations that have evaluated the effects of equine-assisted therapies in improving health and quality of life of wounded warriors and veterans; and

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 1418. Mr. CORNYN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by