

one of the largest colleges of veterinary medicine in the United States;

Whereas, as of May 2016, the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences has graduated 7,576 veterinarians into the veterinary profession, contributing a \$4,000,000,000 economic benefit to the State of Texas;

Whereas, in 2015, Quacquarelli Symonds, an educational firm that ranks veterinary medicine schools, ranked the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences sixth in the world and third in the United States, which is testament to the hard work and dedication of generations of Aggie students, faculty, staff, and veterinarians;

Whereas the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences strives to improve the health and well-being of animals, humans, and the environment through—

(1) collaborative learning, discovery, and innovation in basic, applied, and translational research; and
(2) commercialization in biomedical sciences;

Whereas the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences offers research signature programs in biomedical genomics, toxicology and environmental health, infectious disease and biodefense, neuroscience, reproductive biology, cardiovascular sciences, and veterinary clinical research, with increasing strength in regenerative medicine;

Whereas one of the core values of the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences is service, and the Veterinary Emergency Team of the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences—

(1) is the largest and most sophisticated veterinary medical disaster response team in the United States;

(2) provides cutting-edge emergency management education;

(3) develops new knowledge in emergency preparedness and response; and

(4) develops emergency preparedness plans for local communities throughout the State of Texas;

Whereas the faculty, staff, and students of the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences contribute to ever-evolving societal needs through their mission of education, research, and service in the field of veterinary medicine;

Whereas, in addition to contributing to the veterinary workforce, the economic benefit of the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences includes the protection of the \$18,000,000,000 animal agriculture industry and the \$7,000,000,000 wildlife industry of the State of Texas;

Whereas the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences is developing an integrated system that connects distant communities and regions of the great State of Texas through strategic partnerships with the Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Center;

Whereas the strategic partnerships with the Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Center will leverage and synergize the strengths of the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences, the Texas A&M System, and constituencies—

(1) to advance animal, human, and environmental health throughout the State of Texas;

(2) to invest in the young people of the State of Texas as they seek professional careers in veterinary medicine, biomedical sciences, and related disciplines; and

(3) to contribute to the stability and growth of the economy of the State of Texas; and

Whereas the new Texas A&M Veterinary & Biomedical Education complex—

(1) will house state-of-the-art classroom and teaching laboratory space that will enhance the learning environment for veterinary and biomedical science students;

(2) combined with the expansion of the small animal hospital, will—

(A) provide opportunities for innovations in teaching; and

(B) nurture collaboration and creativity; and

(3) will enable the recruitment of the best students, faculty, and staff to the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress commemorates the 100th anniversary of the 1916 opening of the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences and the 2016 opening of the new Texas A&M Veterinary & Biomedical Education complex in College Station, Texas.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 5106. Mrs. FISCHER (for Mr. UDALL) proposed an amendment to the concurrent resolution H. Con. Res. 122, supporting efforts to stop the theft, illegal possession or sale, transfer, and export of tribal cultural items of American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians in the United States and internationally.

SA 5107. Mrs. FISCHER (for Mr. UDALL) proposed an amendment to the concurrent resolution H. Con. Res. 122, *supra*.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 5106. Mrs. FISCHER (for Mr. UDALL) proposed an amendment to the concurrent resolution H. Con. Res. 122, supporting efforts to stop the theft, illegal possession or sale, transfer, and export of tribal cultural items of American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians in the United States and internationally; as follows:

Strike all after the resolving clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This concurrent resolution may be cited as the “Protection of the Right of Tribes to stop the Export of Cultural and Traditional Patrimony Resolution” or the “PROTECT Patrimony Resolution”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this resolution:

(1) NATIVE AMERICAN.—The term “Native American” means—

(A) with respect to an individual, an individual who is a member of an Indian tribe (as defined in section 2 of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (25 U.S.C. 3001)); and

(B) with respect to the cultural nature or significance of an item, right, or other object or concept, being of or significant to—

(i) an Indian tribe (as defined in section 2 of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (25 U.S.C. 3001)); or

(ii) a Native Hawaiian organization (as defined in that section (25 U.S.C. 3001)).

(2) TRIBAL CULTURAL ITEM.—The term “tribal cultural item” has the meaning given the term “cultural item” in section 2 of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (25 U.S.C. 3001).

SEC. 3. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Tribal cultural items—

(A) have ongoing historical, traditional, or cultural importance central to a Native American group or culture;

(B) cannot be alienated, appropriated, or conveyed by any individual; and

(C) are vital to Native American cultural survival and the maintenance of Native American ways of life.

(2) The nature and description of tribal cultural items are sensitive and to be treated with respect and confidentiality, as appropriate.

(3) Violators often export tribal cultural items internationally with the intent of evading Federal and tribal laws.

(4) Tribal cultural items continue to be removed from the possession of Native Americans and sold in black or public markets in violation of Federal and tribal laws, including laws designed to protect Native American cultural property rights.

(5) The illegal trade of tribal cultural items involves a sophisticated and lucrative black market, where the items are traded through domestic markets and then are often exported internationally.

(6) Auction houses in foreign countries have held sales of tribal cultural items from the Pueblo of Acoma, the Pueblo of Laguna, the Pueblo of San Felipe, the Hopi Tribe, and other Indian tribes.

(7) After tribal cultural items are exported internationally, Native Americans have difficulty stopping the sale of the items and securing their repatriation to their home communities, where the items belong.

(8) Federal agencies have a responsibility to consult with Native Americans to stop the theft, illegal possession or sale, transfer, and export of tribal cultural items.

(9) An increase in the investigation and successful prosecution of violations of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (25 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.) and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 (16 U.S.C. 470aa et seq.) is necessary to deter illegal trading in tribal cultural items.

(10) Many Indian tribes and tribal organizations have passed resolutions condemning the theft and sale of tribal cultural items, including the following:

(A) The National Congress of American Indians passed Resolutions SAC-12-008 and SD-15-075 to call on the United States, in consultation with Native Americans—

(i) to address international repatriation; and

(ii) to take affirmative actions to stop the theft and illegal sale of tribal cultural items both domestically and internationally.

(B) The All Pueblo Council of Governors, representative of 20 Pueblo Indian tribes—

(i) noted that the Pueblo Indian tribes of the Southwestern United States have been disproportionately affected by the sale of tribal cultural items both domestically and internationally in violation of Federal and tribal laws; and

(ii) passed Resolutions 2015-12 and 2015-13 to call on the United States, in consultation with Native Americans—

(I) to address international repatriation; and

(II) to take affirmative actions to stop the theft and illegal sale of tribal cultural items both domestically and internationally.

(C) The United South and Eastern Tribes, an intertribal organization comprised of 26 federally recognized Indian tribes, passed Resolution 2015:007, which calls on the United States to address all means to support the repatriation of tribal cultural items from beyond United States borders.

(D) The Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes, uniting the Chickasaw, Choctaw, Cherokee, Muscogee (Creek), and Seminole Nations, passed Resolution 12-07, which requests that the United States, after

consultation with Native Americans, assist in international repatriation and take immediate action to address repatriation.

SEC. 4. DECLARATION OF CONGRESS.

Congress—

(1) condemns the theft, illegal possession or sale, transfer, and export of tribal cultural items;

(2) calls on the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of Homeland Security, and the Attorney General to consult with Native Americans, including traditional Native American religious leaders, in addressing the practices described in paragraph (1)—

(A) to take affirmative action to stop the practices; and

(B) to secure repatriation of tribal cultural items to Native Americans;

(3) supports the efforts of the Comptroller General of the United States—

(A) to determine the scope of illegal trafficking in tribal cultural items domestically and internationally; and

(B) to discuss with Native Americans, including traditional Native American religious leaders, relevant Federal officials, and other individuals and entities, as appropriate, the steps required—

(i) to end illegal trafficking in, and the export of, tribal cultural items; and

(ii) to secure repatriation of tribal cultural items to the appropriate Native Americans;

(4) supports the development of explicit restrictions on the export of tribal cultural items; and

(5) encourages State and local governments and interested groups and organizations to work cooperatively in—

(A) deterring the theft, illegal possession or sale, transfer, and export of tribal cultural items; and

(B) securing the repatriation of tribal cultural items to the appropriate Native Americans.

SA 5107. Mrs. FISCHER (for Mr. UDALL) proposed an amendment to the concurrent resolution H. Con. Res. 122, supporting efforts to stop the theft, illegal possession or sale, transfer, and export of tribal cultural items of American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians in the United States and internationally; as follows:

Strike the preamble.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 29, 2016, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled “Regional Impact on Syria Conflict: Syria, Turkey, and Iraq.”

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON REGULATORY AFFAIRS AND FEDERAL MANAGEMENT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Regulatory Affairs and Federal Management of the Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 29, 2016, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled “Understanding the Millennial Perspective in Deciding to Pursue and Remain in Federal Employment.”

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

AMENDING TITLE 49, UNITED STATES CODE, WITH RESPECT TO CERTAIN GRANT ASSURANCES

Mrs. FISCHER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 5944, which was received from the House.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 5944) to amend title 49, United States Code, with respect to certain grant assurances, and for other purposes.

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

Mrs. FISCHER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The bill (H.R. 5944) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

OMNIBUS TERRITORIES ACT OF 2015

Mrs. FISCHER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 583, S. 2360.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2360) to improve the administration of certain programs in the insular areas, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with an amendment, as follows:

(Strike the part in boldface brackets and insert the part printed in italic.)

S. 2360

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 “Omnibus Territories Act of 2015”.

SEC. 2. RESETTLEMENT AND RELOCATION FOR THE PEOPLE OF BIKINI.

[The first proviso under the heading “TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS” under the heading “OFFICE OF TERRITORIAL AFFAIRS” under the heading “DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR” in chapter VIII of title I of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 1982 (Public Law 97-257; 96 Stat. 840), is amended by striking “in the Marshall Islands, principally on Kili and Ejit Islands”.

SEC. 3. RELIABLE AIR SERVICE IN AMERICAN SAMOA.

[Section 41703(c) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

[(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “or” at the end;

[(2) in paragraph (2), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; or”; and

[(3) by adding at the end the following:

[(“(3) notwithstanding subsection (a)(1), the navigation under this subsection is necessary to provide and sustain air commerce in American Samoa between the islands of Tutuila and Manu’a.”.]

SEC. 2. RESETTLEMENT AND RELOCATION FOR THE PEOPLE OF BIKINI.

The matter under the heading “TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS” under the head-

ing “OFFICE OF TERRITORIAL AFFAIRS” under the heading “DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR” in chapter VIII of title I of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 1982 (Public Law 97-257; 96 Stat. 840), is amended by striking the first proviso and inserting “Provided, That such funds, including funds provided pursuant to the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1989 (Public Law 100-446; 102 Stat. 1774), shall be available for the relocation and resettlement of the Bikini people living on Kili and Ejit Islands, on the condition that the Secretary of the Interior submits to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives a resettlement plan developed in coordination with the Bikini Atoll leadership: Provided further, That for any fiscal year, annual expenditures from the Resettlement Fund established by this section and pursuant to the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1989 (Public Law 100-446; 102 Stat. 1774) may not exceed an amount that is greater than 90 percent of the average annual earnings of the Fund for the preceding 5 years unless for resettlement purposes outside of the Marshall Islands.”.

SEC. 3. RELIABLE AIR SERVICE IN AMERICAN SAMOA.

Section 40109(g) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2), by striking subparagraph (C) and inserting the following:

“(C) review the exemption at least every 30 days (or, in the case of exemptions that are necessary to provide and sustain air transportation in American Samoa between the islands of Tutuila and Manu’a, at least every 180 days), to ensure that the unusual circumstances that established the need for the exemption still exist.”; and

(2) by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the following:

“(3) RENEWAL OF EXEMPTIONS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the Secretary may renew an exemption (including renewals) under this subsection for not more than 30 days.

“(B) EXCEPTION.—An exemption that is necessary to provide and sustain air transportation in American Samoa between the islands of Tutuila and Manu’a, may be renewed for not more than 180 days.

“(4) CONTINUATION OF EXEMPTIONS.—An exemption may continue for not more than 5 days after the unusual circumstances that established the need for the exemption cease.”.

SEC. 4. DRIVERS' LICENSES AND PERSONAL IDENTIFICATION CARDS.

(a) DEFINITION OF STATE.—Section 201(5) of the REAL ID Act of 2005 (49 U.S.C. 30301 note; Public Law 109-13) is amended by striking “the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.”.

(b) EVIDENCE OF LAWFUL STATUS.—Section 202(c)(2)(B) of the REAL ID Act of 2005 (49 U.S.C. 30301 note; Public Law 109-13) is amended—

(1) in clause (viii), by striking “or” at the end;

(2) in clause (ix), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; or”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(x) is a citizen of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, or the Republic of Palau who has been admitted to the United States as a non-immigrant pursuant to a Compact of Free Association between the United States and the Republic or Federated States.”.

Mrs. FISCHER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported amendment be agreed to, the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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