

of S. 831, a bill to amend chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, to provide for congressional review of any rule promulgated by the Internal Revenue Service that increases Federal revenue, and for other purposes.

S. 981

At the request of Mr. LEVIN, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. MURKOWSKI) and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. NICKLES) were added as cosponsors of S. 981, a bill to provide for analysis of major rules.

S. 1021

At the request of Mr. HAGEL, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. TORRICELLI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1021, a bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide that consideration may not be denied to preference eligibles applying for certain positions in the competitive service, and for other purposes.

S. 1264

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. TORRICELLI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1264, a bill to amend the Federal Meat Inspection Act and the Poultry Products Inspection Act to provide for improved public health and food safety through enhanced enforcement.

S. 1350

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1350, a bill to amend section 332 of the Communications Act of 1934 to preserve State and local authority to regulate the placement, construction, and modification of certain telecommunications facilities, and for other purposes.

S. 1580

At the request of Mr. SHELBY, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1580, a bill to amend the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 to place an 18-month moratorium on the prohibition of payment under the medicare program for home health services consisting of venipuncture solely for the purpose of obtaining a blood sample, and to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to study potential fraud and abuse under such program with respect to such services.

S. 1647

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CONRAD), and the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID) were added as cosponsors of S. 1647, a bill to reauthorize and make reforms to programs authorized by the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965.

S. 1675

At the request of Mr. SHELBY, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1675, a bill to establish a Congressional Office of Regulatory Analysis.

S. 1677

At the request of Mr. HAGEL, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1677, a bill to reauthorize the North American Wetlands Conservation Act and the Partnerships for Wildlife Act.

S. 1680

At the request of Mr. DORGAN, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1680, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to clarify that licensed pharmacists are not subject to the surety bond requirements under the medicare program.

S. 1693

At the request of Mr. THOMAS, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. BENNETT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1693, a bill to renew, reform, reinvigorate, and protect the National Park System.

S. 1707

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1707, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to provide for improved safety of imported foods.

S. 1758

At the request of Mr. SESSIONS, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1758, a bill to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to facilitate protection of tropical forests through debt reduction with developing countries with tropical forests.

S. 1875

At the request of Mr. DASCHLE, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. WELLSTONE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1875, a bill to initiate a coordinated national effort to prevent, detect, and educate the public concerning Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Fetal Alcohol Effect and to identify effective interventions for children, adolescents, and adults with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Fetal Alcohol Effect, and for other purposes.

S. 1877

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. BRYAN) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1877, a bill to remove barriers to the provision of affordable housing for all Americans.

S. 1908

At the request of Mr. MOYNIHAN, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CLELAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1908, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to carve out form payments to Medicare+Choice organizations amounts attributable to disproportionate share hospital payments and pay such amounts directly to those disproportionate share hospitals in which their enrollees receive care.

S. 2007

At the request of Mr. COCHRAN, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. HAGEL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2007, a bill to amend the false

claims provisions of chapter 37 of title 31, United States Code.

S. 2022

At the request of Mr. DEWINE, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. THURMOND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2022, a bill to provide for the improvement of interstate criminal justice identification, information, communications, and forensics.

S. 2031

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the names of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. HAGEL), the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID), and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2031, a bill to combat waste, fraud, and abuse in payments for home health services provided under the medicare program, and to improve the quality of those home health services.

S. 2033

At the request of Mr. ABRAHAM, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. GRAMS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2033, a bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act with respect to penalties for crimes involving cocaine, and for other purposes.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 46

At the request of Mr. LOTT, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of Senate Joint Resolution 46, a joint resolution expressing the sense of the Congress on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the founding of the modern State of Israel and reaffirming the bonds of friendship and cooperation between the United States and Israel.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 55

At the request of Mr. GREGG, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. LUGAR) was added as a cosponsor of Senate Concurrent Resolution 55, a concurrent resolution declaring the annual memorial service sponsored by the National Emergency Medical Services Memorial Service Board of Directors to honor emergency medical services personnel to be the "National Emergency Medical Services Memorial Service."

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 96

At the request of Mr. LAUTENBERG, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. D'AMATO) was added as a cosponsor of Senate Concurrent Resolution 96, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that a postage stamp should be issued honoring Oskar Schindler.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 97—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS CONCERNING THE HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMANITARIAN SITUATION FACING THE WOMEN AND GIRLS OF AFGHANISTAN

Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. DODD, and Ms. LANDRIEU) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. CON. RES. 97

Whereas the legacy of the war in Afghanistan has had a devastating impact on the civilian population, and a particularly negative impact on the rights and security of women and girls;

Whereas the current environment is one in which the rights of women and girls are routinely violated, leading the Department of State in its 1997 Country Report on Human Rights, released January 30, 1998, to conclude that women are beaten for violating increasingly restrictive Taliban dress codes, which require women to be covered from head to toe, women are strictly prohibited from working outside the home, women and girls are denied the right to an education, women are forbidden from appearing outside the home unless accompanied by a male family member, and beatings and death result from a failure to observe these restrictions;

Whereas the Secretary of State stated, in November 1997 at the Nasir Bagh Refugee Camp in Pakistan, that if a society is to move forward, women and girls must have access to schools and health care, be able to participate in the economy, and be protected from physical exploitation and abuse;

Whereas Afghanistan recognizes international human rights conventions such as the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Covenant on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, and the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, which espouses respect for basic human rights of all individuals without regard to race, religion, ethnicity, or gender;

Whereas the use of rape as an instrument of war is considered a grave breach of the Geneva Convention and a crime against humanity;

Whereas people who commit grave breaches of the Geneva Convention are to be apprehended and subject to trial;

Whereas there is significant credible evidence that warring parties, factions, and powers in Afghanistan are responsible for numerous human rights violations, including the systematic rape of women and girls;

Whereas in recent years Afghan maternal mortality rates have increased dramatically, and the level of women's health care has declined significantly;

Whereas there has been a marked upswing in human rights violations against women and girls since the Taliban coalition seized Kabul in 1996, including Taliban edicts denying women and girls the right to an education, employment, access to adequate health care, and direct access to humanitarian aid; and

Whereas peace and security in Afghanistan are conducive to the full restoration of all human rights and fundamental freedom, the voluntary repatriation of refugees to their homeland in safety and dignity, the clearance of mine fields, and the reconstruction and rehabilitation of Afghanistan: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) deplores the continued human rights violations by all parties, factions, and powers in Afghanistan;

(2) condemns targeted discrimination against women and girls and expresses deep concern regarding the prohibitions on employment and education;

(3) strongly condemns the use of rape or other forms of systematic gender discrimination by any party, faction, or power in Afghanistan as an instrument of war;

(4) calls on all parties, factions, and powers in Afghanistan to respect international norms and standards of human rights;

(5) calls on all Afghan parties to bring an end without delay to—

(A) discrimination on the basis of gender; and

(B) deprivation of human rights of women; (6) calls on all Afghan parties in particular to take measures to ensure—

(A) the effective participation of women in civil, economic, political, and social life throughout the country;

(B) respect for the right of women to work;

(C) the right of women and girls to an education without discrimination, reopening schools to women and girls at all levels of education;

(D) respect for the right of women to physical security;

(E) those responsible for physical attacks on women are brought to justice;

(F) respect for freedom of movement of women and their effective access to health care; and

(G) equal access of women to health facilities;

(7) supports the work of nongovernmental organizations advocating respect for human rights in Afghanistan and an improvement in the status of women and their access to humanitarian and development assistance and programs;

(8) calls on the international community to provide, on a nondiscriminatory basis, adequate humanitarian assistance to the people of Afghanistan and Afghan refugees in neighboring countries pending their voluntary repatriation, and requests all parties in Afghanistan to lift the restrictions imposed on international aid and to cease any action which may prevent or impede the delivery of humanitarian assistance;

(9) welcomes the appointment of Ambassador Lakhbar Brahimi as special envoy of the United Nations Secretary General for Afghanistan, and encourages United Nations efforts to produce a durable peace in Afghanistan consistent with the goal of a broad-based national government respectful of human rights; and

(10) calls on all warring parties, factions, and powers to participate with Ambassador Brahimi in an intra-Afghan dialogue regarding the peace process.

#### SEC. 2. ADDITIONAL ACTION BY PRESIDENT.

It is the sense of Congress that the President and Secretary of State should—

(1) work with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to—

(A) guarantee the safety of, and provide development assistance for, Afghan women's groups in Pakistan and Afghanistan;

(B) increase support for refugee programs in Pakistan providing assistance to Afghan women and children with an emphasis on health, education, and income-generating programs; and

(C) explore options for the resettlement in western countries of those Afghan women, particularly war widows and their families, who are under threat or who fear for their safety or the safety of their families;

(2) establish an Afghanistan Women's Initiative, based on the successful model of the Bosnian Women's Initiative and the Rwandan Women's Initiative, that is targeted at Afghan women's groups, in order to—

(A) assist Afghan women in Pakistan and Afghanistan in local capacity building;

(B) provide humanitarian and development services to the women and the families most in need; and

(C) promote women's economic security;

(3) make a policy determination that—

(A) recognition of any government in Afghanistan by the United States depends on the human rights policies towards women adopted by that government;

(B) the United States should not recognize any government which systematically maltreats women; and

(C) any nonemergency economic or development assistance will be based on respect for human rights; and

(4) call for the creation of—

(A) a commission to establish an international record of the criminal culpability of any individual or party in Afghanistan employing rape or other crime against humanity considered a grave breach of the Geneva Convention as an instrument of war; and

(B) an ad hoc international criminal tribunal by the United Nations for the purposes of indicting, prosecuting, and imprisoning any individual responsible for crimes against humanity in Afghanistan.

#### SEC. 3. REPORT.

It is the sense of Congress that the Secretary of State should submit a report to Congress not later than 6 months after the date of the adoption of this resolution regarding actions that have been taken to implement this resolution.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to submit a resolution expressing concern over the continuing deterioration of the rights of women and girls in Afghanistan, and calling on the administration to increase its efforts to provide humanitarian assistance and to protect the human rights of Afghan women.

I am joined in this resolution by Senators BROWNBACK, DODD, and LANDRIEU.

Mr. President, every day the women of Afghanistan are excluded from the international community's prevailing vision of human rights, and continue to lack basic legal rights, access to education, and access to economic opportunity. Indeed, perhaps nowhere in the world today is there a clearer test of our commitment to the cause of women's rights than Afghanistan.

In March of this year I convened a meeting with leading Non-Governmental organizations, the Administration, and Afghan women themselves to discuss the situation in Afghanistan and what options are available to the international community to make the lives of Afghanistan's women better.

Among those participating were representatives of the Department of State, the International Commission of the Red Cross, Save the Children, the Women's Commission on Refugee Women and Children, Women in Refugee Development, and the Women's Alliance for Peace and Human Rights in Afghanistan, among others.

We discussed the legacy of close to twenty years of war and bloodshed which has torn apart Afghanistan: More than 1 million people have died, and much of the capital of Kabul lies in ruins.

There are more than 50,000 war widows in Kabul alone, many dependent on international humanitarian assistance for their very survival. The ICRC, for example, distributes food to some 15,000 widows in Kabul.

According to Theresa Loar, the State Department's Senior Coordinator for Women's Issues, in the 1980s a growing number of Afghan women worked outside the home. There were female lawyers, judges, doctors, and teachers.

This trend was reversed in 1992 and now, under the Taliban, "women and girls became, and remain today, virtually invisible."

Education is a major concern, where edicts prevent girls from attending school and receiving an education. A small, low-profile, "home school" movement has started, with an estimated 6,500 girls and boys attending classes in Kabul. These home schools, however, are no substitute for access to a real education.

On September 6, 1997 the Taliban government issued a statement demanding that admission of female patients to hospitals cease immediately, and that all female medical staff stop working. After negotiations with the ICRC the Taliban government reconsidered, but women still face great difficulties in getting access to medical care.

Many Non-Governmental Organizations are doing work which I can describe as nothing short of heroic to provide medical and humanitarian assistance under the most adverse of circumstances. But they are faced with numerous constraints, from difficulties in collecting data and verifying beneficiary cards, to laws and practices which prevent the distribution of assistance or services directly to the women in need.

The U.S. State Department's 1997 human rights report states: "Women were beaten for violating increasingly restrictive Taliban dress codes, which require women to be covered from head to toe. Women were strictly prohibited from working outside the home, and women and girls were denied the right to an education. Women were forbidden from appearing outside the home unless accompanied by a male family member. Beatings and death resulted from a failure to observe these restrictions."

The women of Afghanistan, who have seen their families destroyed by war, are now having their economic life and their fundamental human rights stripped away, and an already war-torn and war-weary Afghanistan has been pushed to the brink of disaster.

Fully half of Afghanistan's population cannot work for a living or be educated. Fully half the population of Afghanistan are being systematically denied their basic human rights. We must act to stop these injustices and to bring peace to Afghanistan.

Ambassador Richardson's recent initiative, which led to the unprecedented peace talks between representatives of the Taliban and the Northern Alliance in Islamabad last month and an agreement to set up a 40-member Ulama commission to find a solution for the civil conflict, represents perhaps the best opportunity for a comprehensive peace in Afghanistan in over a generation.

The ultimate outcome of these discussions are still in doubt, however, and, movement at the peace talks has been accompanied by reports of new fighting in the fields, with both sides reportedly acquiring new weapons.

I believe we must give our full support to these peace talks. But I also believe that we must be prepared for continued violence in Afghanistan, and for the situation faced by Afghanistan's women to get worse before it gets better. As we await the outcome of these peace talks—and there is no quick or apparent solution in sight—we must continue to work to alleviate the plight of Afghanistan's women.

The resolution I submit today calls on the administration to create an Afghan Women's Initiative, along the lines of the successful Bosnian and Rwandan Women's Initiatives which the administration has created in the past two years. Those initiatives have assisted the victims of those wars by promoting the reintegration of women into the economy with an emphasis on capacity-building, training programs, legal assistance, and support for micro-enterprise projects, as well as refugee reintegration and protection.

I believe that the successes of those two programs can serve as a model for a similar initiative for the women of Afghanistan, as well as the numerous Afghan women in refugee camps in Pakistan. The women of Afghanistan could greatly benefit from such a women's initiative, and I look forward to working with the administration to design and implement such a program.

Second, this resolution calls for the international community to investigate charges of rape and abuse as instruments of the now almost decade-long civil war which has torn Afghanistan apart, and, if credible evidence exists, to convene a war crimes tribunal to prosecute the perpetrators.

Credible charges have been made about the systematic use of rape by several of the factions and parties involved in this struggle, and I believe that these charges must be investigated and, if true, must lead to indictments and trials.

Finally, I believe that the United States must be clear in stating that we will not recognize any government in Afghanistan unless it is broad-based, respective of all Afghans, and respects international norms of behavior in human rights, including the rights of women and girls. As we continue to work for peace in Afghanistan, this resolution calls for an unequivocal statement of administration policy on this point.

The United States, with our history of commitment to women's rights and equality, must redouble its efforts to place respect for women's rights at the top of the international community's agenda in Afghanistan, and I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

This resolution, essentially, asks the President and the Secretary of State to work with the United Nations High Commissioner of Refugees to guarantee the safety of and provide development assistance for Afghan women in Pakistan, as well as Afghanistan, and to increase support for various refugee programs, to explore options for resettle-

ment, and to establish in Afghanistan a women's initiative which is based on the successful model of the Bosnian women's initiative and the Rwandan women's initiative that are targeted toward Afghani women's groups.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 231—MAKING A TECHNICAL AMENDMENT TO SENATE RESOLUTION 208

Mr. BENNETT submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 231

*Resolved*, That Senate Resolution 208, agreed to April 2, 1998 (105th Congress), is amended—

(1) in section 3(a)(8), by inserting "reimbursable or" before "non-reimbursable"; and

(2) striking section 5 and inserting the following:

#### "SEC. 5. FUNDING.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—There shall be made available from the contingent fund of the Senate out of the Account for Expenses for Inquiries and Investigations, for use by the special committee to carry out this resolution—

"(1) not to exceed \$575,000 for the period beginning on April 2, 1998, through February 28, 1999, and \$575,000 for the period beginning on March 1, 1999, through February 29, 2000, of which not to exceed \$200,000 shall be available for each period for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof, as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946; and

"(2) such additional sums as may be necessary for agency contributions related to the compensation of employees of the special committee.

"(b) EXPENSES.—Payment of expenses of the special committee shall be disbursed upon vouchers approved by the chairman, except that vouchers shall not be required for the disbursement of salaries paid at an annual rate."

#### AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED

#### AMERICAN COMPETITIVENESS ACT

#### WARNER (AND ROBB) AMENDMENT NO. 2412

Mr. ABRAHAM (for Mr. WARNER, for himself and Mr. ROBB) proposed an amendment to the bill (S. 1723) to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to assist the United States to remain competitive by increasing the access of the United States firms and institutions of higher education to skilled personnel and by expanding educational and training opportunities for American students and workers; as follows:

At the appropriate place in the bill insert the following new section:

#### SEC. \_\_\_\_ SPECIAL IMMIGRANT STATUS FOR CERTAIN NATO CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 101(a)(27) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(27)) is amended—

(1) by striking "or" at the end of subparagraph (J),

(2) by striking the period at the end of subparagraph (K) and inserting "; or", and