

background check if the state fails to develop an adequate system.

This bill is important for the well-being of our children and is a proper use of Federal resources. The Congress should use all reasonable means to ensure that criminals do not have access to children, seniors, and the disabled. I am proud to support this legislation, and I am pleased that the Senate has approved these significant protections for the most vulnerable in our society.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, Senators BIDEN and THURMOND have an amendment at the desk. I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be considered and agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table; the committee reported substitute amendment, as amended, be agreed to; the bill, as amended, be read a third time, passed, the motion to reconsider be laid on the table; and that any statements relating thereto be printed in the RECORD with no intervening action or debate, and that the title amendment be agreed to.

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

The amendment (No. 4896) was agreed to.

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Text of Amendments.")

The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended, was agreed to.

The title amendment was agreed to.

The bill (S. 1868), as amended, was read the third time and passed.

ACCOUNTABILITY OF TAX DOLLARS ACT OF 2002

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of H.R. 4685.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4685) to amend title 31, United States Code, to expand the types of Federal agencies that are required to prepare audited financial statements.

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the bill be read a third time, passed, the motion to reconsider be laid on the table, and that any statements relating thereto be printed in the RECORD.

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

The bill (H.R. 4685) was read the third time and passed.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR A DAY OF TRIBUTE TO ALL FIRE- FIGHTERS AND THE FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS FOUNDATION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration and the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Con. Res. 142.

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

The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 142) expressing support for the goals and ideas of a day of tribute to all firefighters who have died in the line of duty and recognizing the important mission of the Fallen Firefighters Foundation in assisting family members to overcome the loss of their fallen heroes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the concurrent resolution and preamble be agreed to en bloc, the motion to reconsider be laid on the table, and that any statements relating to this matter be printed in the RECORD.

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

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 142) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The concurrent resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. CON. RES. 142

Whereas for over 350 years the Nation's firefighters have dedicated their lives to the safety of their fellow Americans;

Whereas throughout the Nation's history many firefighters have fallen in the line of duty, leaving behind family members and friends who have grieved their untimely losses;

Whereas these individuals served with pride and honor as volunteer and career firefighters;

Whereas until 1980 there was not a tribute to honor these heroes for their acts of valor or a support system to help the families of these heroes rebuild their lives;

Whereas in 1992 Congress created the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation to lead a nationwide effort to remember the Nation's fallen firefighters through a variety of activities;

Whereas each year the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation hosts an annual memorial service to honor the memory of all firefighters who die in the line of duty and to bring support and counseling to their families;

Whereas in 2002 the memorial service will take place on October 5 and 6;

Whereas 445 fallen firefighters, including firefighters from nearly every State, will be honored in 2002; and

Whereas many of the family members of these firefighters are expected to attend the memorial service: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress supports the goals and ideas of a day of tribute to all firefighters who have died in the line of duty and recognizes the important mission of the Fallen Firefighters Foundation in assisting family members to overcome the loss of their fallen heroes.

HONORING AND COMMENDING THE LAO VETERANS OF AMERICA

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that we now proceed to the consideration of H. Con. Res. 406.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will state the concurrent resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 406) honoring and commending the Lao Veterans

of America, Laotian and Hmong veterans of the Vietnam War, and their families, for their historic contributions to the United States.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements related thereto be printed in the RECORD, including the statement of Senator WELLSTONE.

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

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 406) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I want to take a moment to thank my colleagues for passing H. Con. Res. 406. This resolution commemorates the tremendous sacrifice made by so many Lao-Hmong during the Vietnam War.

As a Senator from Minnesota, I am proud to represent one of the largest Hmong populations in America. My experience as a Senator has become so much greater as a result of coming to know the noble history and rich culture of the Hmong people in Minnesota. I am in awe of their sacrifice for the American people.

Hmong soldiers died at ten times the rate of American soldiers in the Vietnam War. Yet, because America's war effort in Laos was covert, the sacrifices and service of the Hmong and Lao veterans is still largely untold. The legislation we passed today is a tribute to the Hmong people's sacrifice for our country. It is a small but meaningful step in honoring and fulfilling our debt to the Hmong and Lao veterans and their families.

This resolution also commends the leadership of the Lao Veterans of America for its work in passing several pieces of legislation I introduced with Congressman Vento that would expedite citizenship for Hmong veterans and their wives. In addition, they led the fight to erect a monument in Arlington National Cemetery in honor of the Hmong who died in the Vietnam War. The Lao Veterans of America, including Cherzong Vang, in Minnesota, and Colonel Vang Yee Vang, Executive Director of the organization, has worked tirelessly to educate Congress and the public about the history and contributions of the Hmong people in our county. This resolution is a fitting response to this important work.

Again, I thank my colleagues for passing this excellent and overdue legislation.

DESIGNATING OCTOBER 10, 2002, AS "PUT THE BRAKES ON FATALI- TIES DAY"

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 266 and the Senate