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SENATE

{ REPORT
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TO REQUIRE PERIODIC REPORTS RELATED TO ACTS OF TERRORISM AGAINST AMERICANS PERPETRATED OR SUPPORTED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF LIBYA

OCTOBER 15, 2007.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. BIDEN, from the Committee on Foreign Relations,
submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. 1839]

The Committee on Foreign Relations, having had under consideration the bill (S. 1839) to require periodic reports on claims related to acts of terrorism against Americans perpetrated or supported by the Government of Libya, reports favorably thereon without amendment and recommends that the bill do pass.

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I. PURPOSE

This legislation is designed to better inform Congress, and by extension the American people, of the status of outstanding legal claims by American victims of Libyan terrorism and their families and of the efforts of the Department of State on their behalf.

II. COMMITTEE ACTION

S. 1839 was introduced by Senator Biden on July 19, 2007, with Senators Levin and Lautenberg as original cosponsors. On September 11, 2007, the committee ordered the bill reported favorably by voice vote.

III. DISCUSSION

During the rule of Colonel Muammar el-Qaddafi, several hundred Americans have been killed or injured by acts of terrorism sponsored by the Government of Libya. In December 2003, Col. Qaddafi renounced terrorism, bringing Libya closer to rejoining the community of nations. Earlier that year, Libya accepted responsibility for the heinous Pan Am 103 bombing, which killed 189 Americans in 1988. That admission also helped pave the way to the negotiations that led to Libya's renunciation of its support for terrorism and its WMD programs. But the families of the victims of Pan Am 103 are still waiting for the final resolution to their case.

In 2006, the Libyan government agreed to terms with the victims of the bombing of the La Belle discotheque in Germany in 1986. Unfortunately, it has since refused to honor the previously agreed upon terms. Other American victims of Libyan terror are still waiting for justice. Their cases may be smaller in scale, but the pain that the victims and their families have suffered is no less real.

It is in the strategic interest of the United States to develop better relations with Libya. But doing so requires that Libya fully come to terms with its past. S. 1938 is intended to facilitate that process by helping American victims of Libyan terrorism and their families receive justice for the terrible crimes committed against them. It requires the administration to submit to Congress twice yearly reports on the status of the outstanding legal claims by these American victims and their families against the government of Libya. It also requires the administration to explain its own efforts on their behalf. The prospect of a regular, public report to Congress provides a means to keep the pressure on both U.S. and Libyan officials to resolve these cases.

IV. COST ESTIMATE

In accordance with Rule XXVI, paragraph 11(a) of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the committee provides this estimate of the costs of this legislation prepared by the Congressional Budget Office.

UNITED STATES CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, September 19, 2007.

Hon. JOSEPH R. BIDEN, JR.,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed cost estimate for S. 1839, a bill to require periodic reports related to acts of terrorism against Americans perpetrated or supported by the government of Libya.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contact is Sunita D'Monte.

Sincerely,

ROBERT A. SUNSHINE
(For Peter R. Orszag, Director).

S. 1839—A bill to require periodic reports on claims related to acts of terrorism against Americans perpetrated or supported by the government of Libya

S. 1839 would require the Secretary of State to report periodically to the Congress on negotiations to resolve legal claims made by citizens of the United States against the government of Libya for acts of terrorism. CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost less than \$500,000 a year over the 2008–2012 period, assuming the availability of appropriated funds. Enacting the bill would not affect direct spending or revenues.

S. 1839 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Sunita D'Monte. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

V. EVALUATION OF REGULATORY IMPACT

Pursuant to Rule XXVI, paragraph 11(b) of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the committee has determined that there is no regulatory impact as a result of this legislation.

VI. CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

In compliance with paragraph 12 of Rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the committee notes that no changes to existing law are made by this bill.

