(2) TAX RATE.—Section 5701 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(i) OTHER TOBACCO PRODUCTS.—Any product described in subsection (b)(1)(C), (b)(2), and (d) shall be taxed at a tax rate equal to the tax rate for cigarettes on an estimated per unit basis as determined by the Secretary.".

(3) EFFECTIVE DATES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the amendments made by this section shall apply to articles removed (as defined in section 5702(c)(2) or not otherwise described under this section, including any product that has been determined to be a tobacco product by the Food and Drug Administration through its authorities under the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act, shall be taxed at a level of tax equivalent to the tax rate for cigarettes on an estimated per unit basis as determined by the Secretary.

(2) DISCUSSION OF SINGLE-USE UNITS AND PROCESSED TOBACCO.—The amendments made by subsections (b)(1)(C), (b)(2), and (d) shall apply to articles removed (as defined in section 5702(c)(2) or not otherwise described under this section) after the last day of the month which includes the date of the enactment of this Act.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 453—EXPRESSION OF THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT SUPPORTING SENIORS AND INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES IS AN IMPORTANT RESPONSIBILITY OF THE UNITED STATES, AND THAT A COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TO EXPANDING AND SUPPORTING A STRONG HOME CARE WORKFORCE AND MAKING LONG-TERM SERVICES AND SUPPORTS AFFORDABLE AND ACCESSIBLE IN COMMUNITIES IS NECESSARY TO UPHOLD THE RIGHT OF SENIORS AND INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES IN THE UNITED STATES TO A DIGNIFIED QUALITY OF LIFE

Mr. HARKIN submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 453

Whereas the aging of the baby boom generation will cause the number of individuals in the United States who are 65 years of age or older to increase from 40,000,000 to 70,000,000 during the next 2 decades;

Whereas 12,000,000 adults, nearly half of whom are under 65 years of age, need long-term services and supports due to functional limitations;

Whereas the decision of the Supreme Court in Olmstead v. L.C., 527 U.S. 581 (1999), mandates the end of unnecessary segregation of individuals with disabilities in institutions, and requires that individuals with disabilities receive services in the most integrated setting appropriate to their needs;

Whereas the vast majority of individuals in the United States prefer to receive long-term services and supports to millions of individuals and families across the country;

Whereas an estimated 1,800,000 additional home care workers will be needed during the next decade to serve the growing population of seniors and individuals with disabilities;

Whereas the quality of home care jobs is poor, with low wages, few benefits, high turnover, and a high level of job stress and hazards;

Whereas home care and personal assistance workers earn a median hourly wage of $9.40, and nearly half of such workers live in households that also rely on public assistance;

Whereas approximately 58 percent of home care workers work part-time, and approximately 40 percent of those part-time workers would prefer to work more hours;

Whereas nearly 20 percent of the individuals who provide home care services were born outside the United States;

Whereas a stabilized home care workforce would lead to improvements in quality and quality of long-term services and supports;

Whereas the issue of long-term services and supports is a critical issue for women, as 70 percent of individuals who need such care are women 65 years of age or older, 90 percent of paid caregivers are women, and 85 percent of family members and friends who informally provide care are women who often have to leave the paid workforce to provide such care, and thus are at a financial disadvantage during their working years and face a reduction in Social Security benefits when they retire; and

Whereas a comprehensive approach that focuses on job creation and job quality, workforce training, pathways to citizenship and career advancement, and support for individuals and families is necessary to build a strong home care workforce and make quality long-term services affordable and accessible for all individuals in the United States; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the Department of Energy for hosting the Third International Conference on Nuclear Power Plant Life Management in the United States;

(2) applauds the efforts of conference attendees to discuss and explore the increased role of nuclear power plant life management in support of license renewal and the safe, long-term operation of commercial nuclear reactors throughout the world;

(3) thanks the International Atomic Energy Agency for organizing the Third International Conference on Nuclear Power Plant Life Management in the United States for the first time; and

(4) encourages Member States of the International Atomic Energy Agency to take advantage of the latest available technology to further develop licensing programs, promote safety, and secure the long-term success of commercial nuclear power generation.

SENATE RESOLUTION 455—DESIGNATING JUNE 27, 2012, AS “NATIONAL POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER AWARENESS DAY”

Mr. CONRAD (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. CASEY, Mr. COONS, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. SANCHEZ, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. TESTER, Mr. KERRY, and Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 455

Whereas the brave men and women of the United States Armed Forces, who proudly serve the United States, risk their lives to protect the freedom of the United States and countries, and to ensure the investment of every possible resource to ensure their lasting physical, mental, and emotional well-being;

Whereas more than 2,000,000 service members have deployed overseas as part of overseas contingency operations since the events of September 11, 2001;

Whereas the military has sustained an operational tempo for a period of time unprecedented in the history of the United States, with many service members deploying multiple times, placing them at high risk for PTSD;

Whereas according to the Armed Forces Health Surveillance Center, approximately
90,000 service members who have returned from overseas contingency operations have been clinically diagnosed with PTSD;

Whereas the Department of Veterans Affairs reports that,

(1) since 2002, more than 217,000 of the more than 750,000 veterans of overseas contingency operations who have sought care at a Department of Veterans Affairs medical center have been diagnosed with PTSD; and

(2) in fiscal year 2011, more than 475,000 of the nearly 6,000,000 veterans from all wars who sought care at a Department of Veterans Affairs medical center received treatment for PTSD;

Whereas many cases of PTSD remain unreported, undiagnosed, and untreated due to a lack of awareness about PTSD and the persistent stigma associated with mental health issues;

Whereas PTSD significantly increases the risk of depression, suicide, and drug- and alcohol-related disorders and deaths, especially if left untreated;

Whereas perceived or actual symptoms of PTSD or other mental health issues create unique challenges for veterans seeking employment;

Whereas the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs have made significant advances in the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of PTSD and the symptoms of PTSD, but many challenges remain; and

Whereas a National Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Awareness Day will raise public awareness about issues related to PTSD, reduce the stigma associated with PTSD, and help ensure that those suffering from the invisible wounds of war receive proper treatment; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates June 27, 2012, as “National Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Awareness Day”;

(2) supports the efforts of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Secretary of Defense to educate service members, veterans, the families of service members and veterans, and the public about the causes, symptoms, and treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder (referred to in this resolution as “PTSD”); and

(3) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit a copy of this resolution to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Secretary of Defense.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, today I am submitting—for the third year in a row—a resolution to designate June 27 as National Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Awareness Day. That date was inspired by the birthday of North Dakota National Guard Staff Sergeant Joe Biel. Staff Sergeant Biel served two tours of duty in Iraq as a Trailblazer, part of a unit responsible for route clearance operations. Each day, Joe’s mission was to go out with his unit to find and remove Improvised Explosive Devices and other dangers from heavily traveled roads to make it safe for coalition forces and Iraqi civilians to travel. Joe lost his post-deployment struggle and, suffering from PTSD, tragically took his own life 6 months after returning home. There is no doubt that Joe Biel is a hero who gave his life for our country’s freedom.

I learned of Joe’s story because of a friend of mine, Mr. Joe Blamey. Joe Blamey organized the National Memorial Bike Ride, to be held on Memorial Day this year, am proud that I was able to help boost their efforts to bring attention to this issue by creating a National PTSD Awareness Day. I am proud to introduce this Resolution once again. Actions like these garner attention and help to eliminate the stigma surrounding mental health issues. They are about letting our troops and veterans know it is okay to come forward and say they need help—that it is a sign of strength, not weakness, to seek assistance. And they help show that we can, and we must, do more.