

JOHNSON of South Dakota, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CASEY, Ms. MURKOWSKI, and Ms. MIKULSKI):

S. Res. 258. A resolution supporting the designation of National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 491

At the request of Mr. PRYOR, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 491, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to recognize the service in the reserve components of the Armed Forces of certain persons by honoring them with status as veterans under law, and for other purposes.

S. 496

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 496, a bill to amend the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act to repeal a duplicative program relating to inspection and grading of catfish.

S. 624

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. AKAKA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 624, a bill to authorize the Department of Housing and Urban Development to transform neighborhoods of extreme poverty into sustainable, mixed-income neighborhoods with access to economic opportunities, by revitalizing severely distressed housing, and investing and leveraging investments in well-functioning services, educational opportunities, public assets, public transportation, and improved access to jobs.

S. 634

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 634, a bill to ensure that the courts of the United States may provide an impartial forum for claims brought by United States citizens and others against any railroad organized as a separate legal entity, arising from the deportation of United States citizens and others to Nazi concentration camps on trains owned or operated by such railroad, and by the heirs and survivors of such persons.

S. 800

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. AKAKA) were added as cosponsors of S. 800, a bill to amend the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users to reauthorize and improve the safe routes to school program.

S. 829

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 829, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to repeal the Medicare outpatient rehabilitation therapy caps.

S. 891

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr.

INOUYE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 891, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the recognition of attending physician assistants as attending physicians to serve hospice patients.

S. 968

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) and the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) were added as cosponsors of S. 968, a bill to prevent online threats to economic creativity and theft of intellectual property, and for other purposes.

S. 986

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 986, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to regulate the subsidies paid to rum producers in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, and for other purposes.

S. 1025

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1025, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to enhance the national defense through empowerment of the National Guard, enhancement of the functions of the National Guard Bureau, and improvement of Federal-State military coordination in domestic emergency response, and for other purposes.

S. 1048

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1048, a bill to expand sanctions imposed with respect to the Islamic Republic of Iran, North Korea, and Syria, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. JOHANNIS, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1048, *supra*.

S. 1232

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1232, a bill to modify the definition of fiduciary under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to exclude appraisers of employee stock ownership plans.

S. 1273

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1273, a bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act with regard to certain exemptions under that Act for direct care workers and to improve the systems for the collection and reporting of data relating to the direct care workforce, and for other purposes.

S. 1299

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1299, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the centennial of the establishment of Lions Clubs International.

S. 1308

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1308, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, with respect to child pornography and child exploitation offenses.

S. 1356

At the request of Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1356, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to encourage States to increase generic drug utilization under Medicaid, and for other purposes.

S. 1369

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1369, a bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to exempt the conduct of silvicultural activities from national pollutant discharge elimination system permitting requirements.

S. 1376

At the request of Mr. ENZI, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1376, a bill to conform income calculations for purposes of eligibility for the refundable credit for coverage under a qualified health plan and for Medicaid to existing Federal low-income assistance programs.

S. 1381

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1381, a bill to provide for the expansion of Federal efforts concerning the prevention, education, treatment, and research activities related to Lyme and other tick-borne disease, including the establishment of a Tick-Borne Diseases Advisory Committee.

S. 1395

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1395, a bill to ensure that all Americans have access to waivers from the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

S. 1427

At the request of Mr. LUGAR, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. COATS) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 1427, a bill to amend the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 to authorize producers on a farm to produce fruits and vegetables for processing on the base acres of the farm.

S. 1438

At the request of Mr. JOHANNIS, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1438, a bill to provide that no agency may take any significant regulatory action until the unemployment rate is equal to or less than 7.7 percent.

S. 1440

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. HAGAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1440, a bill to reduce preterm labor and delivery and the risk of pregnancy-related deaths and complications due to pregnancy, and to reduce infant mortality caused by prematurity.

S. 1454

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. HAGAN) and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. AKAKA) were added as cosponsors of S. 1454, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for extended months of Medicare coverage of immunosuppressive drugs for kidney transplant patients and other renal dialysis provisions.

S. 1463

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1463, a bill to amend the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to protect breastfeeding by new mothers and to provide for reasonable break time for nursing mothers.

S. 1467

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. COATS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1467, a bill to amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to protect rights of conscience with regard to requirements for coverage of specific items and services.

S. 1508

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the names of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1508, a bill to extend loan limits for programs of the Federal Housing Administration, the government-sponsored enterprises, and the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 17

At the request of Mr. MCCONNELL, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 17, a joint resolution approving the renewal of import restrictions contained in the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003.

S.J. RES. 19

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 19, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States authorizing Congress to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States.

S.J. RES. 25

At the request of Mr. RISCH, his name was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 25, a joint resolution relating to the disapproval of the President's exercise of authority to increase the debt limit, as submitted under section 3101A of title 31, United States Code, on August 2, 2011.

S. RES. 132

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 132, a resolution recognizing and honoring the zoos and aquariums of the United States.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. UDALL of New Mexico (for himself and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 1519. A bill to strengthen Indian education, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss the issue of tribal education; an issue of great importance to Indian Country, but one that does not receive the attention it should from the rest of the nation.

Native students' academic outcomes show the worst achievement gaps in the country. Graduation rates for American Indians and Alaska Natives are lower than the graduation rates for all other racial and ethnic groups. American Indian and Alaska Native students have a lower average score in reading than other students. Sadly there's been little improvement to these statistics over the past 80 years.

I hear often from many of the tribal school districts in my State, and the issues they face in providing quality education to their students are numerous. Aging infrastructure badly in need of renovation. Difficulties in recruiting trained, Native teachers and administrators. Chronic underfunding and late payments of Impact Aid. The failure of No Child Left Behind requirements to address tribal needs and learning styles especially related to language and culture. All are impediments to the goal of improving educational outcomes of Native American youth.

To try and help address these issues, I rise today to introduce the Building upon the Unique Indian Learned and Development, or BUILD, Act. This legislation is an important step towards improving the conditions and teaching for Native American students.

In general, our Nation's schools are aging and in a state of disrepair. But this is especially true of BIE schools, where over half of the almost 4,500 education buildings are over 30 years old, and more than 20 percent are more than 50 years old. It is reprehensible that any child is being subjected to learning conditions that are literally a danger to them. Although education construction has improved dramatically over the last few years, the deferred maintenance backlog is still estimated to be over \$500 million and increasing annually. How can we expect our students to succeed academically when we fail to provide them with a proper environment to achieve success?

That is why the BUILD Act includes a School Facility Innovation Contest, which would allow students and faculty who learn and work in these old school buildings, as well as engineering and architecture students and faculty nationwide to propose creative ways to improve tribal school facilities through a national competition. It is time for bold, new ideas to renovate or replace these old facilities, and there's no one better to contribute than those who use the buildings most often, and some of the brightest architectural and engineering minds in the country.

In addition to infrastructure needs, a major concern is the achievement gap of Native American students. So many of them are not reaching their academic potential. These students need to be inspired and shown the possibilities in their future. One way to do so is to expose them to successful members of their own communities and cultural backgrounds. These kids must have role models, mentors, and teachers, from their community and culture. Unfortunately, today, while American Indians are 11 percent of the student population, less than 3 percent of their teachers, counselors or principals are also Native American.

New Mexico has already developed some programs to increase the pipeline for Native American teachers and leaders, both in its tribal colleges and non-tribal colleges. These local programs are models for what can be expanded in New Mexico and nationwide. We need many more programs growing local leaders to meet the needs of the tribal schools.

For example, Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute offers an Early Childhood Associate Degree program, which works closely with the surrounding tribal communities to meet the Office of Head Start standards for certified Early Childhood educators in their classrooms.

New Mexico State University offers an American Indian Education Doctoral Program in its College of Education, where the majority of students stay to work in NM.

The University of New Mexico offers an Institute for American Indian Education to encourage upper-level Native American undergraduates to consider teaching, and helps paraprofessionals from tribal communities receive their teaching certification. In addition, it offers Native Language teachers professional development and training for language revitalization and immersion style teaching.

At the Zuni Pueblo's "Grow your Own" program, started in 1980, tribal members attend Saturday school to produce Zuni-certified teachers, meeting the state's alternative certification.

Research tells us that with incentives, we can increase the number of effective Native teachers and leaders in public and tribal schools. And all of these programs are a great example of it.