

Whereas many individuals who are unemployed, underemployed, or receive public assistance lack the literacy skills necessary to obtain and keep a job to provide for their families, to continue their education, or to participate in job training programs;

Whereas many high school dropouts do not have the literacy skills necessary to complete their education, transition to postsecondary education or career and technical training, or obtain a job;

Whereas a large portion of individuals in prison have low educational skills, and prisoners without educational skills are more likely to return to prison once released;

Whereas many immigrants in the United States do not have the literacy skills necessary to succeed in the United States; and

Whereas National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week highlights the need to ensure each and every citizen has the literacy skills necessary to succeed at home, at work, and in society: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved, That the Senate—*

(1) designates the week of September 10, 2012 as “National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week” to raise public awareness about the importance of adult education, workforce skills, and family literacy;

(2) encourages people across the United States to support programs to assist those in need of adult education, workforce skills, and family literacy programs;

(3) recognizes the importance of adult education, workforce skills, and family literacy programs; and

(4) calls upon public, private, and nonprofit entities to support increased access to adult education and family literacy programs to ensure a literate society.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 547—HONORING THE LIFE OF PIONEERING ASTRONAUT DR. SALLY RIDE AND EXPRESSING THE CONDOLENCES OF THE SENATE ON HER DEATH

Mrs. BOXER (for herself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. SNOWE, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. BOOZMAN, and Mr. COONS) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 547

Whereas Dr. Sally Ride was born on May 26, 1951, in Los Angeles, California;

Whereas Dr. Ride graduated high school from Westlake School for Girls in Los Angeles in 1968, and received from Stanford University a Bachelor of Science in Physics and a Bachelor of Arts in English in 1973, a Master of Science in 1975, and a doctorate degree in physics in 1978;

Whereas the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (referred to in this preamble as “NASA”) selected Dr. Ride as an astronaut candidate in January of 1978;

Whereas Dr. Ride worked on the ground as a communications officer for the second and third NASA space shuttle missions (STS-2 and STS-3) and helped develop the robot arm used by shuttle crews;

Whereas, on June 18, 1983, Dr. Ride became the first woman from the United States to travel in space when she served as a mission specialist for space shuttle mission STS-7;

Whereas Dr. Ride also served as a mission specialist on space shuttle mission STS 41-G, which launched into space from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida, on October 5, 1984;

Whereas, in June of 1985, Dr. Ride was assigned to the crew of STS 61-M for which mission training terminated in January of

1986, following the space shuttle Challenger accident;

Whereas Dr. Ride served as a member of the Presidential Commission investigating the space shuttle Challenger accident and, upon completing that investigation, was assigned to NASA Headquarters as a Special Assistant to the Administrator for long-range and strategic planning;

Whereas, in 1989, Dr. Ride joined the faculty at the University of California, San Diego, as a Professor of Physics and Director of the California Space Institute, a research unit at the University of California;

Whereas, following her passion of motivating girls and young women to pursue careers in science, math, and technology, Dr. Ride founded her own company, known as Sally Ride Science, in 2001, to create entertaining science programs and publications for upper elementary and middle school students, as well as their parents and teachers;

Whereas, as a long-time advocate for improved science education, Dr. Ride initiated and directed education projects designed to fuel the fascination of middle school students with science and wrote 5 science books for children, entitled: *To Space and Back*, *The Mystery of Mars*, *Voyager: An Adventure to the Edge of the Solar System*, *Exploring Our Solar System*, and *The Third Planet: Exploring the Earth from Space*;

Whereas Dr. Ride served as a member of the President's Counsel of Advisors on Science and Technology, the Space Studies Board, and the Pacific Council on International Policy;

Whereas Dr. Ride was a fellow of the American Physical Society and also served on the boards of the Office of Technology Assessment, the Carnegie Institution of Washington, the National Collegiate Athletic Association Foundation, the Aerospace Corporation, and the California Institute of Technology;

Whereas Dr. Ride was the only person to have served on commissions investigating both the space shuttle Challenger and Columbia accidents; and

Whereas Dr. Ride has received numerous honors and awards, including induction into the National Women's Hall of Fame and the Astronaut Hall of Fame, the Jefferson Award for Public Service, the Wernher von Braun Memorial Award of the National Space Society, the Lindbergh Eagle Award, the Theodore Roosevelt Award of the National Collegiate Athletic Association, and 2 NASA Space Flight Medals: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved, That the Senate—*

(1) expresses its deepest condolences to the family and friends of Dr. Sally Ride on her death;

(2) mourns the loss of Dr. Ride, a trailblazing pioneer who inspired millions of individuals, especially women and girls, to reach for the stars; and

(3) appreciates all of the contributions of Dr. Ride to science, physics, education, and human spaceflight.

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, today I rise to introduce a resolution on the importance of quality data from the Census Bureau, including the American Community Survey. I am proud to introduce this resolution as a companion to the similar House legislation by my distinguished colleague, Congresswoman CAROLYN MALONEY. The Congresswoman has shown real leadership on this issue and I am eager to work with her to highlight the importance and significance of quality data for good government oversight and management, as well as helping American businesses.

Each year, more than \$400 billion Federal dollars are distributed to local communities based on the data from the American Community Survey. This survey is the largest data set of its kind, and helps strategically target federal funding for a broad range of programs for health care, transportation and education. The American Community Survey has improves data for the Child Health Insurance Program, CHIP, that means so much to vulnerable children. Another specific and compelling example is how law enforcement uses the data to predict criminal activities like methamphetamine production. Local communities use the survey to choose locations for new schools, hospitals, and fire stations.

The survey is also important to American business. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the National Retail Federation, and the National Association of Home Builders support investments in this survey. It is the only source of small area estimates on social and demographic characteristics. Manufacturers and service sector firms use the survey to identify the income, education, and occupational skills of local labor markets they serve. Retail businesses use the survey to understand the characteristics of the neighborhoods in which they locate their stores. Homebuilders and realtors understand the housing characteristics and the markets in their communities, thanks to the American Community Survey.

Such a survey of American households has existed in some form since 1850, either as a longer version of or richer supplement to the basic decennial census. The newer American Community Survey provides more timely data. The Census Bureau estimates the ACS is sent to 2.5 percent of homes each year, requiring an average of 38 minutes per household to review instructions and answer questions. At this rate, the typical American would respond to the survey about twice in their lifetime. Census workers are sworn to protect confidentiality, facing prison sentences up to five years for disclosing any personal information and there has no employees are known to have violated the provisions so the privacy questions are unfounded.

In closing, I would like to share a statement by Mr. Lawrence Yun, the Chief Economist of the National Association of Realtors: “Without the data, the nation would essentially be flying blind in relation to important housing market conditions and business decisions. Accurate economic and demographic data inspire business confidence that is so critical to the free enterprise system. We would not be able to provide an accurate estimate of many housing metrics if they cannot be benchmarked against the America Community Survey data.”

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 56—PROVIDING FOR A CONDITIONAL ADJOURNMENT OR RECESS OF THE SENATE AND AN ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. REID (for himself and Mr. McCONNELL) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. CON. RES. 56

*Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring).* That when the Senate recesses or adjourns on any day from Thursday, August 2, 2012, through Monday, August 6, 2012, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand recessed or adjourned until 12:00 noon on Monday, September 10, 2012, or such other time on that day as may be specified by its Majority Leader or his designee in the motion to recess or adjourn, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first; and that when the House adjourns on any legislative day from Thursday, August 2, 2012, through Monday, August 6, 2012, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand adjourned until 2:00 p.m. on Monday, September 10, 2012, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first.

SEC. 2. The Majority Leader of the Senate and the Speaker of the House, or their respective designees, acting jointly after consultation with the Minority Leader of the Senate and the Minority Leader of the House, shall notify the Members of the Senate and House, respectively, to reassemble at such place and time as they may designate if, in their opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 57—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT THE CENSUS SURVEYS AND THE INFORMATION DERIVED FROM THOSE SURVEYS ARE CRUCIAL TO THE NATIONAL WELFARE

Mr. ROCKEFELLER submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:

S. CON. RES. 57

Whereas the American Community Survey (referred to in this preamble as the “ACS”) was launched in 2005 during the Administration of President George W. Bush and has since been funded by Congress as an innovation that the Bureau of the Census has been able to use in place of the decennial census long form;

Whereas the ACS provides the United States, States, counties, cities, towns, neighborhoods, and other areas with annual data that was formerly available only once every 10 years;

Whereas the Federal Government relies on the ACS—

(1) to produce annual population estimates for the United States, States, metropolitan areas, counties, cities, and other areas;

(2) to produce annual measures of total personal income and per capita income for the United States, States, metropolitan areas, and counties;

(3) to define metropolitan areas;

(4) to determine compliance with the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 1973 et seq.); and

(5) to fairly distribute more than \$450,000,000,000 in Federal domestic assistance to States and other areas, including through the setting of the formulas for Federal reimbursement to States for Medicaid expenditures;

Whereas the ACS is the only source of rural and small-area economic and demographic data of sufficient reliability to allow entrepreneurs, business owners, and local government planners, among others, to make informed decisions on where to invest, build, create jobs, and maintain or improve infrastructure;

Whereas Congress requires the information collected through the ACS in order to provide adequate oversight of a substantial number of executive departments, agencies, and programs;

Whereas the citizens of the United States require the information collected through the ACS for each State and congressional district in order to hold their Members of Congress accountable;

Whereas, since the founding of the United States, Congress has recognized the value and mandated the use of the decennial census as a means to gather information that informs public policy and measures the progress of the United States;

Whereas the congressional tradition of the decennial census was initiated by the efforts of United States Representative James Madison, the “Father of the Constitution”, who argued on the floor of the House of Representatives that Congress, in considering the Act entitled “An Act providing for the enumeration of the Inhabitants of the United States” (commonly known as the “Census Act of 1790”; 1 Stat. 101, chapter 2), “had now an opportunity of obtaining the most useful information for those who should hereafter be called upon to legislate for their country if this bill was extended so as to embrace some other objects besides the bare enumeration of the inhabitants; it would enable them to adapt the public measures to the particular circumstances of the community. In order to know the various interests of the United States, it was necessary that the description of the several classes into which the community was divided, should be accurately known; on this knowledge the legislature might proceed to make a proper provision for the agricultural, commercial and manufacturing interests . . . in due proportion”;

Whereas Representative James Madison also said, “This kind of information all legislatures had wished for; but this kind of information had never been obtained in any country”; that he wished, therefore, “to avail himself of the present opportunity of accomplishing so valuable a purpose”; and “[i]f the plan was pursued in taking every future census, it would give [Congress] an opportunity of marking the progress of the society, and distinguishing the growth of every interest.”;

Whereas Vice President Thomas Jefferson, the “Father of the Declaration of Independence”, wrote Congress as president of the American Philosophical Society that the consideration by Congress of the Act entitled “An Act providing for the second Census or enumeration of the Inhabitants of the United States” (commonly known as the “Census Act of 1800”; 2 Stat. 11, chapter 12) offered “an occasion of great value, and not otherwise to be obtained, of ascertaining sundry facts highly important to society . . . [and] presenting a more detailed view of the inhabitants of the United States, under several different aspects,” including age (so as to be able to measure life expectancy), citizenship

(so as to be able to determine the relative contributions of births and immigration to population growth), and the occupation of free males (so as to be able “to ascertain more completely the causes which influence life and health, and furnish a curious and useful document of the distribution of society in these States, and of the conditions and vocations of our fellow-citizens . . .”);

Whereas diverse presidents throughout the 19th and 20th centuries, such as John Quincy Adams, Martin Van Buren, William McKinley, Herbert Hoover, and Franklin Roosevelt, asked for and received from Congress permission to expand the scope of census questions unrelated to enumeration;

Whereas the Economic Census is required by law to be conducted every 5 years, provides the most authoritative and comprehensive data about United States businesses, and provides the foundation for key economic indicators, such as the gross domestic product;

Whereas, in response to the recommendations of the Intensive Review Committee (also known as the “Watkins Commission”), Congress enacted the recommendations into law in 1954, thereby providing for quinquennial censuses of manufacturing, mineral industries, and other businesses;

Whereas the finding of the Watkins Commission that “[w]ithout these census records, it would not be possible to construct or interpret this system of economic indicators. Business executives, farmers, labor leaders, professional men, scholars, scientists, government officials, and administrators in all phases of our society are dependent on census records or on economic indicators based on census records.” is as true today as it was in 1954;

Whereas the Economic Census—

(1) provides the foundation for key annual, quarterly, and monthly Federal economic indicators, including the gross domestic product, industrial production, labor productivity, manufacturing and services industry activity, producer price indices, research and development expenditures, commodity flows, and employer-sponsored health insurance coverage;

(2) provides the basis for Federal macroeconomic and budget projections; and

(3) informs Federal trade, competitiveness, and entrepreneurship policies;

Whereas single firms rely on the Economic Census to compare their operations to industry averages, identify markets, and inform decisions on business location, capital investment, product research and development, and marketing strategies;

Whereas the information collected through the Economic Census affords the private and public sectors the ability to make good decisions and use resources in a way such that the entire country is more efficient and better able to compete in the world economy, thereby allowing the United States to maintain a high standard of living;

Whereas what is today called the Economic Census began as the “census of manufactures” in 1810;

Whereas the census of manufactures (as well as the census of agriculture) became a regular feature of census taking in 1840 and has remained such ever since;

Whereas household and business responses to census surveys allow national, State, and local officials to make informed decisions, just as James Madison envisioned, providing timely and accurate statistics even for small localities;

Whereas, historically, Congress has followed the precedent set by all previous Congresses in supporting and directing the collection of a range of information in the ACS and the Economic Census to guide its own deliberations and consideration of policies;