

It will be an uphill battle—all the way. I know this.

But we need to ask ourselves:

Do we let the gun industry take over and dictate policy to this country? Do we let those who profit from increasing sales of these military style-weapons prevent us from taking commonsense steps to stop the carnage?

Or should we empower our elected representatives to vote their conscience based on their experience, based on their sense of right and wrong and based on their need to protect their schools, their malls, their workplaces and their businesses?

This legislation is my life's goal. As long as I am a member of the Senate, I will work night and day to pass this bill into law. No matter how long it takes, I will fight until assault weapons are taken off our streets.

Put simply, we cannot allow the rights of a few to override the safety of all. That is not the America that our founding fathers envisioned. And that is not the America I want my children and grandchildren to live in.

So I ask everyone watching at home: please get involved and stay involved.

The success or failure of this bill depends not on me, but on you. If the American people rise up and demand action from their elected officials, we will be victorious. If the American people say "no" to military-style assault weapons, we will rid our Nation of this scourge.

Please, talk to your senator and your member of Congress.

By Mr. BEGICH (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. BENNET, Mr. RUBIO, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. REED, Mr. BLUNT, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. TESTER, and Mr. COONS):

S. 153. A bill to amend section 520J of the Public Health Service Act to authorize grants for mental health first aid training programs; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

MR. BEGICH. Mr. President, today I rise to introduce a very important piece of legislation—the Mental Health First Aid Act of 2013. The bill authorizes grants for mental health first aid, similar to the first aid training offered by Red Cross chapters across the United States.

I introduced this bill last Congress and focused on higher education because many common mental illnesses happen at late adolescence or young adulthood. However, as the recent tragedy in Newtown reminded us in horrific detail, violence is not limited to college campuses.

My colleague on the House side, Rep. RON BARBER of Arizona, has already introduced a companion bill in the House of Representatives. As you know, he was critically wounded in a tragic shooting 2 years ago with then Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords.

Mental health first aid teaches the warning signs and risk factors for

schizophrenia, major clinical depression, panic attacks, anxiety disorders, trauma, and other common mental disorders, crisis de-escalation techniques and equips college and university staff with a five-step action plan to help individuals in psychiatric crisis connect to professional mental health care.

One in four adults and 10 percent of children in the United States will suffer from a mental illness this year. We know what to do if someone has a heart attack, but how do we react to someone having a panic disorder? Why do we wait for a tragic event to take notice and then bring out emergency measures?

When I was Mayor of Anchorage, we worked with local mental health organizations to train our police in Crisis Intervention Teams, a great improvement for police officers responding to a crisis. But now we need to go further.

You have heard me say this before, and it is not something to be proud of: In Alaska we have one of the highest suicide prevalence rates in the country. Further, we are a very rural State, where access to mental health care and medical services is often very difficult.

Even today, it is not widely known that fully  $\frac{2}{3}$  of Alaska can only be accessed by airplane. By educating the general public about the warning signs of common mental disorders, we can intervene early, facilitate access to care, improve clinical outcomes, reduce costs, and maybe save lives.

Mental disorders are more common than heart disease and cancer combined and a recent *Governing* magazine article reports that many States and localities are moving ahead—teaching their employees how to recognize the signs of mental health problems and how to help. Wouldn't you run to perform the Heimlich maneuver if a person was choking in a restaurant? Of course. We should all learn how to intervene with someone who is having a mental health crisis.

In the Alaska tradition, I seek to work across the aisle and believe this legislation merits bipartisan support. I am honored to be joined by my cosponsors on this bill, Senators BLUMENTHAL, BENNETT, AYOTTE, RUBIO, SHAHEEN, BLUNT, STABENOW and JACK REED. I invite you and all of our colleagues to join me in supporting this vital program. My great hope is it will avert suffering, prevent violence and ultimately save lives.

#### SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 12—RECOGNIZING THE THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF THE TRAGIC EARTHQUAKE IN HAITI ON JANUARY 12, 2010, HONORING THOSE WHO LOST THEIR LIVES IN THAT EARTHQUAKE, AND EXPRESSING CONTINUED SOLIDARITY WITH THE PEOPLE OF HAITI

Mr. NELSON (for himself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. CARDIN,

Mr. DURBIN, Ms. WARREN, Ms. LANDRIEU, and Mr. HARKIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

#### S. RES. 12

Whereas, on January 12, 2010, an earthquake measuring 7.0 on the Richter scale struck the country of Haiti, followed by 59 aftershocks measuring 4.5 or greater;

Whereas more than 220,000 people died as a result of the earthquake, more than 300,000 people were injured, and more than 3,000,000 people were directly affected by the disaster;

Whereas the total cost in terms of human lives, infrastructure damage, and economic losses makes the earthquake one of the worst urban disasters in modern history;

Whereas President Barack Obama vowed the "unwavering support" of the United States Government and pledged a "swift, coordinated, and aggressive effort to save lives and support the recovery in Haiti";

Whereas the initial emergency response of the men and women of the United States Government, led by the United States Agency for International Development and United States Southern Command, was swift and resolute;

Whereas the Haitian diaspora, other individuals, businesses, and philanthropic organizations throughout the United States and the international community overwhelmingly responded to the crisis by sending emergency relief supplies and significant financial contributions;

Whereas the Senate passed 3 successive resolutions expressing its profound sympathy and unwavering support for the people of Haiti and urging all nations to assist the people of Haiti with their long-term needs;

Whereas, 3 years later, significant challenges still remain in Haiti as it works to recover and rebuild;

Whereas, according to the International Organization for Migration, approximately 360,000 people remain in spontaneous and organized camps in Haiti and hundreds of thousands of poor people in Haiti continue to live in non-permanent housing, conditions that make them vulnerable to future natural disasters;

Whereas, according to an independent panel investigation by the United Nations, on October 19, 2010, an imported strain of cholera was detected in the Lower Artibonite region of Haiti;

Whereas, according to the Haitian Ministry of Public Health and Population, as of December 31, 2012, more than 7,900 people in Haiti have died from cholera and more than 635,000 have been infected with the disease since the earthquake on January 12, 2010;

Whereas the United Nations Secretary-General announced a plan to eliminate cholera from the island of Hispaniola through enhanced treatment and prevention efforts and through the development of clean water and sanitation infrastructure that is accessible to all people in Haiti;

Whereas gender-based violence against women and girls in Haiti continues to be a chronic problem, and judicial barriers that have prevented victims from finding redress remain a significant issue of concern;

Whereas, in 2012 alone, Haiti faced a long drought period and 2 major tropical storms that destroyed 70 percent of agricultural crops in Haiti, impacting the lives of millions of people in Haiti facing food insecurity and further crippling the economy of Haiti;

Whereas the sustained assistance to Haiti from the United States and the international community bolsters the efforts of the Government of Haiti to confront these challenges; and

Whereas, since the earthquake on January 12, 2010, the people of Haiti have demonstrated unwavering resilience, dignity, and courage: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) mourns the loss of lives as a result of the tragic earthquake in Haiti on January 12, 2010, and the subsequent cholera epidemic;

(2) honors the sacrifice made by the men and women of the Government of Haiti, civil society, the United States Government, the United Nations, and the international community in their response to those affected by the calamity;

(3) reaffirms its solidarity with the Government and people of Haiti as they work to rebuild their country and livelihoods;

(4) supports the long-term reconstruction efforts of the United States Government to improve housing, energy, job creation, food security, health care, education, governance, and rule of law in Haiti in full cooperation with the Government of Haiti and civil society, and with the support of the private sector;

(5) urges the President and the international community to continue—

(A) to focus assistance on increasing the capacity of the public sector of Haiti to sustainably provide services to the people of Haiti;

(B) to develop, improve, and increase communication and participation to more substantially involve civil society in Haiti and the Haitian diaspora at all stages of the post-earthquake response;

(C) to provide programs that protect and involve vulnerable populations, including internally displaced persons, children, women and girls, and persons with disabilities; and

(D) to work to enhance the ability of the Government of Haiti, at all stages of the democratic process, to improve economic development, attract private sector investment, pursue judicial reform, enhance the rule of law, reduce incidences of gender-based violence, improve water and sanitation systems, develop a civil registry, and reform land tenure policies;

(6) welcomes evidence of progress in building a better future for Haiti, including—

(A) significant improvements in agricultural yields via the Feed the Future initiative;

(B) the opening of the Caracol Industrial Park in northern Haiti, which is projected to create approximately 20,000 jobs by 2016;

(C) programs to support economic opportunities for women and survivors of sexual violence through microcredit, short term jobs programs and leadership training, health services, and reintegration and repatriation assistance to Haitian migrants;

(D) the reduction of the cholera mortality rate to lower than one percent, and the provision of sophisticated HIV and AIDS prevention and treatment services; and

(E) the recruitment, training, and provisioning of new officers for the Haitian National Police; and

(7) urges the President—

(A) to continue reconstruction and development efforts, closely coordinated with the Government of Haiti, the Haitian diaspora, and international actors who share in the goal of a better future for Haiti;

(B) to ensure close monitoring of the implementation of aid programs funded by the United States Government; and

(C) to work with the Government of Haiti and private landowners to prevent the forced eviction of internally displaced people and communities and to provide sustainable and safe housing solutions for the most vulnerable people in Haiti.

# SENATE RESOLUTION 13—CONGRATULATING THE MEMBERS OF DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY, INC. FOR 100 YEARS OF SERVICE TO COMMUNITIES THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES AND THE WORLD, AND COMMENDING DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY, INC. FOR ITS PROMOTION OF SISTERHOOD, SCHOLARSHIP, AND SERVICE

Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. WARNER, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 13

Whereas, on January 13, 1913, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. was founded at Howard University in the District of Columbia by Osceola Macarthy Adams, Marguerite Young Alexander, Winona Cargile Alexander, Ethel Cuff Black, Bertha Pitts Campbell, Zephyr Chisolm Carter, Edna Brown Coleman, Jessie McGuire Dent, Frederica Chase Dodd, Myra Davis Hemmings, Olive Jones, Jimmie Bugg Middleton, Pauline Oberdorfer Minor, Vashti Turley Murphy, Naomi Sewell Richardson, Mamie Reddy Rose, Eliza Pearl Shippen, Florence Letcher Toms, Ethel Carr Watson, Wertie Blackwell Weaver, Madree Penn White, and Edith Motte Young;

Whereas, on January 13, 2013, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. celebrated 100 years of thoughtful service to and conscientious leadership in communities throughout the United States and the world in diverse fields relating to public service and the organization's five-point programmatic thrust: economic development, educational development, international awareness and involvement, physical and mental health, and political awareness and involvement;

Whereas, in March 1913, the founders of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. participated in the Women's Suffrage March in the District of Columbia, the sorority's first public act;

Whereas, in its infancy, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. established its Beta chapter at Wilberforce University in Wilberforce, Ohio, its Gamma chapter at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, its Delta chapter at the University of Iowa in Iowa City, Iowa, and its Epsilon chapter at the Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio;

Whereas Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. has more than 900 chapters in the United States, England, Japan, Germany, the Virgin Islands, Bermuda, the Bahamas, and South Korea;

Whereas the women of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. have distinguished themselves in the endeavor for civil rights, including Mary McLeod Bethune, Fannie Lou Hamer, Betty Shabazz, Lena Horne, and Dorothy Irene Height;

Whereas the women of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. have distinguished themselves as public servants, including—

(1) Stephanie Tubbs-Jones, a Member of the House of Representatives from Ohio;

(2) Marcia Fudge, a Member of the House of Representatives from Ohio;

(3) Joyce Beatty, a Member of the House of Representatives from Ohio;

(4) Carrie P. Meek, a Member of the House of Representatives from Florida;

(5) Shirley Chisholm, the first African-American woman elected to Congress and the first African-American and woman to

run as a major party candidate for President of the United States;

(6) Barbara Jordan, the first African-American woman from the South to serve in the House of Representatives;

(7) Carol Mosley Braun, the first and only African-American woman elected to the Senate;

(8) Mary Church Terrell, a founder of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and an adviser to the Republican National Committee and the Herbert Hoover presidential campaign;

(9) Jewel Stradford LaFontant, United States Representative to the United Nations and the first female Deputy Solicitor General of the United States in the administration of President Richard M. Nixon, later serving as the United States Coordinator for Refugee Affairs and Ambassador-at-Large in the administration of President George H.W. Bush;

(10) Patricia Roberts Harris, the first African-American woman to serve as an Ambassador of the United States, later serving as Secretary of Housing and Urban Development and Secretary of Health and Human Services under President Jimmy Carter;

(11) The Honorable Ann Claire Williams, the first African-American woman appointed to the United States District Court for the North District of Illinois in 1985 by President Ronald Reagan, the first African-American appointed to the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit in 1999 by President William J. Clinton, and the third African-American woman to serve as a judge on a United States Court of Appeals;

(12) Alexis Herman, Secretary of Labor under President William J. Clinton; and

(13) Regina Benjamin, the 18th Surgeon General of the United States, serving in the administration of President Barack Obama; and

Whereas Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. commemorated its history and promoted service during its centennial celebration, January 11 through January 13, 2013, in the District of Columbia: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. for 100 years of service to communities throughout the United States and the world; and

(2) commends Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. for its promotion of sisterhood, scholarship, and service.

# SENATE RESOLUTION 14—RAISING AWARENESS AND ENCOURAGING PREVENTION OF STALKING BY DESIGNATING JANUARY 2013 AS "NATIONAL STALKING AWARENESS MONTH"

Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. FRANKEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 14

Whereas 1 in 6, or 19,200,000, women in the United States have at some point during their lifetime experienced stalking victimization, during which they felt very fearful or believed that they or someone close to them would be harmed or killed;

Whereas, during a 1-year period, an estimated 3,400,000 persons in the United States reported that they had been victims of stalking, and 75 percent of those victims reported that they had been stalked by someone they knew;

Whereas 11 percent of victims reported having been stalked for more than 5 years,