

subsection (d) with respect to each individual on the list required by subsection (c)(1).

(c) LIST OF INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE COMPLICIT IN CERTAIN HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a list of individuals who are nationals of Vietnam that the President determines are complicit in human rights abuses committed against nationals of Vietnam or their family members, regardless of whether such abuses occurred in Vietnam.

(2) UPDATES OF LIST.—The President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees an updated list under paragraph (1) as new information becomes available and not less frequently than annually.

(3) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The list required by paragraph (1) shall be made available to the public and posted on the websites of the Department of the Treasury and the Department of State.

(4) CONSIDERATION OF DATA FROM OTHER COUNTRIES AND NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS.—In preparing the list required by paragraph (1), the President shall consider data already obtained by other countries and nongovernmental organizations, including organizations in Vietnam, that monitor the human rights abuses of the Government of Vietnam.

(d) SANCTIONS.—

(1) PROHIBITION ON ENTRY AND ADMISSION TO THE UNITED STATES.—An individual on the list required by subsection (c)(1) may not—

(A) be admitted to, enter, or transit through the United States;

(B) receive any lawful immigration status in the United States under the immigration laws, including any relief under the Convention Against Torture; or

(C) file any application or petition to obtain such admission, entry, or status.

(2) FINANCIAL SANCTIONS.—The President shall freeze and prohibit all transactions in all property and interests in property of an individual on the list required by subsection (c)(1) if such property and interests in property are in the United States, come within the United States, or are or come within the possession or control of a United States person.

(e) EXCEPTIONS TO COMPLY WITH INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS.—The President may, by regulation, authorize exceptions to the imposition of sanctions under this section to permit the United States to comply with the Agreement between the United Nations and the United States of America regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations, signed June 26, 1947, and entered into force November 21, 1947, and other applicable international agreements.

(f) WAIVER.—The President may waive the requirement to impose or maintain sanctions with respect to an individual under subsection (b) or the requirement to include an individual on the list required by subsection (c)(1) if the President—

(1) determines that such a waiver is in the national interest of the United States; and

(2) submits to the appropriate congressional committees a report describing the reasons for the determination.

(g) TERMINATION OF SANCTIONS.—The provisions of this section shall terminate on the date on which the President determines and certifies to the appropriate congressional committees that the Government of Vietnam has—

(1) unconditionally released all political prisoners;

(2) ceased its practices of violence, unlawful detention, torture, and abuse of nationals

of Vietnam while those nationals are engaging in peaceful political activity; and

(3) conducted a transparent investigation into the killings, arrest, and abuse of peaceful political activists in Vietnam and prosecuted those responsible.

**SEC. 4. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON DESIGNATION OF VIETNAM AS A COUNTRY OF PARTICULAR CONCERN WITH RESPECT TO RELIGIOUS FREEDOM.**

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the relationship between the United States and Vietnam cannot progress while the record of the Government of Vietnam with respect to human rights and the rule of law continues to deteriorate;

(2) the designation of Vietnam as a country of particular concern for religious freedom pursuant to section 402(b)(1) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6442(b)(1)) would be a powerful and effective tool in highlighting abuses of religious freedom in Vietnam and in encouraging improvement in the respect for human rights in Vietnam; and

(3) the Secretary of State should, in accordance with the recommendation of the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, designate Vietnam as a country of particular concern for religious freedom.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. KIRK, Ms. MIKULSKI, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. HEINRICH, Mrs. BOXER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BEGICH, and Ms. HIRONO):

S.J. Res. 15. A joint resolution removing the deadline for the ratification of the equal rights amendment; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, as we prepare to celebrate Mother's Day this Sunday, I am today introducing a joint resolution which would remove the deadline for the ratification by the States of the equal rights amendment, the ERA.

I thank my cosponsors. As of this morning my cosponsors included Senator KIRK, Senator MIKULSKI, Senator MURKOWSKI, Senator HARKIN, Senator SANDERS, Senator LEVIN, Senator MENENDEZ, Senator STABENOW, Senator HEINRICH, Senator BOXER, Senator GILLIBRAND, Senator DURBIN, Senator LAUTENBERG, Senator MURPHY, Senator BALDWIN, Senator LANDRIEU, Senator BROWN, and Senator BEGICH.

When Congress passed the ERA in 1972, it provided that the measure had to be ratified by three-fourths of the States, or 38 States, within 7 years. This deadline was later extended to 10 years by a joint resolution enacted by Congress, but ultimately only 35 of the 38 States required ratified the ERA when the deadline expired in 1982. Congress has the authority to give the States another chance, and should do so. I want to point out to my colleagues that in 1992, the 27th Amendment to the Constitution prohibiting immediate Congressional pay raises was ratified after 203 years. So this additional delay is certainly in keeping with our prior precedent.

Article 5 of the Constitution contains no time limit for the ratification of constitutional changes, and the ERA time limit was contained in a joint resolution, not the actual text of the amendment.

The 14th Amendment of the Constitution requires equal protection of the laws, and so far the Supreme Court has held most sex and gender classifications are subject only to intermediate scrutiny when analyzing the laws that have a discriminatory impact. In other words, right now gender discrimination does not have the strict interpretation standard; it is not subject to the higher standard which it should be.

In 2011, Supreme Court Justice Scalia gave an interview in which he stated:

Certainly the Constitution does not require discrimination on the basis of sex. The only issue is whether it prohibits it. It doesn't.

In other words, we don't have that protection in the Constitution today. Ratification of the ERA by State legislatures would provide the courts with a clearer guidance in holding gender or sex clarification to the strict scrutiny standard.

The ERA is a simple and straightforward constitutional amendment. It reads:

Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.

The amendment gives power to Congress to enforce its provisions by appropriate legislation, and the amendment would take effect 2 years after ratification.

Today nearly half the States have a version of ERA written into their State constitutions. The constitution of my own State of Maryland reads that "Equality of rights under the law shall not be abridged or denied because of sex."

I am therefore pleased to introduce this joint resolution today, and I thank Representative ANDREWS for introducing a companion version in the House today as well. This legislation is endorsed by a wide variety of groups, including United 4 Equality, the National Council of Women's Organizations, the American Association of University Women, Business & Professional Women's Foundation, Federally Employed Women, and the U.S. Women's Chamber of Commerce.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

**SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS**

**SENATE RESOLUTION 135—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 7 THROUGH OCTOBER 13, 2013, AS "NATUROPATHIC MEDICINE WEEK" TO RECOGNIZE THE VALUE OF NATUROPATHIC MEDICINE IN PROVIDING SAFE, EFFECTIVE, AND AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE**

Ms. MIKULSKI submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

## S. RES. 135

Whereas, in the United States, 75 percent of all health care spending is for the treatment of preventable chronic illnesses, including high blood pressure, which affects 68,000,000 people in the United States, and diabetes, which affects 26,000,000 people in the United States;

Whereas nearly two-thirds of adults in the United States are overweight or obese and, consequently, at risk for serious health conditions, such as high blood pressure, diabetes, cardiovascular disease, arthritis, and depression;

Whereas 70 percent of people in the United States experience physical or nonphysical symptoms of stress, which can contribute to chronic health conditions, such as high blood pressure, obesity, and diabetes;

Whereas the aforementioned health conditions are among the most preventable health conditions and are especially responsive to the preventive, whole-person approach favored by naturopathic medicine;

Whereas naturopathic medicine provides noninvasive, holistic treatments that support the inherent self-healing capacity of the human body and encourage self-responsibility in health care;

Whereas naturopathic medicine reduces health care costs because of its focus on patient-centered care, the prevention of chronic illnesses, and early intervention in the treatment of chronic illnesses;

Whereas naturopathic physicians attend 4-year, graduate level programs with rigorous admission requirements at institutions that are recognized by the Department of Education;

Whereas naturopathic physicians are especially skilled in treating chronic illnesses, such as diabetes, asthma, autoimmune disorders, and gastrointestinal disorders, because of their focus on whole-body medicine rather than symptom management;

Whereas naturopathic physicians are trained to serve as primary care physicians and can help redress the shortage of primary care providers in the United States;

Whereas naturopathic physicians are trained to refer patients to conventional physicians and specialists when necessary;

Whereas patients of naturopathic physicians report higher patient satisfaction and health improvement than patients of conventional medicine;

Whereas the profession of naturopathic medicine is dedicated to providing health care to underserved populations;

Whereas naturopathic medicine provides consumers in the United States with more choice in health care, in line with the increased use of a variety of integrative medical treatments; and

Whereas the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111-148; 124 Stat. 119) requires that insurers include and reimburse licensed health care providers, including naturopathic physicians, in health insurance plans: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of October 7 through October 13, 2013, as “Naturopathic Medicine Week”;

(2) recognizes the value of naturopathic medicine in providing safe, effective, and affordable health care; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to learn about naturopathic medicine and the role that naturopathic physicians play in preventing chronic and debilitating illnesses and conditions.

## SENATE RESOLUTION 136—RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE KOREAN WAR ARMISTICE AND THE MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY OF 1953, AND CONGRATULATING PARK GEUN-HYE ON HER ELECTION TO THE PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. WICKER, Mr. BEGICH, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. ISAKSON, and Mr. MURPHY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

## S. RES. 136

Whereas the Governments and people of the United States and the Republic of Korea share a comprehensive alliance, a dynamic partnership, and a personal friendship rooted in the common values of freedom, democracy, and a free market economy;

Whereas the relationship between the people of the United States and the Republic of Korea stretches back to Korea's Chosun Dynasty, when the United States and Korea established diplomatic relations under the 1882 Treaty of Peace, Amity, Commerce, and Navigation.

Whereas July 27, 2013, will mark the 60th anniversary of the cessation of hostilities and the armistice of the Korean War, signed at Panmunjom, and 60 years in which the peninsula has seen no major hostilities, despite tensions and provocations from the Government of North Korea;

Whereas the United States-Republic of Korea alliance was forged in blood, with casualties of the United States during the Korean War of 54,246 dead (of whom 33,739 were battle deaths) and more than 103,284 wounded, and casualties of the Republic of Korea of over 50,000 soldiers dead and over 10,000 wounded;

Whereas the Korean War Veterans Recognition Act (Public Law 111-41) was enacted on July 27, 2009, and President Barack Obama issued a proclamation to designate the date as the National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day and called upon Americans to display flags at half-staff in memory of the Korean War veterans;

Whereas October 1, 2013, will mark the 60th anniversary of the Mutual Defense Treaty of 1953, to which the Senate gave its advice and consent to ratification on January 26, 1954;

Whereas the Republic of Korea has stood shoulder-to-shoulder alongside the United States in all 4 major engagements the United States has faced since World War II—the Vietnam War, the Persian Gulf War, in Afghanistan, and in Iraq;

Whereas the Republic of Korea has shown global leadership in humanitarian and peace-keeping missions in Lebanon, the Gulf of Aden, and other nations around the world, such as Haiti;

Whereas the Governments and people of the United States and the Republic of Korea are working closely together to promote international peace and security, economic prosperity, human rights, and the rule of law;

Whereas the Government of the Republic of Korea is consistently a top-10 purchaser of United States defense articles and equipment, and is a member of the NATO+4 group for United States foreign military sales through the enactment on October 15, 2008, of the Naval Vessel Transfer Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-429);

Whereas, in the 60 years since the Korean War armistice and the founding of the alliance, the Republic of Korea emerged from war-torn poverty into a \$1,000,000,000,000

economy with a \$30,000 per capita GDP, a success of the post-World War II era built by South Koreans' perseverance and supported by the strength of the United States-Republic of Korea partnership;

Whereas the Republic of Korea is a member of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council and has hosted global forums, such as the G-20 Summit and the 2012 Nuclear Security Summit;

Whereas the Republic of Korea is a major economic and trade partner of the United States and cemented a Free Trade Agreement (Public Law 112-41) on October 21, 2011, which entered into force on March 15, 2012;

Whereas there are deep cultural and personal ties between the peoples of the United States and the Republic of Korea, as exemplified by the large flow of visitors and exchanges each year between the two countries, including Korean students studying in United States colleges and universities, and nearly 2,000,000 Korean-Americans that reside in the United States;

Whereas the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007 (Public Law 110-53) set the criteria for Korea's successful entry into the United States visa waiver program on November 17, 2008;

Whereas the election on December 19, 2012, and the inauguration on February 17, 2013, of Park Geun-Hye to the presidency of the Republic of Korea marks an historic milestone as the first female head of state ever democratically elected in the Northeast Asia region;

Whereas the United States looks forward to the next 60 years and beyond of an increasingly solid and enduring partnership with the Republic of Korea with expanded cooperation on security, economic, environmental, and cultural issues bilaterally and in the region; and

Whereas, on May 8, 2013, President Park will address a Joint Meeting of Congress at the invitation of the Speaker of the House: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the 60th anniversary of the Korean War Armistice and the Mutual Defense Treaty of 1953;

(2) reaffirms the importance and resiliency of the United States-Korea alliance as a linchpin in maintaining peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula and in the greater East Asia region; and

(3) congratulates Park Geun-Hye on her historic election to the presidency of the Republic of Korea and wishes her well during her tenure of leadership.

## SENATE RESOLUTION 137—DESIGNATING MAY 2013 AS “OLDER AMERICANS MONTH”

Mr. NELSON (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. SANDERS, and Mr. COONS) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

## S. RES. 137

Whereas President John F. Kennedy first designated May as “Senior Citizens Month” in 1963;

Whereas, in 1963, only 17,000,000 living people in the United States had reached their 65th birthday, approximately 1/3 of older people in the United States lived in poverty, and there were few programs to meet the needs of older people in the United States;

Whereas, as of 2013, there are more than 41,000,000 people in the United States who are 65 years of age or older;

Whereas, as of 2013, there are more than 9,000,000 veterans of the Armed Forces who are 65 years of age or older;