

not having enough money set aside for retirement;

Whereas the 2013 Retirement Confidence Survey conducted by the Employee Benefit Research Institute found that only 13 percent of workers were “very confident” about having enough money for a comfortable retirement, which is a sharp decline in worker confidence from the 27 percent of workers who were “very confident” in 2007, while approximately 54 percent of workers say they or their spouses have not calculated the amount of money they need to save for retirement;

Whereas according to a 2014 “Flow of Funds” report by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, outstanding household debt in the United States was \$13,100,000,000,000 at the end of the fourth quarter of 2013;

Whereas according to the 2014 Survey of the States: Economic and Personal Finance Education in Our Nation’s Schools, a biennial report by the Council for Economic Education—

(1) only 24 States require students to take an economics course as a high school graduation requirement;

(2) only 22 States require testing student knowledge of economics; and

(3) only 17 States require students to take a personal finance course either independently or as part of an economics course as a high school graduation requirement;

Whereas according to the Gallup-Operation HOPE Financial Literacy Index, only 52.3 percent of students in the United States have money in a bank or credit union account;

Whereas expanding access to the safe, mainstream financial system will provide individuals with less expensive and more secure options for managing finances and building wealth;

Whereas quality personal financial education is essential to ensure that individuals are prepared to manage money, credit, and debt, and to become responsible workers, heads of household, investors, entrepreneurs, business leaders, and citizens;

Whereas increased financial literacy empowers individuals to make wise financial decisions and reduces the confusion caused by an increasingly complex economy;

Whereas a greater understanding of, and familiarity with, financial markets and institutions will lead to increased economic activity and growth;

Whereas in 2003, Congress determined that coordinating Federal financial literacy efforts and formulating a national strategy is important; and

Whereas in light of that determination, Congress passed the Financial Literacy and Education Improvement Act (20 U.S.C. 9701 et seq.), establishing the Financial Literacy and Education Commission: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates April 2014 as “Financial Literacy Month” to raise public awareness about—

(A) the importance of personal financial education in the United States; and

(B) the serious consequences that may result from a lack of understanding about personal finances; and

(2) calls on the Federal Government, States, localities, schools, nonprofit organizations, businesses, and the people of the United States to observe Financial Literacy Month with appropriate programs and activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 424—SUPPORTING THE MISSION AND GOALS OF 2014 NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS’ RIGHTS WEEK, WHICH INCLUDE INCREASING PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE RIGHTS, NEEDS, AND CONCERNS OF, AND SERVICES AVAILABLE TO ASSIST, VICTIMS AND SURVIVORS OF CRIME IN THE UNITED STATES

Mr. WICKER (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mr. SCHUMER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 424

Whereas in 2011, there were approximately 6,000,000 victims and survivors of violent crime and more than 17,000,000 victims and survivors of property crime in the United States;

Whereas according to the National Crime Victimization Survey, nonfatal violent crime in the United States increased by 17 percent and property crime in the United States increased by 11 percent between 2010 and 2011;

Whereas according to the Uniform Crime Reporting Program of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, “law enforcement agencies throughout the nation reported an increase of 1.9 percent in the number of violent crimes brought to their attention for the first 6 months of 2012 when compared with figures reported for the same time in 2011”;

Whereas a just society acknowledges the impact of crime on individuals, families, schools, and communities by protecting the rights of crime victims and survivors and ensuring that resources and services are available to help rebuild the lives of such victims and survivors;

Whereas despite impressive accomplishments between 1974 and 2014 in increasing the rights of, and services available to, crime victims and survivors, and the families of such victims and survivors, many challenges remain to ensure that all crime victims and survivors, and the families of such victims and survivors, are—

(1) treated with dignity, fairness, and respect;

(2) offered support and services regardless of whether such victims and survivors report crimes committed against them; and

(3) recognized as key participants within the criminal, juvenile, Federal, tribal, and civil justice systems in the United States when such victims and survivors report crimes;

Whereas crime victims and survivors in the United States, and the families of such victims and survivors, need and deserve support and assistance to help cope with the often devastating consequences of crime;

Whereas 2014 marks the 30th anniversary of the enactment of the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 (42 U.S.C. 10601 et seq.) (referred to in this preamble as “VOCA”), which is the hallmark of the commitment of the Federal Government to supporting rights and services for victims and survivors of all types of crime;

Whereas VOCA established the Crime Victims Fund, which is paid for by criminal fines and penalties, rather than by taxpayer dollars;

Whereas the Crime Victims Fund has collected more than \$20,400,000,000 from criminals to be used exclusively to help victims and survivors of crime;

Whereas during each year between 1984 and 2014, communities across the United States have joined Congress and the Department of

Justice in commemorating National Crime Victims’ Rights Week to celebrate a shared vision of a comprehensive and collaborative response that identifies and addresses the many needs of crime victims and survivors, and the families of such victims and survivors;

Whereas Congress and the President agree on the need for a renewed commitment to serving all victims and survivors of crime in the 21st century;

Whereas the theme of 2014 National Crime Victims’ Rights Week, celebrated during the week of April 6 through April 12, 2014, is “30 Years: Restoring the Balance of Justice” and highlights the many challenges that confront crime-victim assistance, justice, and public safety; and

Whereas the people of the United States recognize and appreciate the continued importance of—

(1) promoting the rights of, and services for, crime victims and survivors; and

(2) honoring crime victims and survivors and individuals who provide services for such victims and survivors: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the mission and goals of 2014 National Crime Victims’ Rights Week, which include increasing individual and public awareness of—

(A) the impact of crime on victims and survivors, and the families of such victims and survivors;

(B) the challenges to achieving justice for victims and survivors of crime, and the families of such victims and survivors; and

(C) the many solutions to meet such challenges;

(2) recognizes that crime victims and survivors, and the families of such victims and survivors, should be treated with dignity, fairness, and respect; and

(3) recognizes the 30th anniversary of the enactment of the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 (42 U.S.C. 10601 et seq.).

NOTICE OF HEARING

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a hearing has been scheduled before the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. The hearing will be held on Thursday, May 1, 2014, at 2:30 p.m., in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The purpose of this hearing is, Short on Gas: A look into the propane shortages this winter.

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record may do so by sending it to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510-6150, or by email to John_Assini@energy.senate.gov.

For further information, please contact, Abigail Campbell at (202) 224-4905, or John Assini (202) 224-9313.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive

session to consider all nominations placed on the Secretary's desk in the Foreign Service; that the nominations be confirmed en bloc; the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to any of the nominations; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

IN THE FOREIGN SERVICE

PN1317 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (135) beginning Ranya F. Abdelsayed, and ending Fireno F. Zora, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 9, 2014.

PN1374 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (3) beginning Christopher David Frederick, and ending Julio Maldonado, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 30, 2014.

PN1375 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (11) beginning James Benjamin Green, and ending Geoffrey W. Wiggin, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 30, 2014.

PN1376 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (23) beginning Scott Thomas Bruns, and ending Janelle Weyek, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 30, 2014.

PN1377-1 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (42) beginning Roberta Mahoney, and ending Ann Marie Yastishock, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 30, 2014.

PN1378-1 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (93) beginning Julie Ann Koenen, and ending Brian Keith Woody, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 30, 2014.

PN1379 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (112) beginning Kathleen M. Adams, and ending Sean Young, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 30, 2014.

PN1380 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (121) beginning Kate E. Addison, and ending William F. Zeman, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 30, 2014.

PN1381-1 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (193) beginning Gerald Michael Feierstein, and ending David Michael Satterfield, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 30, 2014.

PN1382 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (242) beginning Matthew D. Lowe, and ending Wilbur G. Zehr, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 30, 2014.

PN1383 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (277) beginning Kevin Timothy Covert, and ending Paul Wulfsberg, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 30, 2014.

PN1384-1 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (380) beginning Beata Angelica, and ending Benjamin Beardsley Dille, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 30, 2014.

PN1418 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (59) beginning Mark L. Driver, and ending Karl William Wurster, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 10, 2014.

PN1419 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (6) beginning Scott S. Sindelar, and ending Christine M. Sloop, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 10, 2014.

FINANCIAL LITERACY MONTH

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 423.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 423) designating April 2014 as "Financial Literacy Month."

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, and there be no intervening action or debate.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 423) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

APPOINTMENT AUTHORIZATION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the upcoming recess or adjournment of the Senate, the President of the Senate, the President pro tempore, and the majority and minority leaders be authorized to make appointments to commissions, committees, boards, conferences, or interparliamentary conferences authorized by law, by concurrent action of the two Houses, or by order of the Senate.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SIGNING AUTHORIZATION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that during the adjourn-

ment or recess of the Senate from Friday, April 11 through Monday, April 28, Senators LEVIN, ROCKEFELLER, REED, and GILLIBRAND be authorized to sign duly enrolled bills or joint resolutions.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

REPORTING AUTHORITY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the Senate's recess, committees be authorized to report legislative and executive matters on Friday, April 25, from 10 a.m. until noon.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, APRIL 28, 2014

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 2 p.m. on Monday, April 28; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following any leader remarks, the Senate proceed to a period of morning business until 5:30 p.m., with the time equally divided between the two leaders or their designees, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each; that upon the conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the Friedland nomination as provided under the previous order.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. REID. Mr. President, there will be up to four rollcall votes on Monday, April 28. Votes will be in relation to the Friedland, Weil, and O'Regan nominations.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, APRIL 28, 2014, AT 2 P.M.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it adjourn under the provisions of S. Con. Res. 35.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 4:14 p.m., adjourned until Monday, April 28, 2014, at 2 p.m.