

birth weights, with estimates that malaria causes approximately 10,000 cases maternal deaths and over 200,000 infant deaths annually in Africa;

Whereas heightened national, regional, and international efforts to prevent and treat malaria during recent years have made significant progress and helped save hundreds of thousands of lives;

Whereas the World Malaria Report 2013 by the World Health Organization states that in 2012, approximately 54 percent of households in sub-Saharan Africa owned at least one insecticide-treated mosquito net, and household surveys indicated that 86 percent of people used an insecticide-treated mosquito net if one was available in the household;

Whereas the World Malaria Report 2013 further states that between 2000 and 2012, malaria mortality rates decreased by 45 percent around the world and by 45 percent in the African Region of the World Health Organization, and an estimated 3,300,000 lives were spared from malaria globally, 90 percent of which were children under five in sub-Saharan Africa.

Whereas the World Malaria Report 2013 further states that out of 97 countries with ongoing transmission of malaria in 2013, 12 countries are classified as being in the pre-elimination phase of malaria control, 7 countries are classified as being in the elimination phase, and 7 countries are classified as being in the prevention of introduction phase;

Whereas, according to the World Malaria Report 2013, there were 207,000,000 cases of malaria globally in 2012, resulting in an estimated 627,000 deaths;

Whereas continued national, regional, and international investment in efforts to eliminate malaria, including prevention and treatment efforts, the development of a vaccine to immunize children from the malaria parasite, and advancements in insecticides, are critical in order to continue to reduce malaria deaths, prevent backsliding in areas where progress has been made, and equip the United States and the global community with the tools necessary to eliminate malaria and other global health threats;

Whereas the United States Government has played a leading role in the recent progress made toward reducing the global burden of malaria, particularly through the President's Malaria Initiative (PMI) and the contribution of the United States to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria;

Whereas, in May 2011, an independent, external evaluation, prepared through the Global Health Technical Assistance Project, examining 6 objectives of the President's Malaria Initiative, found the President's Malaria Initiative to be a successful, well-led component of the Global Health Initiative that has "earned and deserves the task of sustaining and expanding the United States Government's response to global malaria control efforts";

Whereas the United States Government is pursuing a comprehensive approach to ending malaria deaths through the President's Malaria Initiative, which is led by the United States Agency for International Development and implemented with assistance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Department of State, the Department of Health and Human Services, the National Institutes of Health, the Department of Defense, and private sector entities;

Whereas, in 2014, the President's Malaria Initiative Report found that, in 2013, the PMI alone had protected more than 21,000,000 residents by spraying over 5,000,000 houses with insecticides, procured more than 40,000,000 long-lasting ITNs, procured more than 10,000,000 sulfadoxine-pyrimethamine treatments for intermittent preventive treatment (IPTp) in pregnant women, trained more than 16,000 health workers in IPTp, procured more than 48,000,000 treatments of artemisinin-based combination therapy (ACT) and over 51,000,000 malaria rapid diagnostic tests (RDTs), and trained more than 61,000 health workers in treatment of malaria with ACTs and more than 26,000 health workers in laboratory diagnosis of malaria;

Whereas the President's Malaria Initiative focuses on helping partner countries achieve major improvements in overall health outcomes through improved access to, and quality of, healthcare services in locations with limited resources; and

Whereas the President's Malaria Initiative, recognizing the burden of malaria on many partner countries, has set a target of reducing the burden of malaria by 50 percent for 450,000,000 people, representing 70 percent of the at-risk population in Africa, by 2015: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of World Malaria Day, including the target of ending malaria deaths by 2015;

(2) recognizes the importance of reducing malaria prevalence and deaths to improve overall child and maternal health, especially in sub-Saharan Africa;

(3) commends the recent progress made toward reducing global malaria morbidity, mortality, and prevalence, particularly through the efforts of the President's Malaria Initiative and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria;

(4) supports ongoing public-private partnerships to research and develop more effective and affordable tools for malaria diagnosis, treatment, and vaccination;

(5) recognizes the goals, priorities, and authorities to combat malaria set forth in the Tom Lantos and Henry J. Hyde United States Global Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Reauthorization Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-293);

(6) supports continued leadership by the United States in bilateral, multilateral, and private sector efforts to combat malaria and to work with developing countries to create long-term strategies to increase ownership over malaria programs; and

(7) encourages other members of the international community to sustain and increase their support for and financial contributions to efforts to combat malaria worldwide.

SENATE RESOLUTION 427—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF EFFECTIVE CIVIC EDUCATION PROGRAMS IN SCHOOLS IN THE UNITED STATES

Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 427

Whereas civic education is essential to the preservation and improvement of the constitutional government of the United States;

Whereas civic education programs foster understanding of the history and principles of the constitutional government of the United States, including principles that are embodied in certain fundamental documents and speeches, such as the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution of the United States, the Bill of Rights, the Federalist Papers, the Gettysburg Address, and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech;

Whereas research shows that too few people in the United States understand basic principles of the constitutional government of the United States, such as the natural rights set forth in the Declaration of Independence, the existence and functions of the 3 branches of the Federal Government, checks and balances, and other concepts fundamental to informed citizenship;

Whereas since the founding of the United States, schools in the United States have had a strong civic mission to prepare students to be informed, rational, humane, and involved citizens who are committed to the values and principles of the constitutional government of the United States;

Whereas a free society relies on the knowledge, skills, and virtue of the citizens of such society, particularly the individuals elected to public office to represent such citizens;

Whereas while many institutions help to develop the knowledge and skills and shape the civic character of people in the United States, schools in the United States, including elementary schools, bear a special and historic responsibility for the development of civic competence and civic responsibility of students;

Whereas student learning is enhanced by well-designed classroom civic education programs that—

(1) incorporate instruction in government, history, law, and democracy;

(2) promote discussion of current events and controversial issues;

(3) link community service and the formal curriculum; and

(4) encourage students to participate in simulations of democratic processes; and

Whereas research shows that the knowledge and expertise of teachers are among the most important factors in increasing student achievement: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) civic education is essential to the well-being of the constitutional government of the United States;

(2) comprehensive and formal instruction in civics and government provides students with a basis for understanding the rights and responsibilities of citizens in the constitutional government of the United States;

(3) elementary and secondary schools in the United States are encouraged to offer courses on history and theories of the constitutional government of the United States, using programs and curricula with a demonstrated effectiveness in fostering civic competence, civic responsibility, and a reasoned commitment to the fundamental values and principles underlying the constitutional government of the United States; and

(4) all teachers of civics and government are well served by having access to adequate opportunities to enrich teaching through professional development programs that enhance the capacity of such teachers to provide effective civic education in the classroom.

SENATE RESOLUTION 428—PROMOTING MINORITY HEALTH AWARENESS AND SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL MINORITY HEALTH MONTH IN APRIL 2014, WHICH INCLUDE BRINGING ATTENTION TO THE HEALTH DISPARITIES FACED BY MINORITY POPULATIONS OF THE UNITED STATES, SUCH AS AMERICAN INDIANS, ALASKA NATIVES, ASIAN AMERICANS, AFRICAN AMERICANS, HISPANIC AMERICANS, AND NATIVE HAWAIIANS OR OTHER PACIFIC ISLANDERS

Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. SCHATZ, and Mr. MENENDEZ) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 428

Whereas through the “National Stakeholder Strategy for Achieving Health Equity” and the “HHS Action Plan to Reduce Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities”, the Department of Health and Human Services has set goals and strategies to advance the safety, health, and well-being of people of the United States;

Whereas a study by the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, entitled “The Economic Burden of Health Inequalities in the United States”, concludes that, between 2003 and 2006, the combined cost of “health inequalities and premature death in the United States” was \$1,240,000,000,000;

Whereas the Department of Health and Human Services has identified 6 main categories in which racial and ethnic minorities experience the most disparate access to health care and health outcomes, including infant mortality, cancer screening and management, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, HIV/AIDS, and immunizations;

Whereas African-American women are more than twice as likely to die of cervical cancer than White women and are more likely to die of breast cancer than women of any other racial or ethnic group;

Whereas the death rate from stroke is 50 percent higher among African Americans than among Whites;

Whereas Native Hawaiians living in Hawaii are 5.7 times more likely to die of diabetes than non-Hispanic Whites living in Hawaii;

Whereas in 2011, Asian Americans were 2.9 times more likely than Whites to contract Hepatitis A;

Whereas among all ethnic groups in 2011, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders had the highest incidence of Hepatitis A;

Whereas Asian-American women are 1.5 times more likely than non-Hispanic Whites to die from viral hepatitis;

Whereas Asian Americans are 5.5 times more likely than Whites to develop chronic Hepatitis B;

Whereas in 2011, 82 percent of children born infected with HIV belonged to minority groups;

Whereas the Department of Health and Human Services has identified diseases of the heart, malignant neoplasm, unintentional injuries, and diabetes as some of the leading causes of death among American Indians and Alaska Natives;

Whereas American Indians and Alaska Natives die from diabetes, alcoholism, unintentional injuries, homicide, and suicide at higher rates than other people in the United States;

Whereas American Indians and Alaska Natives have a life expectancy that is 4.2 years shorter than the life expectancy of the overall population of the United States;

Whereas marked differences in the social determinants of health, described by the World Health Organization as “the high burden of illness responsible for appalling premature loss of life [that] arises in large part because of the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work, and age”, lead to poor health outcomes and declines in longevity; and

Whereas community-based health care initiatives, such as prevention-focused programs, present a unique opportunity to use innovative approaches to improve health care practices across the United States and sharply reduce disparities among racial and ethnic minority populations: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate supports the goals and ideals of National Minority Health Month in April 2014, which include bringing attention to the severe health disparities faced by minority populations in the United States, such as American Indians, Alaska Natives, Asian Americans, African Americans, Hispanic Americans, and Native Hawaiians or other Pacific Islanders.

SENATE RESOLUTION 429—DESIGNATING APRIL 30, 2014, AS “DÍA DE LOS NIÑOS: CELEBRATING YOUNG AMERICANS”

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. REID, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. BENNET, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. REED, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. HEINRICH, and Mr. BOOKER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 429

Whereas many countries throughout the world, and especially within the Western hemisphere, celebrate “Día de los Niños”, or “Day of the Children”, on April 30 each year, in recognition and celebration of the future of their country; their children;

Whereas children represent the hopes and dreams of the people of the United States, and children are the center of families in the United States;

Whereas the people of the United States should nurture and invest in children to preserve and enhance economic prosperity, democracy, and the spirit of the United States;

Whereas, according to the 2012 American Community Survey by the Bureau of the Census, approximately 17,500,000 of the nearly 53,000,000 individuals of Hispanic descent living in the United States are children under the age of 18, representing about ⅓ (33 percent) of the total Hispanic population residing in the United States and roughly ¼ of the total population of children in the United States;

Whereas Hispanic Americans, the youngest and fastest-growing racial or ethnic community in the United States, celebrate the tradition of honoring their children on Día de los Niños and wish to share this custom with the rest of the United States;

Whereas the primary teachers of family values, morality, and culture are parents and family members, and children are responsible for passing on family values, morality, and culture to future generations;

Whereas the importance of literacy and education is most often communicated to children through their family members;

Whereas families should be encouraged to engage in family and community activities that include extended and elderly family members and encourage children to explore and develop confidence;

Whereas the designation of a day to honor the children of the United States will help

affirm the significance of family, education, and community for the people of the United States;

Whereas the designation of a day of special recognition for the children of the United States will provide an opportunity for children to reflect on their future, articulate their aspirations, and find comfort and security in the support of their family members and communities;

Whereas the National Latino Children's Institute, serving as a voice for children, has worked with cities throughout the United States to declare April 30, 2014, to be “Día de los Niños: Celebrating Young Americans”, a day to bring together Latinos and other communities in the United States to celebrate and uplift children; and

Whereas the children of a country are the responsibility of all people of that country, and people should be encouraged to celebrate the gifts of children to society: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates April 30, 2014, as “Día de los Niños: Celebrating Young Americans”; and

(2) calls on the people of the United States to join with all children, families, organizations, communities, churches, cities, and States across the United States to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies, including activities that—

(A) center around children and are free or minimal in cost so as to encourage and facilitate the participation of all people;

(B) are positive and uplifting, and help children express their hopes and dreams;

(C) provide opportunities for children of all backgrounds to learn about one another's cultures and share ideas;

(D) include all members of a family, especially extended and elderly family members, so as to promote greater communication among the generations within a family, which will enable children to appreciate and benefit from the experiences and wisdom of their elderly family members;

(E) provide opportunities for families within a community to build relationships; and

(F) provide children with the support they need to develop skills and confidence and find the inner strength, will, and fire of the human spirit to make their dreams come true.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2972. Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2223, to provide for an increase in the Federal minimum wage and to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend increased expensing limitations and the treatment of certain real property as section 179 property; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2973. Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. INHOFE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2223, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2972. Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2223, to provide for an increase in the Federal minimum wage and to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend increased expensing limitations and the treatment of certain real property as section 179 property; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following: