

Whereas members of the Armed Forces and veterans who served before September 11, 2001, remain at risk for PTSD and other mental health disorders;

Whereas the Secretary of Veterans Affairs reports that—

(1) since October 2001, more than 310,000 of the approximately 1,000,000 veterans of Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and Operation New Dawn who have received health care from the Department of Veterans Affairs have been diagnosed with PTSD;

(2) in fiscal year 2013, more than 530,000 of the nearly 6,000,000 veterans who sought care at Department of Veterans Affairs medical facilities received treatment for PTSD; and

(3) of veterans who served in Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and Operation New Dawn who are receiving health care from the Department of Veterans Affairs, more than 570,000 have received a diagnosis for at least 1 mental health disorder;

Whereas many cases of PTSD remain unreported, undiagnosed, and untreated due to a lack of awareness about PTSD and the persistent stigma associated with mental health conditions;

Whereas exposure to military sexual trauma can lead to PTSD;

Whereas PTSD significantly increases the risk of anxiety, depression, suicide, homelessness, and drug- and alcohol-related disorders and deaths, especially if left untreated;

Whereas public perceptions of PTSD or other mental health disorders create unique challenges for veterans seeking employment;

Whereas the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs—as well as the larger medical community, both private and public—have made significant advances in the identification, prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of PTSD and the symptoms of PTSD, but many challenges remain;

Whereas increased understanding of PTSD can help diminish the stigma attached to this mental health disorder, and additional efforts are needed to find further ways—including an examination of how PTSD is discussed in the United States—to reduce this stigma; and

Whereas the designation of a National Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Awareness Month will raise public awareness about issues related to PTSD, reduce the stigma associated with PTSD, and help ensure that those suffering from the invisible wounds of war receive proper treatment: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates June 2014, as “National Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Awareness Month”;

(2) supports the efforts of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Secretary of Defense—as well as the entire medical community—to educate members of the Armed Forces, veterans, the families of members of the Armed Forces and veterans, and the public about the causes, symptoms, and treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder; and

(3) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit a copy of this resolution to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Secretary of Defense.

NOTICE OF HEARING

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I would like to announce that the Committee on Indian Affairs will meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, June 25, 2014, in room SD-628 of the

Dirksen Senate Office Building, at 2:15 p.m., to conduct an oversight hearing entitled “Economic Development: Encouraging Investment in Indian Country.”

Those wishing additional information may contact the Indian Affairs Committee at (202) 224-2251.

NATIONAL POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 481.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 481) designating the month of June 2014 as “National Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Awareness Month.”

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

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to consider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 481) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today’s RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, JUNE 24, 2014

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m. Tuesday, June 24, 2014; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following any leader remarks, the Senate be in a period of morning business until 11 a.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees; and that following morning business the Senate proceed to executive session under the previous order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. REID. There will be five rollcall votes at 11 a.m. tomorrow.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent it adjourn under the previous order following the 10-minute remarks from the Senator from Arizona Mr. FLAKE.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Arizona is recognized.

AIR QUALITY STANDARDS

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss a matter of importance not just to Arizonans but to the people affected across the country by the Environmental Protection Agency’s continuing overreach. Namely, I want to talk about air quality standards that are quite simply unattainable and those that penalize States where Mother Nature—not smokestacks, not factories, not evil industrialists, just Mother Nature—causes these events that affect air quality.

Let me say from the outset we all love and deserve to have clean air, and when I am discussing these particular concerns I want to be clear that I am not in favor of pollution, dirty air or asthma. Instead what I am in favor of is a little more common sense from the EPA.

It won’t come as any surprise to most people that Arizona is a desert State. We have lots of cactus. We have scorpions. I was stung twice last year. In Arizona, just as in most deserts around the world, we have dust storms. These dust storms are not caused by eroding topsoil or overfarming or man. These are naturally occurring events just like tornadoes or blizzards in other parts of the country. When you live in a naturally dusty State, the dust storms sweep across the desert and across State lines. They can obviously cause local and regional air quality issues. The same goes for living in a forest-fire-prone State, which Arizona also is.

States simply cannot be expected to control these issues. Yet despite adopting an “exceptional events rule” and issuing murky guidance, the EPA still forces States to squander resources on these spikes in air pollutants that are outside anybody’s control, with no actual improvement to air quality.

The EPA’s reviews to prove that spikes in air quality are the result of naturally occurring events are arbitrary, cumbersome, and they are costly. Let me give you an example.

In 2011 and 2012, the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, the Maricopa County Air Quality Department, and the Maricopa Association of Governments were forced to spend \$675,000 and 790 staff hours to prove to EPA’s satisfaction something that anyone with two eyes could readily see: Dust storms trip the EPA’s air quality sensors—not pollution, dust storms.

The current regulations are entirely up to the EPA’s discretion and they are final and they are not appealable. But in some cases such as those in Arizona, they are a violation of common sense as well.

That is why I am introducing the CLEER Act. The CLEER Act will, among other things, require the EPA’s decisions on those events to be based

on a preponderance of evidence and to accord deference to States' own findings when such an event happens. It will also require the EPA to renew a State's exceptional event documentation within 90 days instead of dragging this process out, and to decide which States with exceptional events will be evaluated.

I am also introducing two other bills: the ORDEAL Act and the Agency PAYGO for Greenhouse Gases Act.

Much credit goes to the EPA for successfully reducing air pollution in the past few decades. This has led to benefits for everyone. But one of the most common pollutants—ozone, dealt with by the ORDEAL Act—has presented a nearly endless supply of redtape for States and municipalities for literally decades. When the EPA reduced its permitted ozone standards in 2008, counties across the country that were in “nonattainment” status were forced to enact expensive and complicated compliance plans.

With scant scientific health bases, the EPA wants to further lower ozone emissions standards. But there are already 221 counties in 27 States that are noncompliant with the present standards. How will lowering these standards even further help these States, communities, and counties comply? Is this EPA's version of double-secret probation?

By some estimates this lowering of ozone standards from 75 parts per billion to 60 parts per billion will cost a whopping \$1 trillion per year from 2020 to 2030. The EPA's own estimate said the proposed standard will cost \$25 billion per year at 70 ppb to \$90 billion per year at 60 ppb. It will cost as many as 7.3 million jobs.

The rationale for further reduction in ozone standards is the potential health

benefits. The EPA consistently fails to meet its 5-year intervals for ozone, which results in lawsuits, bad policy, and poor analysis when the agency is forced by the courts to produce a new standard. My bill, the ORDEAL Act, would provide the EPA more flexibility by doubling the statutory review interval to 10 years. It would also push off any decision on EPA's proposal to tighten the ozone standards until 2018, putting that standard on a more realistic 10-year cycle. This will give businesses more certainty. It will give them a more certain regulatory environment, not a possible change every 5 years. If you can imagine how to plan on a 5-year cycle for standards that are rarely met and have to be adjusted again. It will also give State air quality agencies the time they need to implement their own plans.

Finally, this administration has set its sights on reducing carbon emissions with the most recent attempt being draconian regulations on existing powerplants, despite inevitable job losses and spikes in energy costs.

The Agency PAYGO Act I am introducing would simply give the EPA a taste of its own medicine by requiring the agency to offset the cost of any greenhouse gas rules to an equivalent reduction in agency spending.

If the agency proceeds without offsetting these costs from its own budget, the final greenhouse gas rule must be approved by Congress. This bill specifically forbids the EPA from denying costs to Federal agencies by passing costs on to the Federal agency's ratepayers. If capital costs are imposed by the greenhouse gas rule, the EPA must offset those costs or get Congress's approval.

Specifically this bill will not let underlying agencies—including power

generating agencies such as the Western Power Authority—pass along these costs to consumers.

The modern EPA has a history of implementing increasingly costly and stringent standards for negligible or even questionable benefit. All three of these bills, the CLEER Act, the ORDEAL Act, and the Agency PAYGO Act, provide more certainty than presently exist to States and businesses that have to deal with the EPA and will hold the agency accountable for its decision-making process.

I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting these commonsense measures.

With that, I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow.

There upon, the Senate, at 7:07 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, June 24, 2014, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

CAROLYN WATTS COLVIN, OF MARYLAND, TO BE COMMISSIONER OF SOCIAL SECURITY FOR THE TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 19, 2019, VICE MICHAEL J. ASTRUE, RESIGNED.

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be admiral

ADM. WILLIAM E. GORTNEY