

Whereas despite achievements by individual female leaders, women around the world are still vastly underrepresented in high-level positions and in national and local legislatures and governments and, according to the Inter-Parliamentary Union, women account for only 21.9 percent of national parliamentarians;

Whereas 1 in 3 women around the world has experienced some form of gender-based violence, and 1 in 4 women has suffered abuse during pregnancy;

Whereas according to the World Health Organization, approximately 800 women die from preventable causes related to pregnancy and childbirth every day, with 99 percent of all maternal deaths occurring in developing countries;

Whereas according to the United Nations Population Fund, more than 200,000,000 women and girls around the world would like to access family planning services but are unable to do so;

Whereas according to data from the World Bank, women between the ages of 15 and 44 are at a greater risk of rape and domestic violence than cancer, war, traffic accidents, and malaria combined;

Whereas on August 10, 2012, President Barack Obama announced the United States Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Gender-Based Violence Globally, the first inter-agency strategy to address gender-based violence around the world;

Whereas violence against women and girls impedes progress in meeting many international global development goals, including efforts to stem maternal mortality and the spread of HIV/AIDS;

Whereas on October 11, 2013, President Barack Obama stated that the practice of child marriage was a “threat to fundamental human rights”;

Whereas according to the International Center for Research on Women, one-third of girls worldwide are married before the age of 18 and 1 in 9 girls are married before the age of 15;

Whereas according to the World Health Organization, suicide is the leading cause of death for girls ages 15 to 19, followed by complications from pregnancy and childbirth;

Whereas it is imperative to alleviate violence and discrimination against women and afford women every opportunity to be full and productive members of their communities;

Whereas 2015 marks the 20th anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women, where 189 countries committed to the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action to integrate gender equality into all dimensions of society;

Whereas 2015 marks the deadline for meeting the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, and progress towards meeting the targets for gender equality and women's empowerment remains uneven; and

Whereas March 8 is recognized each year as International Women's Day, a global day to celebrate the economic, political, and social achievements of women past, present, and future, and to recognize the obstacles that women still face in the struggle for equal rights and opportunities: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals of International Women's Day;

(2) recognizes that the empowerment of women is inextricably linked to the potential of countries to generate economic growth, sustainable democracy, and inclusive security;

(3) recognizes and honors individuals in the United States and around the world, including women who are human rights defenders, who have worked throughout history to en-

sure that women are guaranteed equality and basic human rights;

(4) reaffirms the commitment to ending discrimination and violence against women and girls, to ensuring the safety and welfare of women and girls, to pursuing policies that guarantee the basic human rights of women and girls worldwide, and to promoting meaningful and significant participation of women in all aspects of their societies and communities;

(5) supports international calls for a “Post-2015 Development Agenda” to include a stand-alone goal to achieve gender equality and women's empowerment; and

(6) encourages the people of the United States to observe International Women's Day with appropriate programs and activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 98—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS AWARENESS WEEK

Mr. CASEY (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BROWN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. COONS, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. MORAN, and Mr. MARKEY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 98

Whereas multiple sclerosis (referred to in this preamble as “MS”) can impact people of all ages, races, and ethnicities, but is at least 2 to 3 times more common in women than in men;

Whereas there are approximately 2,300,000 people worldwide who have been diagnosed with MS;

Whereas MS is typically diagnosed in individuals between the ages of 20 and 50, however it is estimated that between 8,000 and 10,000 children and adolescents are living with MS in the United States;

Whereas MS is an unpredictable neurological disease that interrupts the flow of information both within the brain and between the brain and the rest of the body;

Whereas symptoms of MS range from numbness and tingling in the extremities to blindness and paralysis, and the progress, severity, and specific symptoms of MS in any one person cannot yet be predicted;

Whereas there is no laboratory test available that can definitively diagnose MS;

Whereas while MS is not directly inherited, studies show that there are genetic and, probably, environmental factors that make certain individuals, such as Caucasians of Northern European ancestry, more susceptible to the disease than others;

Whereas the exact cause of MS is still unknown and there is no cure;

Whereas the Multiple Sclerosis Coalition, a national network of independent MS organizations dedicated to the enhancement of the quality of life for all those affected by MS, recognizes and supports Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week;

Whereas the mission of the Multiple Sclerosis Coalition is to increase opportunities for cooperation among MS organizations and provide greater opportunity for the effective use and development of resources for the benefit of individuals and families affected by MS;

Whereas the United States plays a critical role in coordinating MS research globally and amplifies the impact of research in the United States through which results are delivered to MS patients;

Whereas in 2012, the National Multiple Sclerosis Society of the United States was a founding member of the Progressive MS Alliance, which coordinates research to accelerate the development of treatments for pro-

gressive MS by removing international scientific and technological barriers, and which now includes MS societies from 11 countries;

Whereas the Multiple Sclerosis Coalition recognizes and supports Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week during March of every calendar year;

Whereas the goals of Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week are to invite people to join the movement to end MS, encourage everyone to do something to demonstrate their commitment to moving toward a world free of MS, and to acknowledge those who have dedicated their time and talent to help promote MS research and programs; and

Whereas this year, Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week is recognized during the week of March 2, 2015, through March 8, 2015: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week;

(2) encourages States, localities, and the territories and possessions of the United States to support the goals and ideals of Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week by issuing proclamations designating Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week;

(3) encourages media organizations to participate in Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week and help provide education to the public about multiple sclerosis;

(4) commends the efforts of States, localities, and the territories and possessions of the United States to support the goals and ideals of Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week;

(5) recognizes and reaffirms the commitment of the United States to ending multiple sclerosis by—

(A) promoting awareness about individuals that are affected by multiple sclerosis; and

(B) supporting multiple sclerosis research and education programs;

(6) recognizes all individuals in the United States living with multiple sclerosis;

(7) expresses gratitude to the family members and friends of individuals living with multiple sclerosis, who are a source of love and encouragement to those individuals; and

(8) salutes the health care professionals and medical researchers who—

(A) provide assistance to individuals affected by multiple sclerosis; and

(B) continue to work to find ways to stop the progression of the disease, restore nerve function, and end multiple sclerosis forever.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 8—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE SHOULD ISSUE A COMMEMORATIVE STAMP HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE THREE CIVIL RIGHTS MARCHES FROM SELMA, ALABAMA TO MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA THAT TOOK PLACE OVER THE COURSE OF SEVERAL WEEKS IN MARCH 1965

Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. SCOTT, Mrs. McCASKILL, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. COONS, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. WARREN, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mr. PORTMAN) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:

S. CON. RES. 8

Whereas on March 7, 1965 “Bloody Sunday”, approximately 600 civil rights marchers, led by now-Representative John Lewis of

the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee and Reverend Hosea Williams of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, headed east out of Selma, Alabama to the State Capitol in Montgomery, Alabama;

Whereas the civil rights activists sought to protest discriminatory voter registration practices, and the shooting of Jimmie Lee Jackson, who was shot after protecting his mother and grandfather in a civil rights demonstration on February 18, 1965, in a restaurant in Marion, Alabama, and died eight days later on February 26, 1965;

Whereas the nonviolent marchers were met and attacked with clubs, whips, police dogs, and tear gas carried by State troopers, local lawmen, and townspeople at the Edmund Pettus Bridge as they were leaving Selma;

Whereas dozens of peaceful marchers were injured in the forced retreat by State troopers, local lawmen, and townspeople;

Whereas images of innocent protestors brutally beaten and severely injured on March 7, 1965, remembered as "Bloody Sunday", were depicted in television screens and in newspaper articles across the country;

Whereas Bloody Sunday galvanized a generation of civil rights activists, and heightened support and awareness for the civil rights movement;

Whereas on March 9, 1965, two days later, Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. led a non-violent protest reportedly as many as 2,500 people before turning around after crossing the Edmund Pettus Bridge due to a barricade of State troopers;

Whereas on March 15, 1965, despite pressure from political figures, U.S. District Judge Frank M. Johnson, Jr., issued an injunction allowing the voting rights march from Selma to Montgomery to proceed, overturning then-Alabama Governor George Wallace's prohibition of the protest;

Whereas on March 21, 1965, with the protection of U.S. Army troops and the Alabama National Guard, more than 3,000 people, led by Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., set out from Selma to Montgomery, a 54-mile journey, marching an average of twelve miles a day along Route 80 and sleeping in fields;

Whereas the nonviolent protestors safely reached the steps of the Alabama State Capitol on March 25, 1965, by which point their numbers had grown to 25,000, including many religious and community leaders of all denominations, races, and backgrounds;

Whereas during these pivotal weeks, on March 17, 1965, and with the Selma protestors at the forefront, President Lyndon Johnson addressed a joint session of Congress, calling for Federal voting rights legislation to protect African Americans from barriers that prevented them from voting;

Whereas with the Nation captivated by the courage and conviction displayed by the civil rights activists, the United States Congress passed and President Lyndon B. Johnson enacted into law the landmark Voting Rights Act of 1965 on August 6, 1965; and

Whereas issuing a postage stamp honoring the fiftieth anniversary of the civil rights marches is fitting and proper because the marches united our country and helped affirm the principle that all Americans shall be treated equally at the voting booths as guaranteed under the United States Constitution: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That it is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the Postmaster General should issue a commemorative postage stamp honoring the 50th anniversary of the three civil rights marches from Selma, Alabama, to Montgomery, Alabama; and

(2) such stamp should—

(A) be issued in the denomination used for first-class mail up to 1 ounce in weight;

(B) bear such illustration or picture as the Postmaster General determines; and

(C) be placed in sale at such time and for such period as the Postmaster General determines.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 9—HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF REVEREND THEODORE M. HESBURGH, C.S.C., PRESIDENT EMERITUS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME

Mr. REID of Nevada (for Mr. DONNELLY (for himself and Mr. COATS)) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. CON. RES. 9

Whereas Reverend Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C., was born on May 25, 1917, in Syracuse, New York, ordained a priest of the Congregation of Holy Cross on June 24, 1943, in South Bend, Indiana, and served as president of the University of Notre Dame from 1952 to 1987;

Whereas during his tenure, the University of Notre Dame welcomed female students for the first time and embraced the spirit of open intellectual inquiry and moral engagement that defines the University today;

Whereas Father Hesburgh held a variety of appointed positions under 4 popes and 9 presidential administrations;

Whereas throughout decades of public service, Father Hesburgh proudly championed the civil rights of African Americans, the duty of society to the poor, and the fundamental human dignity of all persons;

Whereas in pursuit of those ideals, Father Hesburgh held a variety of influential public roles, including terms as a founding member and chairman of the United States Commission on Civil Rights, chair of the Overseas Development Council, chair of the Select Commission on Immigration and Refugee Policy, and permanent representative of the Holy See to the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna from 1956 to 1970;

Whereas in pursuit of global social justice, Father Hesburgh reaffirmed the commitment of the University of Notre Dame to human rights by helping to found the Kellogg Institute for International Studies and the Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies at the University as well as the Center for Civil and Human Rights at the University of Notre Dame Law School;

Whereas Father Hesburgh was a longtime advocate for the responsible stewardship of atomic energy and gracefully brought together scientists, scholars, and spiritual leaders to work toward an end to nuclear conflict;

Whereas Father Hesburgh served as ambassador to the 1979 United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development, the first Catholic priest to formally hold a diplomatic position for the United States Government;

Whereas Father Hesburgh received both the Congressional Gold Medal and the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian awards of the United States, as well as more than 150 honorary degrees, the most ever awarded to a single individual; and

Whereas Father Hesburgh passed away on Thursday, February 26, 2015, but remains very much alive in the hearts of all who knew him and in the University that he loved: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That the Congress—

(1) commemorates the life and achievements of Reverend Theodore M. Hesburgh,

C.S.C., who throughout his life displayed extraordinary commitment to social justice and the improvement of higher education; and

(2) honors Reverend Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C., for a lifetime of selfless dedication to God, Country, and Notre Dame.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 4, 2015, at 10 a.m., in room SR-253 of the Russell Senate Office Building, a subcommittee hearing entitled "Surface Transportation Reauthorization-Oversight and Reform of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration."

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

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Environment and Public Works be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 4, 2015, at 9:30 a.m., in room SD-406 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled "Oversight Hearing: The President's FY 2016 Budget Request for the Environmental Protection Agency."

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

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 4, 2015, at 10 a.m.

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

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Indian Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 4, 2015, in room SD-628 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, at 2:30 p.m.

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, on March 4, 2015, at 10 a.m., in room SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled "Whistleblower Retaliation at the FBI: Improving Protections and Oversight."

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

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Veterans' Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of