

Whereas Spain has played a special role in the history and culture of St. Augustine and Florida; and

Whereas King Felipe VI and Queen Letizia met with President Barack Obama on September 15, 2015, for their first official visit to the White House: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) welcomes King Felipe VI and Queen Letizia of Spain during their visit to the United States; and

(2) expresses its appreciation for the efforts of King Felipe VI and Queen Letizia to strengthen the bonds between the people and Governments of the United States and Spain.

SENATE RESOLUTION 254—RECOGNIZING HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH AND CELEBRATING THE HERITAGE AND CULTURE OF LATINOS IN THE UNITED STATES AND THE IMMENSE CONTRIBUTIONS OF LATINOS TO THE UNITED STATES

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. REID, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. COONS, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. HELLER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KAINE, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON, Mr. PETERS, Mr. REED, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. UDALL, Mr. WARNER, and Ms. WARREN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 254

Whereas the United States celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15, 2015, through October 15, 2015;

Whereas the United States Census Bureau estimates the Hispanic population in the United States at more than 55,000,000 people, making Hispanic Americans 17.4 percent of the population of the United States and the largest racial or ethnic minority group in the United States;

Whereas there were 1,000,000 or more Latino residents in Puerto Rico and each of the following 8 States in 2014: Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, New Jersey, New York, and Texas;

Whereas Latinos grew the United States population by more than 1,150,000 people between July 1, 2013, and July 1, 2014, accounting for nearly ½ of all population growth during this period;

Whereas the Latino population in the United States is projected to grow to 105,550,000 by 2050, at which point the Latino population will comprise more than 25 percent of the total population of the United States;

Whereas the Latino population in the United States is currently the third largest worldwide, exceeding the population in every Latin American and Caribbean country except for Mexico and Brazil;

Whereas there were 12,200,000 Latino family households in the United States and more than 17,900,000 Latino children under the age of 18 in 2014, representing approximately ⅓ of the total Latino population in the United States;

Whereas more than 1 in 4 public school students in the United States is Latino, and the share of Latino students is expected to rise to nearly 30 percent in the next decade;

Whereas 19 percent of all college students between the ages of 18 and 24 years old are Latino, making Latinos the largest racial or ethnic minority group on college campuses

in the United States, including both 2-year community colleges and 4-year colleges and universities;

Whereas a record 11,200,000 Latinos voted in the 2012 Presidential election, representing a record 8.4 percent of the electorate in the United States;

Whereas an estimated 28,500,000 Latinos will be eligible to vote in the 2016 Presidential election, and the number of eligible Latino voters is expected to rise to 40,000,000 by 2030, accounting for 40 percent of the growth in the eligible electorate in the United States over the next 15 years;

Whereas more than 2,000 Latino citizens currently turn 18 and become eligible to vote every day, and an estimated 1,000,000 Latino citizens will turn 18 and become eligible to vote every year by 2024;

Whereas the annual purchasing power of Hispanic Americans was an estimated \$1,300,000,000,000 in 2014, larger than the economy of all but 15 countries in the world;

Whereas there are more than 3,200,000 Hispanic-owned firms in the United States, supporting millions of employees nationwide and contributing more than \$468,000,000,000 in revenue to the economy of the United States;

Whereas Hispanic-owned businesses represent the fastest growing segment of small businesses in the United States, with Latino entrepreneurs starting businesses at more than twice the national rate;

Whereas, as of August 2015, more than 26,000,000 Latino workers represented 16.6 percent of the total civilian labor force in the United States, and the Latino share of the labor force is expected to grow to 19.1 percent by 2022, with the Latino population accounting for more than 40 percent of the increase in employment in the United States over the next 5 years;

Whereas Latinos have the highest labor force participation rate of any racial or ethnic group at 65.6 percent, compared to 62.6 percent overall;

Whereas there were 270,000 Latino elementary and middle school teachers, 75,000 Latino chief executives of businesses, 63,000 Latino lawyers, and 64,000 Latino physicians and surgeons contributing to the United States through their professions in 2014;

Whereas Hispanic Americans serve in all branches of the United States Armed Forces and have bravely fought in every war in the history of the United States;

Whereas, as of July 31, 2015, more than 164,000 Hispanic active duty service members served with distinction in the United States Armed Forces;

Whereas, as of August 31, 2015, approximately 284,000 Latinos have served in overseas contingency operations since September 11, 2001, including more than 8,500 Latinos currently serving in operations in Iraq and Afghanistan;

Whereas, as of September 2015, at least 675 United States Armed Forces fatalities in Iraq and Afghanistan were Hispanic;

Whereas an estimated 200,000 Latinos were mobilized for World War I and approximately 500,000 Latinos served during World War II;

Whereas more than 80,000 Latinos served in the Vietnam War, representing 5.5 percent of individuals who made the ultimate sacrifice for the United States in the conflict, even though Latinos comprised only 4.5 percent of the population of the United States at the time;

Whereas approximately 148,000 Hispanic soldiers served in the Korean War, including Puerto Rico's 65th Infantry Regiment known as the "Borinqueneers", the only active-duty segregated Latino military unit in the history of the United States;

Whereas, as of September 2015, there are an estimated 1,500,000 living Latino veterans of the United States Armed Forces;

Whereas 61 Hispanic Americans have received the Congressional Medal of Honor, the highest award for valor in action against an enemy force that can be bestowed on an individual serving in the United States Armed Forces;

Whereas Hispanic Americans are dedicated public servants, holding posts at the highest levels of government, including 1 seat on the Supreme Court of the United States, 3 seats in the Senate, 34 seats in the House of Representatives, and 3 seats in the Cabinet; and

Whereas Hispanic Americans harbor a deep commitment to family and community, an enduring work ethic, and a perseverance to succeed and contribute to society: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15, 2015, through October 15, 2015;

(2) esteems the integral role of Latinos and the manifold heritage of Latinos in the economy, culture, and identity of the United States; and

(3) urges the people of the United States to observe Hispanic Heritage Month with appropriate programs and activities that celebrate the contributions of Latinos to life in the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 255—DESIGNATING THE WEEK BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 14, 2015, AS NATIONAL HISPANIC-SERVING INSTITUTIONS WEEK

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. REID, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. COONS, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. HELLER, Mr. KAINE, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON, Mr. PETERS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. UDALL, Mr. WARNER, and Ms. WARREN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 255

Whereas Hispanic-Serving Institutions are degree-granting institutions that have a full-time equivalent undergraduate enrollment of at least 25 percent Hispanic students;

Whereas Hispanic-Serving Institutions play an important role in educating many underprivileged students and helping those students attain their full potential through higher education;

Whereas more than 400 Hispanic-Serving Institutions operate in the United States;

Whereas Hispanic-Serving Institutions represent just 12 percent of all nonprofit institutions of higher education, yet serve nearly 60 percent of all Hispanic undergraduate students, enrolling more than 1,700,000 Hispanic undergraduate students in 2013;

Whereas the number of "emerging Hispanic-Serving Institutions", defined as institutions that do not yet meet the threshold of 25 percent Hispanic enrollment but serve a Hispanic student population of between 15 and 24 percent, grew to nearly 300 colleges and universities in 2013;

Whereas Hispanic-Serving Institutions are located in 21 States and Puerto Rico, and emerging Hispanic-Serving Institutions are located in 29 States and Washington, DC;

Whereas Hispanic-Serving Institutions are actively involved in stabilizing and improving the communities in which the institutions are located;

Whereas celebrating the vast contributions of Hispanic-Serving Institutions to the United States strengthens the culture of the United States; and

Whereas the achievements and goals of Hispanic-Serving Institutions deserve national recognition: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the achievements and goals of Hispanic-Serving Institutions across the United States;

(2) designates the week beginning September 14, 2015, as National Hispanic-Serving Institutions Week; and

(3) calls on the people of the United States and interested groups to observe the week with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs to demonstrate support for Hispanic-Serving Institutions.

SENATE RESOLUTION 256—DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 2015 AS “SCHOOL BUS SAFETY MONTH”

Mrs. FISCHER (for herself and Mr. BOOKER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 256

Whereas approximately 480,000 public and private school buses carry 26,000,000 children to and from school every weekday in the United States;

Whereas America's 480,000 public and private school buses comprise the largest mass transportation fleet in the Nation;

Whereas during the school year, school buses make more than 55,000,000 passenger trips daily and students ride these school buses 10,000,000,000 times per year as the Nation's fleet travels over 5,600,000,000 miles per school year;

Whereas school buses are designed to be safer than passenger vehicles and are 13 times safer than other modes of school transportation, and 44 times safer than vehicles driven by teenagers;

Whereas in an average year, about 25 school children are killed in school bus accidents, with one-third of these children struck by their own school buses in loading/unloading zones, one-third struck by motorists who fail to stop for school buses, and one-third killed as they approach or depart a school bus stop;

Whereas The Child Safety Network, celebrating 27 years of national public service, has collaborated with the National PTA and the school bus industry to create public service announcements to reduce distracted driving near school buses, increase ridership, and provide free resources to school districts in order to increase driver safety training, provide free technology for tracking school buses, reduce on-board bullying, and educate students; and

Whereas the adoption of School Bus Safety Month will allow broadcast and digital media and social networking industries to make commitments to disseminate public service announcements designed to save children's lives by making motorists aware of school bus safety issues: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate designates September 2015 as “School Bus Safety Month”.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2656. Mr. MCCONNELL (for himself, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. RUBIO, Mrs. ERNST, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. HATCH, Mr. LEE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr.

SCOTT, Mr. VITTER, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. KIRK, Mr. MORAN, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. CORKER, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. TILLIS, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. COATS, and Mr. CRUZ) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2640 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 61, amending the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt employees with health coverage under TRICARE or the Veterans Administration from being taken into account for purposes of determining the employers to which the employer mandate applies under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

SA 2657. Mr. MCCONNELL proposed an amendment to amendment SA 2656 submitted by Mr. MCCONNELL (for himself, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. RUBIO, Mrs. ERNST, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. HATCH, Mr. LEE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. VITTER, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. KIRK, Mr. MORAN, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. CORKER, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. TILLIS, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. COATS, and Mr. CRUZ) to the amendment SA 2640 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 61, supra.

SA 2658. Mr. MCCONNELL proposed an amendment to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 61, supra.

SA 2659. Mr. MCCONNELL proposed an amendment to amendment SA 2658 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 61, supra.

SA 2660. Mr. MCCONNELL proposed an amendment to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 61, supra.

SA 2661. Mr. MCCONNELL proposed an amendment to amendment SA 2660 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 61, supra.

SA 2662. Mr. MCCONNELL proposed an amendment to amendment SA 2661 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL to the amendment SA 2660 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 61, supra.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2656. Mr. MCCONNELL (for himself, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. RUBIO, Mrs. ERNST, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. HATCH, Mr. LEE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. VITTER, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. KIRK, Mr. MORAN, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. CORKER, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. TILLIS, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. COATS, and Mr. CRUZ) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2640 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 61, amending the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt employees with health coverage under TRICARE or the Veterans Administration from being taken into account for purposes of determining the employers to which the employer mandate applies under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; as follows:

Strike line 3 and all that follows and insert the following:

SECTION 1. REMOVAL OF AUTHORITY TO WAIVE, SUSPEND, REDUCE, PROVIDE RELIEF FROM, OR OTHERWISE LIMIT THE APPLICATION OF SANCTIONS PURSUANT TO AN AGREEMENT RELATED TO THE NUCLEAR PROGRAM OF IRAN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the President may not—

(1) waive, suspend, reduce, provide relief from, or otherwise limit the application of sanctions described in subsection (b) or refrain from applying any such sanctions; or

(2) remove a foreign person listed in Attachment 3 or Attachment 4 to Annex II of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action from the list of specially designated nationals and blocked persons maintained by the Office of Foreign Asset Control of the Department of the Treasury.

(b) SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.—The sanctions described in this subsection are—

(1) the sanctions described in sections 4 through 7.9 of Annex II of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action; and

(2) the sanctions described in any other agreement related to the nuclear program of Iran that includes the United States, commits the United States to take action, or pursuant to which the United States commits or otherwise agrees to take action, regardless of the form it takes, whether a political commitment or otherwise, and regardless of whether it is legally binding.

(c) EXCEPTION.—The prohibitions under subsection (a) shall not apply if the Islamic Republic of Iran—

(1) has released Jason Rezaian, Robert Levinson, Saeed Abedini, and Amir Hekmati to the custody of the United States; and

(2) formally recognizes the State of Israel as a sovereign and independent state.

(d) JOINT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF ACTION DEFINED.—In this section, the term “Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action” means the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, signed at Vienna on July 14, 2015, by Iran and by the People's Republic of China, France, Germany, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States, with the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, and all implementing materials and agreements related to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

SA 2657. Mr. MCCONNELL proposed an amendment to amendment SA 2656 submitted by Mr. MCCONNELL (for himself, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. RUBIO, Mrs. ERNST, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. HATCH, Mr. LEE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. VITTER, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. KIRK, Mr. MORAN, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. CORKER, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. TILLIS, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. COATS, and Mr. CRUZ) to the amendment SA 2640 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 61, amending the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt employees with health coverage under TRICARE or the Veterans Administration from being taken into account for purposes of determining the employers to which the employer mandate applies under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; as follows:

At the end add the following.

“This Act shall take effect 1 day after the date of enactment.”

SA 2658. Mr. MCCONNELL proposed an amendment to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 61, amending the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt employees with health coverage under TRICARE or the Veterans Administration from being taken into account for purposes of determining the employers to which the employer mandate applies